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PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

A Meeting of the Public Works, Transportation & Energy 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 April 24, 2023, at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Nicholas Caracappa, Chairperson
Legislator Sarah Anker
Legislator Bridget Fleming
Legislator Al Krupski
Legislator Anthony Piccirillo
Legislator Dominick Thorne
Legislator Robert Trotta

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

William Duffy, Counsel to the Legislature
Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature
Hope Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Lance Reinheimer, Director of Budget Review
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office
Janet Heller-Smitelli, Counsel's Office
Ali Nazir, Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey
Robert Martinez, Aide to Legislator Caracappa
Catherine Stark, Aide to Legislator Krupski
Derek Stein, Aide to Legislator Krupski
Irene Donohue, Aide to Legislator Fleming
Joseph Brown, Commissioner/DPW
Bill Hillman, Chief Engineer/DPW
Michelle Zarafis, County Executive's Office
All other interested parties

TAKEN AND TRANSCRIBED BY:

Lucia Braaten, Court Stenographer

1 (**The Meeting was Called to Order at 2:05 p.m.**)

2
3 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

4 Okay, folks. Welcome, everybody, to the Committee of Public Works,
5 Transportation and Energy. I'm going to ask everybody to please
6 rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator Piccirillo.
7 And please remain standing for a moment of silence.

8
9 (**Pledge of Allegiance**)

02:04PM 10 Just a moment of silence, folks, for those who protect and serve
11 this great county and a great nation, and made the ultimate
12 sacrifice and put their lives in jeopardy every day. Thank you.

13
14 (**Moment of Silence**)

15
16
17 Thank you. Roll call, Mr. Clerk, or Madam Clerk, whichever it's
18 going to be.

19
20 (**Roll Call by Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature**)

02:05PM 21
22 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

23 Here.

24
25 **LEG. TROTTA:**

26 Here.

27
28 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

29 Here.

02:05PM 30
31 **LEG. FLEMING:**

32 Present. Thank you. Sorry.

33
34 **LEG. ANKER:**

35 Here.

36
37 **LEG. THORNE:**

38 Present.

02:05PM 39
40 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

41 Here.

42
43 **CLERK TASSONE:**

44 *Seven.*

45
46 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

47 Thank you. Any correspondence, Mr. Clerk?

48
49 **CLERK TASSONE:**

02:06PM 50 All correspondence have been distributed accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

51
52 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

53 Thank you. Do we have any -- I'm going to open public portion. Do
54 I have any public speakers here today? I have no cards in front of
55 me. Is there anyone who would like to address this committee at
56 this time? Seeing none, I'll close public portion.

1
2 We have no appointments. And there's been a slight change to this
3 committee's agenda for this go-around. The presentation that was
4 on the agenda for Department of Public Works and Commissioner
5 Joe Brown has been postponed. We look forward to that presentation
6 at our next meeting.

7
8 Moving on to Tabled Resolutions. We are also -- Tabled Resolution,
9 ***I.R. 1065 - Amending the 2023 Capital Budget and Program and***
02:06PM 10 ***appropriating funds in connection with the Electric Vehicle Supply***
11 ***Equipment Installation at Various Suffolk County Facilities.***
12 ***(CP 1834). (Co. Exec.)*** I'll make a motion to table that.

13
14 **LEG. FLEMING:**
15 Second.

16
17 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
18 Second.

19
02:06PM 20 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
21 Seconded by Legislator Fleming. All in favor? Opposed? So
22 carried.

23
24 **CLERK TASSONE:**
25 *Seven. (Vote: Tabled 7-0-0-0)*

26
27 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
28 ***I.R. 1174 - Appropriating PAYGO funds in connection with the***
02:07PM 29 ***Purchase of Replacement Non-Public Safety Vehicles (CP 1823).***
30 ***(Co Exec.)*** I make a motion to table that one as well, second by
31 Legislator Trotta. All in favor? Opposed? So carried.

32
33 **CLERK TASSONE:**
34 *Seven. (Vote: Tabled 7-0-0-0)*

35
36 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
37 ***Introductory Resolutions: (1255) Amending the 2023 Operating***
38 ***Budget, transferring Southwest Assessment Stabilization Reserve***
39 ***funds for (to) the Capital Fund and appropriating funds for***
02:07PM 40 ***Improvements to Suffolk County Sewer District No. 3 (Southwest)***
41 ***(CP 8181). (Co. Exec.)*** I need a motion.

42
43 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
44 Motion.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
47 I'll make a motion. I need a second.

48
49 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
02:07PM 50 *(Raised Hand)*

51
52 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
53 Second. Anyone on the motion? Seeing none, all in favor?
54 Opposed? Abstentions?

1 **CLERK TASSONE:**
2 *Seven. (Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)*

3
4 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
5 *I.R. 1255 is approved: I.R. 1256 - Amending the 2023 Operating*
6 *Budget, transferring Assessment Stabilization Reserve funds to the*
7 *Capital Fund, and appropriating funds for Safety and Security*
8 *Improvements for Sanitary Facilities in Suffolk County Sewer*
9 *Districts (CP 8103). (Co. Exec.) I make a motion.*

02:07PM 10

11 **LEG. THORNE:**
12 *Second.*

13
14 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
15 *Second by Legislator -- Thorne. Sorry, Dominick.*

16
17 **LEG. THORNE:**
18 *It's all right.*

02:07PM 19

20 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
21 *Anybody on the motion? Seeing none, all in favor? Opposed?*
22 *Abstentions?*

23
24 **CLERK TASSONE:**
25 *Seven. (Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)*

26
27 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
28 *I.R. 1256 is approved. We're keeping up, we're good?*

02:08PM 29

30 **MS. BRAATEN:**
31 *All good.*

32
33 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
34 *All right, I'm rolling. I.R. 1273 - Appropriating PAYGO funds in*
35 *connection with removal of Toxic and Hazardous Building Materials*
36 *and Components at Various County Facilities (CP 1732). (Co. Exec.)*
37 *I'll make a motion.*

02:08PM 38

39 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
40 *Second.*

41
42 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
43 *Second by Legislator Krupski.*

44
45 **LEG. ANKER:**
46 *On the motion.*

47
48 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
49 *Anybody on the motion? Legislator --*

50
51 **LEG. ANKER:**
52 *Anker.*

53
54 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
55 *I am going -- I am --*

56

1 **LEG. ANKER:**
2 Just call me Sarah, that's it.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
5 -- batting a thousand. I was going to say Legislator -- Legislator
6 Anker, please.

7
8 (**Laughter**)
9

02:08PM 10 **LEG. ANKER:**
11 Can DPW come up? Hi. Hi, Joe. And just give us a little review
12 of this particular piece of legislation, and also the cost.

13
14 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
15 Yes, Legislator. This, this has generally been 150,000 a year that
16 we put toward this effort. We'll most likely spend this in this
17 calendar year. We did -- we do have a table of work that we plan
18 to do with this money for tile removal at Probation, a basement
19 abatement at the Yaphank Public Works building, floor tile removal
02:09PM 20 at Farmingville Health Center, abatement at various locations at
21 the Criminal Courts building, and floor tile removal at the Police
22 Headquarters.

23
24 **LEG. ANKER:**
25 So what's the total amount for all these projects?

26
27 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
28 Oh, I don't have a total for those five. It's certainly something
29 that we put money toward every year, and then, you know, change
02:09PM 30 priorities, if priorities change. But ongoing, we have a lot of
31 things that were built in the '60s and '70s that we're still
32 dealing with.

33
34 **LEG. ANKER:**
35 And the reason why I ask is do you need more money to take care of
36 these toxic type of remediation sites? And how -- what can we do
37 to expedite these cleanups?

38
39 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
02:09PM 40 So it's possible in the future that could be the case. That was a
41 question I raised to staff and the answer currently is no. And we
42 do have 112,000 on hand. So although we may spend more than
43 150,000 a year, that historical funding level they felt has been
44 appropriate.

45
46 **LEG. ANKER:**
47 Please let us know if we need to invest more to protect the safety
48 of our employees here in Suffolk and our general public. Thank
49 you.

02:10PM 50
51 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
52 I will. Thank you, Legislator.

53
54 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
55 Is that it? All right. Joe, don't go too far, all right? Why
56 don't you have a seat. All right. Thank you for the explanations.

1
2 All right so anyone else on the motion? So we have a -- we have a
3 motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

4
5 **CLERK TASSONE:**

6 *Seven. (Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)*

7
8 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

9 Seven. So, okay, we are on 1273, correct? I.R. 1273 is approved.
02:10PM 10 ***I.R. 1274 - Appropriating funds in connection with Energy***
11 ***Conservation at Various County Facilities (CP 1664). (Co. Exec.)***

12
13 **LEG. FLEMING:**

14 Motion to approve.

15
16 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

17 *(Raised Hand)*

18
19 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

02:11PM 20 I got a motion to approve from Leg -- hold on, I gotcha, I gotcha.
21 Legislator -- oh, my gosh. I am having a day. Legislator Fleming,
22 second by Legislator Krupski, I presume.

23
24 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

25 *(Directed Name Plates Toward Chairman Caracappa)*

26
27 *(*Laughter*)*

28
29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

30 Aw, thank you, Al. Thank you, Al. My Gingko biloba is not working
31 today.

32
33 **LEG. FLEMING:**

34 On the motion.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

37 I have you as a second, Al. Are you okay?

38
39 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

02:11PM 40 Second.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

43 All right. We have a motion and second. On the motion, Legislator
44 Fleming.

45
46 **LEG. FLEMING:**

47 On the motion. Commissioner, thank you for being here today, and
48 thank you for your efforts with regard to Capital Project 1664.
49 Just a couple of questions. I didn't -- I wasn't able to find your
02:11PM 50 backup. Do we have a list of projects that this funding will
51 support?

52
53 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

54 Yes, Legislator, we have a current list, and it's solar
55 photovoltaic array work at the Yaphank Jail, and in the records
56 storage facility in Westhampton, BOMARC, we have some work there as

1 well, HVAC equipment that's nearing the end of its useful life. We
2 also have some small energy projects, lighting replacements that we
3 always do.

4
5 **LEG. FLEMING:**

6 Thank you. And, certainly, with regard to the HVAC, those are
7 rather large buildings at BOMARC. And one of the things that we've
8 learned from climate scientists is that the energy in, you know,
9 large municipal buildings is in large -- well, has a -- has a great
02:12PM 10 deal to do with fossil fuel emissions and climate change impacts.

11
12 So, you know, there -- some time ago we passed a resolution that
13 required quarterly reporting to the Ways and Means Committee from
14 Public Works just to keep us apprised of the projects that were
15 being undertaken pursuant to Capital Project 1664. I'm no longer
16 the Chair of that committee. I haven't seen that report since,
17 since then. Are you all still providing that quarterly report to
18 Ways and Means?

19
02:13PM 20 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

21 Nothing has changed as far as the reporting goes, but I could check
22 on that and give you a more thorough update on the timeliness of
23 that and the most recent reports, Legislator.

24
25 **LEG. FLEMING:**

26 I think it's critically important for a couple of reasons. One, of
27 course this is no longer the case, but when budgets were
28 particularly tight, I think there was an impulse to be creative
29 about how you define energy efficiency, you know, in order to --
02:13PM 30 like a leak in a roof might be energy efficiency, when, in fact,
31 you know, 1664 was created to see real results in terms of carbon
32 emission savings. And we've seen hundreds of cubic tons of carbon
33 dioxide being saved by projects, particularly HVAC projects. The
34 proposed -- there's a proposed cogeneration project for the Yaphank
35 Jail that will in itself save scores, I think, of cubic tons of
36 carbon emissions, which is considerable, not to mention how much
37 money we will save by not spending those, those electricity costs.

38
39 So with that in mind, is this project, the HVAC projects at Yaphank
02:14PM 40 that you're talking about, is it -- is it moving towards newer
41 technology like cogeneration, or is it just making repairs?

42
43 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

44 It's newer HVAC systems and making repairs to the system, so it's
45 both. That in particular is at the BOMARC facility, and the solar
46 photovoltaic array work is going on at the Jail. The three years
47 that I've been here, every project, every one of these locations
48 that I've asked about, it's not only good for the environment, this
49 work, but in every single case, it saved the County money in the
02:14PM 50 long run, which has been impressive to me coming from the State. I
51 didn't expect that to be -- every single location they worked at in
52 the last three years, that I've questioned them on, they claimed
53 will save money, the County will make money on, sometimes in a
54 matter of months, which is also very impressive.

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 Critically important. And I found that with the reporting, that it
3 was very helpful to see the hard data in terms of money saved and
4 carbon emissions saved. So I think that that resolution is still
5 extant, that we should still be getting that report. It may be on
6 the Legislative side that we're not getting it, but, yeah, if you
7 could let me know. I think it's important for us to keep track of
8 that, not only for accountability, but also because it's a good
9 thing, and we should know about the good things that are happening.
10 So thank you, Commissioner.

02:15PM

11
12 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

13 Thank you.

14
15 **LEG. FLEMING:**

16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

19 I agree. Thank you for that. And I agree with everything
20 Legislator Fleming said, and I'd like to see those, those updates
21 when we can. Legislator Krupski, did you have anything?
22

02:15PM

23 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

24 No, thank you.

25
26 **LEG. ANKER:**

27 *(Raised Hand)*
28

29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

30 Legislator Sarah Anker.

02:16PM

31
32 **LEG. ANKER:**

33 A quick question as far as payback. As a former Director of the
34 Town of Brookhaven's Energy Department, when I was working on the
35 solar programs, GO SOLAR and Green Homes project, we had a
36 seven-year payback. In other words, people could invest in solar
37 energy, and in seven years they would not be paying any bill on
38 their electric. That's how great these -- and then it would pay
39 off any investment that they put in the solar installation.

02:16PM

40 What's going on with the payback? You mentioned in a matter of
41 months you see a payback.
42

43 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

44 These are reduced utility bills, almost entirely. So it's a matter
45 of how long payback could -- you know, I've seen eight years, I've
46 seen months. So it really depends on the age of what we're
47 replacing, you know, the upgrade. In every case that's been
48 presented to me, as part of this program the last three years, the
49 County will make money back, you know, in some combination, usually
50 just utility bills.

02:17PM

51
52 **LEG. ANKER:**

53 Are any of these projects funded through other sources, the State,
54 Federal Government, rebates?
55
56

1 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

2 Yeah, there are a series of those, and we're going to be pretty
3 active with those coming up in the future, especially with, you
4 know, things from the infrastructure bill are starting to trickle
5 down beyond the states, so you're going to see a lot more of that.

6
7 There's a new department that was created federally that's sort of
8 a joint Transportation and Energy Department that Commissioner
9 Gabe Klein, who used to be Commissioner of Chicago DOT and
02:17PM 10 Washington D.C. DOT, and has his own company, is heading up that
11 new group. So you're going to see a lot of things coming out in
12 the future, we hope. You know, it's gotten to the State and the
13 Federal level. There's a lot of infrastructure money out there,
14 and there's a lot that's supposed to be spent on things like this,
15 that we're hoping will get to us.

16
17 **LEG. ANKER:**

18 And what is the cost? What is the funding amount?

19
02:17PM 20 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

21 Yeah, so this is 2 million construction for 2023.

22
23 **LEG. ANKER:**

24 Yeah, and I encourage you to continue to pursue, you know,
25 conservation efforts, not only for -- to reducing our carbon
26 footprint, but also you can save a lot of money. You know, we
27 shouldn't be relying on the fossil fuel companies. We're seeing
28 transition on a Federal and State level, you know, to go towards
29 more green energy. And, you know, I commend you and your staff for
02:18PM 30 moving forward with these measures. Thank you.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

33 Thank you. Commissioner, I have to -- as Chair of this committee,
34 I have to formally request that going forward, any I.R.'s that
35 you -- that comes out of your department can no longer just list
36 various County facilities. We need to have somewhat of an idea of
37 where, when, what is being done, where, when, and realizing that
38 could be multiple facilities and -- you know, but it will give us
39 better access, better information to what is going on and where the
02:19PM 40 money is going, what jobs are being done, again, and where.

41
42 So just so you know, going forward, they're not -- any I.R.'s that
43 come forward without proper information will not be considered to
44 move forward until we have that information. I think it just
45 prolongs. We ask these questions and we've got to have it emailed
46 to us or separately. And we would prefer to have the information
47 all in front at once, so we would like a more comprehensive
48 resolution when they come forward, as of today.

49
02:19PM 50 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

51 Yes, Chairman, we can do that. You know, sometimes priorities
52 change and we get a surprise, you know, project that has to be
53 added in for good reason. So we can provide you candidate
54 locations in the resolution, if that's -- if that's helpful.

1 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

2 That is the desire of this committee, and I am bringing it forward
3 to you, and I'm sure it shouldn't be an issue. And we will follow
4 that request up with an -- with an email. I appreciate your
5 attention to that matter. All right.

6
7 So with that, we got 1274 with a motion and a second. We had a
8 bunch of comments on it, and I believe have been answered by the
9 Commissioner. Any further comments on 1274? Seeing none, we have
02:20PM 10 a -- we have a motion and a second, right, Clerk?

11
12 **CLERK TASSONE:**

13 We do, Mr. Chairman.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

16 All right. So all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

17
18 **CLERK TASSONE:**

19 Seven. (Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)

02:20PM 20
21 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

22 I.R. 1274 is approved.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

25 *I.R. 1275 - Appropriating funds in connection with Safety*
26 *Improvements to H. Lee Dennison Building, Hauppauge (CP 1659).*
27 *(Co. Exec.)* I'll make a motion. I need a second.

28
29 **LEG. FLEMING:**

02:20PM 30 *(Raised Hand)*

31
32 **LEG. TROTТА:**

33 I'll second, but on the motion. Again, there was nothing in --

34
35 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

36 We have a second from Legislator Trotta. And on the motion.

37
38 **LEG. TROTТА:**

39 Yeah, there was nothing in the -- can you just go over what they --
02:20PM 40 what they are?

41
42 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

43 Yes, Legislator. Our candidate locations are the HVAC systems on
44 the rooftop of the daycare, which have had some issues over the
45 last couple of years. It's -- you know, it's at its useful life
46 already, so that's important, of course, with the daycare. We also
47 have some replacement of air handlers that's expected at the
48 Dennison Building, and the penthouse roof needs a lot of work. So
49 we expect --

02:21PM 50
51 **LEG. TROTТА:**

52 There's a penthouse up there?

53
54 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

55 Well, they call it the penthouse, you know, it's the top floor.

56

(*Laughter*)

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02:21PM

02:21PM

02:22PM

02:22PM

LEG. TROTТА:

Have you ever been there? Have you ever been there?

COMMISSIONER BROWN:

No, I have not been to -- you know, I've not been to the roof.

LEG. TROTТА:

So I'm --

LEG. PICCIRILLO:

We've never been there either.

LEG. TROTТА:

I'm assuming this is just like pro forma stuff that we have to do. You don't know exactly what it's going to cost or --

COMMISSIONER BROWN:

Yeah, we know -- we know there's going to be a roof, HVAC work and air handler work, and those are our candidate locations. We did have some -- a little bit of flooding this weekend at the 311 Center, because of the length of -- I think of the rain, and one of the hatches came loose.

LEG. TROTТА:

The rain?

COMMISSIONER BROWN:

So --

LEG. PICCIRILLO:

Saturday, yeah.

COMMISSIONER BROWN:

Yeah, from Saturday night until Sunday morning. So --

LEG. TROTТА:

That wasn't a very heavy rain.

COMMISSIONER BROWN:

No. But sometimes when it stays --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Oh, it was where I was.

COMMISSIONER BROWN:

-- wet for a long period of time, it can -- it can soak through.

LEG. TROTТА:

Oh, when it does rain for a long period of time.

COMMISSIONER BROWN:

Yeah. So it's something we have to address.

1 **LEG. TROTТА:**

2 So is it safe to say we're not -- we don't know exactly how much
3 we're spending, we're just allocating -- this could be less, could
4 be more?

5
6 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

7 We have -- in this resolution, we have 1.4 million, and we have
8 867 million on hand. We expect the 400, 400 -- they say 867,000 on
9 hand, excuse me. Then we have 400,000 for the HVAC units, we
02:22PM 10 anticipate 800,000 for the air handlers, and potentially as much as
11 \$800,000 worth of work on the roof.

12
13 **LEG. TROTТА:**

14 Okay. Thanks.

15
16 **LEG. FLEMING:**

17 It could be less. It could be less, but it can't be more --

18
19 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

20 Right.

21
22 **LEG. FLEMING:**

23 -- because we have to authorizes more.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

26 Exactly.

27
28 **LEG. TROTТА:**

29 Everything we do is more.

02:22PM 30
31 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

32 Legislator Thorne.

33
34 **LEG. THORNE:**

35 Just out of curiosity, as I read it, I know it says appropriating
36 funds in safety improvements. Is that because it's flooding in the
37 basement? What makes it a safety improvement? When I think
38 safety, I think about windows, and doors, or structures, or planned
39 security. Why is it listed under safety, for my own education?

02:23PM 40
41 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

42 Yeah, I think, you know, air handlers, that's an important thing.
43 And, you know, HVAC units, you know, if you've got, you know, the
44 kids in the daycare unit and it's 95 degrees, and all of a sudden
45 they stop working midday, and people can't get their kids out,
46 you've got an issue. So not that we can move them temporarily,
47 perhaps, but, you know, there's a whole lots of rules involved with
48 that. So just an --

49
02:23PM 50 **LEG. THORNE:**

51 No, it's like a --

52
53 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

54 Just as an example.

1 **LEG. THORNE:**
2 It's like a health concern, is that what you're worried about?

3
4 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
5 Yes. And you could see --

6
7 **LEG. THORNE:**
8 And it is. I'm just trying to narrow it down.

9
02:23PM 10 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
11 And the roof work is very important. You could see from the
12 flooding problem we had recently, you know, getting water into the
13 building can be very expensive for us to deal with. So the better
14 the condition that roof is in, the better shape we are. And I do
15 have, you know, Joe Iannucci from that unit here, too. If you want
16 to ask more specific questions, you could.

17
18 **LEG. THORNE:**
19 No, that's fine.

02:24PM 20
21 **LEG. ANKER:**
22 On the -- on the motion. Are you done?

23
24 **LEG. THORNE:**
25 Yes.

26
27 **LEG. ANKER:**
28 On the motion.

29
02:24PM 30 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
31 On the motion, Legislator Anker.

32
33 **LEG. ANKER:**
34 Just a couple of quick questions regarding the roof. Is there
35 going to be conservation efforts as far as using energy efficiency,
36 HVAC systems, you know, painting the rooftop white that also
37 reflects the sun? There's different minor variations that can be
38 done to really make a difference in the energy bill.

39
02:24PM 40 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
41 Yes. I'm not familiar with what we're doing as far as the rooftop,
42 you know, whether it's a lighter color. You know, those are things
43 that we'll all look into. I could get back to you with a few more
44 details on that, if you want, Legislator.

45
46 **LEG. ANKER:**
47 That would be great. And I'm going bring this up. I don't
48 normally, you know, get too far into the EMFs, the electromagnetic
49 fields, but, you know, on the top of the Dennison Building, there
02:25PM 50 are numerous cell towers, and they do emit an extensive amount of
51 EMF radiation. Have you looked into that, or is there a concern?
52 Because there are, you know, people getting cancer that I know of
53 in the area. So is there anything being done to look into that?

54
55 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
56 I was briefed on that a little bit a couple of years ago, but it

1 would be better if our Electrical Engineer, you know, fielded that
2 question as much as he can, if you're okay with that.

3
4 **LEG. ANKER:**

5 That would be great. And as he's walking up, yeah, from what I
6 remember, we had someone speak the past couple of years. And there
7 is a type of paint that you can use to paint your walls, your
8 ceilings, to use as a shield for some of the low radiation that's
9 emitted from the cell towers.

02:25PM 10

11 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

12 I use the Valspar, perfect.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

15 The tin foil hat?

16
17 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

18 Valspar.

19

02:25PM 20

(**Laughter**)

21
22 **MR. IANNUCCI:**

23 Hi. Joe Iannucci, Capital Program Manager with DPW. Can you
24 repeat your question in regard to the EMF on the 12th Floor?

25
26 **LEG. ANKER:**

27 So on top of the roof of the Dennison Building, there are
28 numerous -- bless you -- cell towers. Have you studied that to see
29 if there's an impact of low radiation affecting the staff of -- in
30 the building?

02:26PM 31

32 **MR. IANNUCCI:**

33 No, there's been no study at this point in time.

34
35 **LEG. ANKER:**

36 Would you consider doing -- have you asked about -- because I do
37 know of people that work in there that have gotten cancer, brain
38 tumors and skin cancer, and, you know, in unusual high incidents,
39 and I've been looking into this for the past 25 years. You know,
40 again, now we know there's stuff in our water that's a carcinogen.
41 I mean, there's things that we know now that we did not know
42 20 years ago. But I think you're -- again, if you're working on
43 the roof, and maybe there's -- it will give a little bit more
44 insight in what we can do to protect our employees.

02:26PM 45

46 **MR. IANNUCCI:**

47 Sure, that's something we can, we can definitely look into.

48
49 **LEG. ANKER:**

50 That would be great. Thank you.

02:27PM 51

52 **MR. IANNUCCI:**

53 Thank you.

54
55 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

56 Thank you, Legislator. Anyone else? So we have a motion and a

1 second?

2

3 **CLERK TASSONE:**

4 Yes, Mr. Chair.

5

6 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

7 All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

8

9 **CLERK TASSONE:**

02:27PM 10 *Five. (Vote: Approved 5-0-0-2/Not Present: Legislators Piccirillo*
11 *and Trotta)*

12

13 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

14 I.R. 1275 is approved. And, again, Commissioner, the same request
15 going forward for the information on all of these -- our future
16 I.R.'s. Thank you.

17

18 All right, moving forward, I am going to ask for a motion on I.R.,
19 I.R. 1290, to move to the Consent Calendar. And this is *I.R. 1290*
20 *- Authorizing illumination of the H. Lee Dennison Executive Office*
21 *Building in recognition of Go Green Tuesday. (Co. Exec.)* And I
22 believe this is in the "Shine the Light on Mental Health
23 Awareness".

24

25 **LEG. TROTТА:**

26 Motion.

27

28 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

29 Second.

02:27PM

30

31 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

32 Motion, we have a motion and a second. Motion by Legislator
33 Trotta, second by Legislator Piccirillo. Anyone on the motion?
34 Seeing none, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

35

36 **CLERK TASSONE:**

37 *Seven. (Vote: Approved Consent Calendar 7-0-0-0)*

38

39 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

02:27PM

40 I.R. 1290 is approved for Consent Calendar. *I.R. 1294 -*
41 *Amending the 2023 Operating Budget, transferring Assessment*
42 *Stabilization Reserve funds and appropriating funds in connection*
43 *with the Purchase of Sewer Facility Maintenance Equipment*
44 *(CP 8164). (Co. Exec.)*

45

46 **LEG. FLEMING:**

47 Motion.

48

49 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

02:28PM

50 We have a motion. I'll second. And on the motion --

51

52 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

53 On the motion.

54

55 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

56 Oh, on the motion, Legislator Krupski.

1
2 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

3 I do have a question for -- probably for Budget Review. What's our
4 balance in the ASRF?

5
6 **MS. HALLORAN:**

7 Well, in the adopted Operating Budget, we started the year with
8 around \$34 million fund balance in the ASRF fund for all four,
9 which is a changing number.

02:28PM 10

11 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

12 Okay, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

15 Thank you. Thank you, Legislator. So I'm asking right now to
16 check on it, but is there a list in the I.R.? I don't have the
17 I.R. in front of me, so -- and I have my notes, it doesn't say. So
18 the purchase of sewer facility maintenance equipment, do we have an
19 idea what that is?

02:29PM 20

21 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

22 Yes, Chairman, we do. The anticipated purchases for this year,
23 Mason Body Truck, F-350 utility van, small SUV, a Vactor, which,
24 you know, is a clean -- big cleaning, piece of cleaning equipment,
25 so it sucks everything in. A Lull telehandler, a roll-off hook
26 truck, an F-550 utility pickup truck with crane, a tractor, an
27 F-2 -- F-250, and another small SUV. That's the current list that
28 could change, but that's their current needs. A lot of this
29 equipment is from -- you know, that it's replacing is from 2011,
30 2017 with a lot of miles on it. In sanitation they do a lot of
31 driving.

02:29PM 32

33 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

34 And I get that. But, again, you're asking us to approve \$2 million
35 and we have no idea whatsoever what equipment that you're asking
36 for. Again, you must see the situation here of why we are asking
37 going forward that you provide information. Otherwise, we cannot
38 even consider allocating this, this kind of funding to projects we
39 have no clue what it's going to.

02:30PM 40

41 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

42 Yes, understood, Chairman. They follow basically the same wording
43 they've always followed in previous years, but we have no problem
44 being more specific about what --

45
46 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

47 Yes.

48
49 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

50 -- we think the priorities should be.

02:30PM 51

52 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

53 This is a different year going forward.

54
55 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

56 Understood.

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02:31PM

02:31PM

02:31PM

02:32PM

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Any of these electric vehicles?

COMMISSIONER BROWN:
No, I do not believe that any of these are planned to be electric vehicles. A small SUV perhaps, but, otherwise, the rest would not be expected to be electric vehicles. Technology is really not there for the other pieces of equipment yet.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
I heard you mention a pickup truck and stuff like that, so --

COMMISSIONER BROWN:
Yeah, but these are larger pickup trucks, they're not the F-150 --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
150, okay.

COMMISSIONER BROWN:
-- that Ford is coming out with.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Do I have a video to show you.

*(*Laughter*)*

That will be the next meeting. Anyway, all right. So, yeah, I'd appreciate that list, if you can get me that list for I.R. 1294. We have a motion and a second to approve.

COMMISSIONER BROWN:
Legislator, I stand corrected, I'm sorry. There are a couple of F-150s in the outer districts. The list I gave was for Bergin. The outer districts have -- you know, need one six-wheel dump truck, one mini excavator, two F-150 or equivalent pickups. And they do plan to buy six electric vehicles in that, in the outer districts. So, I'm sorry, I just turned the page. I should have -- I should have included that before.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
So we are already tabling a -- I.R. 1174, for a replacement of vehicles, for electric vehicles. I'm not comfortable at this point allocating this kind of funding without the proper information and the ability to discuss further the electric vehicle portion of it, let alone the extent of the list that we don't have a copy of. Although we have a motion and a second, I'm going make a motion to table this resolution. And I will ask you, is there a issue with the timeline if we were to do that?

COMMISSIONER BROWN:
Legislator, this is old equipment, so you never know when something's going to go down. I don't think there's a specific issue with a one-month table, but --

1 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
2 Maybe two weeks. We're back here in two weeks.

3
4 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
5 Then all the better, Legislator. If it extends on for months and
6 months, then perhaps we have an issue.

7
8 **LEG. THORNE:**
9 I second the motion.

02:32PM 10
11 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
12 We have a motion to table and second from Legislator Thorne, until
13 we get more information on this I.R. 1294. All in favor of the
14 table? Opposed? Abstentions?

15
16 **CLERK TASSONE:**
17 *Seven. (Vote: Tabled 7-0-0-0)*

18
19 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
02:33PM 20 I.R. 1294 is tabled. I have a motion -- I'm going to make a motion
21 for -- ask for a motion to place 1299, I.R. 1299 on the Consent
22 Calendar. ***I.R. 1299 - Authorizing execution of a new Agreement by***
23 ***the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer District No. 3 -***
24 ***Southwest with 25 Ruland Road (HU-1208). (Co. Exec.)*** Do I have a motion?

25
26 **LEG. THORNE:**
27 Second.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
30 Oh, okay.

31
32 **LEG. FLEMING:**
33 I'll make the motion.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
36 Motion, Legislator Fleming, second by Legislator Thorne. Anybody
37 on the motion? Seeing none, all approved -- all in favor?
38 Against? Abstentions?

39
02:33PM 40 **CLERK TASSONE:**
41 *Seven. (Vote: Approved Consent Calendar 7-0-0-0)*

42
43 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
44 I.R. 1299 is to be moved to the Consent Calendar. Same request for
45 ***I.R. 1313***, for the Consent Calendar, ***Authorizing execution of a new***
46 ***Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer***
47 ***District No. 6 - Kings Park with Brookside Multicare Center***
48 ***(SM-1045). (Co. Exec.)*** I'll make a motion, second by Legislator
49 Fleming. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

02:34PM 50
51 **CLERK TASSONE:**
52 *Seven. (Vote: Approved Consent Calendar 7-0-0-0)*

53
54 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
55 I.R. 1313 is moved to the Consent Calendar. ***I.R. 1318 -***
56 ***Appropriating funds in connection with Improvements to CR, County***

1 **Road 38, North Sea Road (CP 5505). (Co. Exec.)** I make a motion to
2 table.

3
4 **LEG. TROTТА:**
5 Second.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
8 I have a second. Anybody on the motion?

9
02:34PM 10 **LEG. FLEMING:**
11 On the motion.

12
13 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
14 *(Raised Hand)*

15
16 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
17 Legislator Fleming.

18
19 **LEG. FLEMING:**
02:34PM 20 Actually, if I may make a motion to approve, and then to be heard
21 on the motion to table.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
24 I have a motion to approve. Is there a second?

25
26 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
27 Second.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
02:34PM 30 We have a second from Legislator Krupski. On the motion to
31 approve.

32
33 **LEG. FLEMING:**
34 On the motion to table, Mr. Chair, if I could just ask some
35 questions of the Commissioner. Just a comment to begin. There was
36 discussion, public discussion about a couple of road repair
37 projects in my District, one being County Road 39, and also then
38 County Road 38. The County Road 39 discussion blew up, I think
39 it's fair to say. The cover of the Southampton Press this week is
02:35PM 40 of the project being tabled. It's a multi, multi-million dollar
41 project for sidewalks and pedestrian safety that's been worked on
42 for many years. It's become a little bit of a political football
43 in the district in the Town of Southampton. And I'm very concerned
44 that now North Sea Road, County Road 38, is going to follow suit,
45 partly because of the timing.

46
47 They both sound very similar, County Road 39, 38. As a matter of
48 fact, in the coverage in the Southampton Press, there -- it talks
49 about the County Road 39 project, but if you open the paper,
02:35PM 50 there's a photograph of the sign that says County Road 38. So
51 there's clear confusion in the community that I think is partly
52 because of the timing of the presentations.

53
54 And I'm just very concerned that this North Sea Road project, if
55 it's being put off, is detrimental to the community. This is an
56 investment in pedestrian safety and road safety, and road

1 reconstruction that's been put off for many years. But more
2 importantly, from my perspective, is the drainage issue. We have
3 had these conversations, and, Commissioner, I appreciate your
4 position and the County Executive's position to table it. I may
5 not understand in full the rationale for that, and perhaps if I --
6 when I'm ready -- I mean, when I'm finished the questions I have,
7 you'll probably want to put the County Executive's position on the
8 record here.

02:36PM 9
10 But, you know, this is a very old road. The -- it's a cement road,
11 so the pavement is held up in a way that asphalt roads don't hold
12 up. And so it's been able to be defrayed -- I mean, what's it
13 called? Delayed for some time now. But there are issues around
14 pedestrian safety in particular, but also around environmental
15 safety that are critically important.

16
17 There is a very significant passage of alewives, river herring at
18 this location. It is the most significant migration of the river
19 herring, the alewife on Long Island, and perhaps, you know, beyond,
02:37PM 20 but certainly on Long Island. The creek connects North Sea Harbor
21 to Big Fresh Pond, and it is the largest spawning site or run of
22 the alewives on Long Island, and the only alewife passage without
23 any obstructions. Now these are food source for -- not only for
24 the river otter, but also for important species of birds, osprey,
25 the snowy egret, the black crown -- black crown night heron. Very
26 important birds for the East End.

27
28 I don't really understand how the drainage, so-called, which I've
29 observed to be a direct input into the creek from the -- from the
02:38PM 30 road, I just don't even understand how it conforms with the DEC's
31 stormwater mitigation policies. So I'm really concerned that we
32 are going to let this go the way of the County Road 39 project. It
33 is time to prevent the sediment and the road runoff from going into
34 this critically important water body.

35
36 DEC has called North Sea Harbor, has designated North Sea Harbor
37 and it's tributaries as impaired water bodies. So to have an
38 impaired water body that is such a critically important habitat
39 that's being impacted by road runoff because of delays in road
02:39PM 40 reconstruction is truly something that is beyond what our
41 responsibilities to the taxpayers allow us to do. So that's why
42 I'm concerned that we not put this off, and so I would like to see
43 the funding move forward.

44
45 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

46 Legislator, thank you. You know, Michelle, is here, I think she
47 could speak on behalf of the County Executive. On behalf of Public
48 Works, and when the Division asked that this be tabled for a month,
49 it's exactly in line with the things that you're raising, those
02:39PM 50 concerns. It was a very active public meeting. This is different
51 than 39, 39 was -- is a sidewalk, basically a sidewalk project.
52 And there's bigger issues on 39, so we have concerns about the
53 sidewalk project getting in the way of the bigger issues that maybe
54 need to be solved down the road.

55
56 As you know, a lot of people have moved out to the Hamptons that

1 were out there part-time from Manhattan and the City, so the
2 traffic is -- has never been worse. So those are all things that
3 we're considering with relation to 39.

4
5 Thirty-eight is a resurfacing, it needs to be resurfaced, there's
6 drainage work that has to be done. There's a lot of environmental
7 issues, as you mentioned. So, really, we have to take a deeper
8 look at some of those things that were raised during the public
9 hearing the other day.

02:40PM 10

11 This should be seen as a positive in response to the public, that
12 we're taking this time, this -- tabling this for a month to really
13 get a better handle on all of those issues and make sure we're
14 going in the right direction going forward. We have no intention
15 in delaying this project unnecessarily, we want it to go forward,
16 we want the paving to be done. We want to make sure that we're
17 dealing with all these environmental issues, all those places where
18 we may be putting in a sidewalk now, where they have an apron going
19 into those businesses, where it's all open in their frontage. That
20 was another concern that we heard. So this is really just to make
21 sure that we're listening to those concerns and we're going forward
22 in the right direction. And we have been, you know, in
23 coordination with the County Executive's Office on that message.
24 But I don't know, Michelle, if you want to add anything to that.

02:40PM 20

25
26 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

27 Yeah. Hi. Michelle Zarifis, County Executive's Office. I also
28 just wanted to mention we have some questions for the Town as well.
29 So I'd be happy to facilitate a meeting with the County, the Town
30 and yourself so we can work through these issues.

02:41PM 30

31
32 **LEG. FLEMING:**

33 Well, I appreciate that. I do know that the Town of Southampton
34 has awarded the Town Trustees, I think, close to half a million
35 dollars to do culvert remediation on the creek on the other side of
36 the -- what is now a Town road, used to be a County road, but --
37 so, certainly, any -- you know, they -- the Peconic Baykeeper and
38 others are looking for assistance with the culvert to keep the
39 alewives running. But until that sediment is reduced that's
40 pouring into that creek, it really is going to impair the work
41 that's happening on the culvert. But certainly coordination would
42 be critically important. So I'd be more than happy to support a
43 meeting and, you know, help facilitate a meeting. I do want this
44 project to move forward, though.

02:42PM 40

45
46 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

47 Yes, understood, yep. We're looking to work with you, and the
48 Town, and our the Department of Public Works to move this forward.

02:42PM 50

49
50 **LEG. FLEMING:**

51 So what is the timeline, like what is the commitment? You're
52 saying -- I think I heard the Commissioner say a month. Is -- so
53 we have another meeting in two weeks. Like what -- are there
54 specific goals and a specific timeline that guides before we just
55 like put this off?

56

1 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**
2 I could have our Commissioner speak more to that.

3
4 **LEG. FLEMING:**
5 Thank you, Michelle.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
8 Before you get off the mic, Michelle, could you keep me in mind for
9 that meeting as well?

02:43PM 10
11 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**
12 Yes, of course.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
15 All right, thank you.

16
17 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
18 Legislator, our timeline hasn't changed. You know, we might have a
19 month or two that gets added to the process because of all of these
02:43PM 20 additional requests, you know, coming out of public hearing.
21 That's why the public hearing was very important to us. We want to
22 make sure that we're responding to all of those concerns, that
23 we're looking at it closely, you know, not just the roadway, but
24 the environmental issues. The sidewalk, as you know, there is a
25 lot of concern about the sidewalks going in. Although we're a
26 Complete Streets county, we still have to follow that specific
27 guideline. So we might be able to do something a little different
28 with the sidewalks as well, in line with some of the comments we
29 heard.

02:43PM 30
31 So the schedule has not changed. You know, we could slide a month
32 or two because of these concerns, because we have to address them,
33 but we still expect construction to be complete by the end of 2025,
34 that's the current schedule.

35
36 **LEG. FLEMING:**
37 Thank you. I would ask for a specific timeline. And maybe when we
38 have the meeting with the Town, the County could commit to a
39 specific timeline, I mean, just based on the pushback, what
02:44PM 40 happened with County Road 39. You know, I know you all work very
41 hard, but this is a big, big government, and oftentimes when you
42 get that kind of response, you're more likely to say, you know,
43 let's turn our attention to something else. But this, particularly
44 in terms of the drainage, I don't know how it meets MS4, I just
45 don't even understand how it can. It's very old technology. So,
46 yeah, if when -- during the meeting we could get a specific
47 commitment on a timeline, I think that would be very helpful.

48
49 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
02:44PM 50 We can keep you updated. Just to, you know, reiterate, this is a
51 very different project than 39. Thirty-nine is a sidewalk project
52 and is being shelved, you know, not specifically tabled. I guess
53 we would call it shelved, putting it on the shelf, and to make sure
54 that we're not getting ahead of a bigger effort on 39, perhaps.
55 But 38 is a resurfacing project that needs to go forward, and
56 that's our intention.

1
2 **LEG. FLEMING:**

3 I appreciate that.
4

5 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

6 And thank you, Legislator Fleming. I know, Legislator Krupski, you
7 had something you wanted to add?
8

9 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

02:45PM 10 Yes, thank you. I would like to ask about the drainage along that
11 road. Sitting in, and as Legislator Fleming does, on the Peconic
12 Estuary Partnership Management Committee, the drainage and the fish
13 culverts came up, and Legislator Fleming just mentioned the MS4
14 program. Are there any regulated outfalls on that road?
15

16 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

17 I do review the MS4, I'm required to, and I was very familiar with
18 it at the State, but I don't recall specifically what's on the
19 roads. Perhaps the Chief Engineer would know.
20

02:45PM 21 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

22 Thank you.
23

24 **MR. HILLMAN:**

25 I do -- Bill Hillman, Chief Engineer, Suffolk County DPW. I do
26 believe there is a direct discharge. But beyond the actual
27 discharge of a pipe, there is definitely direct flow from the
28 shoulder that flows directly into the creek, and we definitely need
29 and want to prevent that from happening.
30

31 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

32 And so --
33

34 **MR. HILLMAN:**

35 That is the game plan.
36

37 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

38 So how -- you know, how do you plan on addressing the drainage
39 there?
40

02:46PM 41 **MR. HILLMAN:**

42 So about a mile-and-a-half of the roadway presently drains towards
43 Alewife Creek. The project, the preliminary plan for the project
44 is to install drainage for that mile-and-a-half, leaching basins
45 that would store the water before it gets to Alewife Creek. The
46 very, very short distance within the Alewife Creek, where we get --
47 we have groundwater issues, that water will be treated before it's
48 discharged to Alewife Creek.
49

02:46PM 50 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

51 Oh, thank you. And I know the County has a -- DPW has a very good
52 history of managing stormwater, and regardless of the MS4 program,
53 just managing it in general before Towns had to adopt that.
54

55 As far as the regulated outfalls go -- and, Legislator Fleming, you
56 referenced that this in a -- DEC considers this an impaired water

1 body. I wonder, when you have a meeting with the Town, if they can
2 do -- a lot of the impairments come from Town roads, also, so maybe
3 you could try to kind of push them towards the right direction to
4 try to -- try to clean up those problems, too, and --

5
6 **LEG. FLEMING:**

7 Well, that -- yeah, and that is -- one of the reasons why we need
8 to coordinate, because right around the corner is Noyack Road, and
9 the culvert that goes into Conscience Point and out to North Sea
02:47PM 10 Harbor.

11
12 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

13 So that's an alewife culvert?

14
15 **LEG. FLEMING:**

16 Uh-huh.

17
18 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

19 The aforementioned. So was that part of the project?

02:47PM 20
21 **LEG. FLEMING:**

22 There were two of them.

23
24 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

25 Oh, there's two?

26
27 **LEG. FLEMING:**

28 *(Nodded Yes)*

29
30 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

31 So are they -- are they part of the roadwork, or are they -- or
32 they're going to be separately done?

33
34 **MR. HILLMAN:**

35 The first project is via the Town. My understanding is that --
36 that's to be constructed in -- within the next 12 to 18 months I,
37 think. I'm not exactly sure of the timeline, but I believe in that
38 time frame. The other culvert is the County culvert that's being
39 discussed. And we've already met with Peter Topping and Enrico
02:48PM 40 Nardone twice about that culvert, and we're actively coordinating
41 with them on solutions on how to improve the fish passage.

42
43 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

44 That's great. Thank you. I have confidence that you can do that.
45 Thank you.

46
47 **MR. HILLMAN:**

48 Thank you.

49
02:48PM 50 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

51 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

52
53 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

54 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. And though I could appreciate
55 everything both my colleagues said, I can assure you that this
56 committee, and I believe every Legislator sitting up here, is

1 committed to estuaries, clean water, public safety for that matter
2 with our streets. You saw earlier with the coastal resiliency
3 presentation how much research and studying we are putting into
4 protecting our waterways, even though there was a few Western
5 Suffolk areas that were left off that, and that was corrected.

6
7 I could tell you that we had questions up here, a bunch of us, not
8 about anything, no political footballs here, which was mentioned.
9 I'm not sure what's going on with that comment, but I could assure
02:49PM 10 you that when it comes to appropriating \$11.5 million and having
11 nothing on the table telling us exactly what's happening, exactly
12 the work that's being planned and what's going into it. I drive up
13 and down Noyack road, North Sea Road. As you're well aware,
14 Legislator Fleming, I have friends out there and I'm out there
15 often. So I've seen roadways in much worse conditions. But having
16 the understanding now of the contamination of the waterway over
17 there, I could understand your wanting to get this thing done. But
18 without the proper information, you know, again, we're not going to
19 just allocate \$11.5 million because -- until we see the appropriate
02:50PM 20 information that we need to make a decision that's based on
21 priorities.

22
23 And there are a lot of areas in Suffolk County that we have to put
24 work to that's been overlooked, it's been pushed off, and truly
25 dangerous roadways, including issues with drainage. We have a
26 Lake Ronkonkoma issue going on in Western Suffolk, we have things
27 going on in Oakdale with coastal resiliency problems, as well as
28 Lindenhurst, again, left off the map completely. So, yeah, we're
29 going to do a better, better job looking into all of it, and
02:50PM 30 prioritizing where we're putting this work, and make sure
31 everything is done across Suffolk County. So I want to make sure
32 that message is clear, there's no political football here. It's
33 about being transparent, about what we're allocation this funding
34 to, \$11.5 million, what work is getting done.

35
36 You know, we need lists, I need to know. There's no more just
37 rubber-stamping allocations of fundings for the -- for millions and
38 millions of taxpayer money. It's not going to happen anymore, it's
39 a different time, different era. We're going to have the
02:51PM 40 information. I don't know what used to go on here a year or two
41 ago, but I'm telling you it's different now. There will be --
42 there will be accountability. And your accountability,
43 Mr. Commissioner, is to provide the information we need to make an
44 educated decision on what we're doing with taxpayer money. So --

45
46 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
47 Understood, Legislator.

48
49 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
02:51PM 50 -- I'll be more than happy to attend that meeting out east with
51 Legislator Fleming, the Town, and whoever else wants to come to
52 that, because I need, for my own edification, to see what's going
53 on, not just in Western Suffolk, but I want to know what's going on
54 in Eastern Suffolk.

55
56 Legislator Krupski invited me out two years ago to go to the

1 hatchery, wonderful. He had me at hello, as soon as I walked
2 through the doors and saw what was going on there.

3
4 (*Laughter*)
5

6 And it's true, and that's because I educated myself. And that's
7 what we need to do here, we need to do a better job, not just in
8 our districts, but across Suffolk County. So, please, Legislator
9 Fleming, if you get information, I want to know about it, I want to
02:52PM 10 be there. This is not a political football.

11
12 **LEG. FLEMING:**

13 We'll probably do a Zoom meeting, but I'd be more than happy to
14 show you the photos, or come -- or come on out and we'll -- with
15 the Peconic Baykeeper, that's Peter Topping. He's the one who's
16 spearheading the efforts on the culvert, both at the Town and
17 County side, so we'd love to have you out.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

02:52PM 20 Fully on board.

21
22 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

23 And, Mr. Chairman, this is a paving project. That's what's driving
24 this project, is paving.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

27 It's not just a paving project, we're talking about -- no, and it's
28 also drainage, it's going to be sidewalks, it's a public safety
29 issue. It goes beyond that. It's an environmental issue. This
02:52PM 30 is -- I need to have comprehensive information.

31
32 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

33 Yeah, I understand that, but it is the paving that's driving this
34 project. And as a requirement, we have to fix all those other
35 things when we go out and do a paving job, so -- and we have to
36 deal with those issues. But it is an important project for us to
37 proceed with from a paving perspective.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

02:53PM 40 A hundred percent, no one's arguing, okay? So let's -- we do have
41 a motion and a second to approve. We also have a motion and a
42 second to table, which takes precedence, and we're going to vote on
43 the tabling first. All in favor?

44
45 **LEG. FLEMING:**

46 Mr. Chairman, if I could just withdraw the approval motion. Thank you.

47
48 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

49 Okay, very good. So we have a motion and a second to table until
02:53PM 50 further information is available, and said meeting that was
51 previously discussed. All in favor of that? Opposed?
52 Abstentions?

53
54 **CLERK TASSONE:**

55 Seven. (Vote: Tabled 7-0-0-0)

56

1 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

2 I.R. 1318 is tabled temporarily. All right. The following
3 resolutions, I will go through them, but it's going to be 1321
4 through 1328 are all going to be requested placed on the Consent
5 Calendar. So keep in mind for those motions when I ask for a
6 motion, to be placed on the Consent Calendar.

7
8 All right. We're going begin with *I.R. 1321 - Authorizing*
9 *execution of a new Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk*
02:54PM 10 *County Sewer District No. 6 - Kings Park with Indian Trace (HOA)*
11 *(SM-0805). (Co. Exec.)* I'll make a motion.

12
13 **LEG. TROTТА:**

14 Second.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

17 Got a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

18
19 **CLERK TASSONE:**

02:54PM 20 *Seven. (Vote: Approved Consent Calendar 7-0-0-0)*

21
22 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

23 I.R. -- I.R. 1321 is approved. *I.R. 1322 - Authorizing execution*
24 *of a new Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County*
25 *Sewer District No. 11 - Selden with the Ranches at Long Lake*
26 *Estates HOA (BR-0916). (Co. Exec.)* Same motion, same second.

27
28 **CLERK TASSONE:**

29 *Seven. (Vote: Approved Consent Calendar 7-0-0-0)*

02:54PM 30
31 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

32 I.R. 1322 is approved. *I.R. 1323 - Authorizing execution of a new*
33 *Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County -- I have to*
34 *turn the page -- County Sewer District No. 14 - Parkland with*
35 *Autumn Ridge HOA (IS-0820). (Co. Exec.)*

36
37 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

38 Motion.

02:54PM 39
40 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

41 Same motion, same second.

42
43 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

44 Oh, sorry.

45
46 **CLERK TASSONE:**

47 *Seven. (Vote: Approved Consent Calendar 7-0-0-0)*

48
49 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

02:54PM 50 I.R. 1323 is approved. *I.R. 1324 - Authorizing execution of a new*
51 *Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer*
52 *District No. 14 - Parkland with Nature's Bounty (IS-1083).*
53 *(Co. Exec.)* Same motion, same second.

54
55 **CLERK TASSONE:**

56 *Seven. (Vote: Approved Consent Calendar 7-0-0-0)*

1
2 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

3 I.R. 1324 is approved. *I.R. 1325 - Authorizing execution of an*
4 *Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer*
5 *District No. 3 - Southwest with Wyandanch Village - 11 Park Drive*
6 *(BA-1477.1-016). (Co. Exec.)* Same motion, same second.
7

8 **CLERK TASSONE:**

9 *Seven. (Vote: Approved Consent Calendar 7-0-0-0)*

02:55PM

10
11 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

12 I.R. 1325 is approved. *I.R. 1326 - Authorizing execution of an*
13 *Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer*
14 *District No. 14 - Parkland with AG-MRA 00 Rajon, LLC (IS-1642.2).*
15 *(Co. Exec.)* Same motion, same second.
16

17 **CLERK TASSONE:**

18 *Seven. (Vote: Approved Consent Calendar 7-0-0-0)*

02:55PM

19
20 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

21 I.R. 1326 is approved. *I.R. 1327 - Authorizing execution of a new*
22 *Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer*
23 *District No. 7 - Twelve Pines with Monsignor Henry J. Reel Housing*
24 *Development (BR-1013). (Co. Exec.)* Same motion, same second.
25

26 **CLERK TASSONE:**

27 *Seven. (Vote: Approved Consent Calendar 7-0-0-0)*

02:55PM

28
29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

30 I.R. 1327 is approved. *I.R. 1328 - Authorizing execution of a new*
31 *Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer*
32 *District No. 3 - Southwest with 1730 Walt Whitman Road (HU-1043).*
33 *(Co. Exec.)* Same motion, same second.
34

35 **CLERK TASSONE:**

36 *Seven. Seven. (Vote: Approved Consent Calendar 7-0-0-0)*

02:56PM

37
38 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

39 I.R. 1328 is approved. Okay. We have *1363 - Approving renewal and*
40 *extension of Ferry License for North Ferry Company, Inc.*
41 *(Pres. Off.)*
42

43 **LEG. TROTТА:**

44 Motion to discharge without recommendation.
45

46 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

47 I'll second. We have a motion to discharge without recommendation
48 and a second.
49

02:56PM

50 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

51 On the second -- on the motion and second.
52

53 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

54 On the motion, Legislator Krupski.
55
56

1 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
2 So is this -- do we have to go back to public hearing with this
3 again? Okay, thank you.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
6 Yes.

7
8 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
9 And then we can vote on it. Thank you.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
12 Yes.

13
14 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
15 Okay.

16
17 **LEG. FLEMING:**
18 On the motion.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
21 On the motion, Legislator Fleming.

22
23 **LEG. FLEMING:**
24 I just wanted to clarify that the only reason we're discharging it,
25 rather than approving it, the reason why we're doing that is
26 order -- in order to fulfill the procedural requirement, that
27 the --

28
29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
30 The public hearing.

31
32 **LEG. FLEMING:**
33 -- public hearing be held.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
36 Okay.

37
38 **LEG. FLEMING:**
39 Thank you.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
42 You're right, I should have clarified for the record, you're
43 correct. Thank you, Legislator, for doing that. So we have a
44 motion and a second to discharge without recommendation I.R. 1363.
45 All in favor? Opposed?

46
47 **CLERK TASSONE:**
48 *Seven. (Vote: Discharged Without Recommendation 7-0-0-0)*

49
50 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
51 I.R. 1363 is discharged without -- I.R. 1363 is approved.
52 ***I.R. 1364 - Authorization of alteration of rates for North Ferry***
53 ***Company, Inc. (Pres. Off.)*** Is there a motion?

54
55 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
56 Motion. Motion to discharge.

02:56PM

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56

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Motion from Legislator Krupski. Is there a second?

LEG. FLEMING:
I'll second.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Do we have to -- is that the same, we have to discharge without --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Discharge, yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
And close the hearing.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Discharge without recommendation --

02:57PM **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
-- for public hearing. Also, will the ferry company be present for questions?

LEG. FLEMING:
They're here today --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
They're here today?

LEG. FLEMING:
-- if you have a question.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Yeah, I'd love to have them up. Come on up. I know you came all this way, so thank you. Had I known, I would have taken it out of order. I would have -- I would have done it for them.

02:57PM **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**
That's fine. I didn't take a card, because I knew that we would have to wait until the public hearing.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
But still, we could have taken it out of order just to get you out of here. We know you have a long ride home, so anyway.

02:57PM **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
They could stay overnight.

LEG. FLEMING:
The last boat already left.

(*Laughter*)

1 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**
2 I appreciate your consideration.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
5 Just state your name for the record, please, sir.

6
7 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**
8 My name is Bridgford Hunt, and I'm the General Manager of North
9 Ferry.

02:58PM 10
11 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
12 The floor is yours. We're just going to ask some questions about
13 the alteration of rates for North Ferry.

14
15 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**
16 Sure.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
19 I know we were here a couple of years ago.

02:58PM 20
21 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**
22 Yes.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
25 I know the fuel rates were through the roof. We agreed in two
26 years that we would do a reassessment of all the ferry companies to
27 see about reducing those fees. You're here now looking to increase
28 them once again.

02:58PM 29
30 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**
31 Yeah. Unfortunately, our costs have continued to increase. And we
32 also have some very large capital projects that we are -- I'm very
33 excited to announce that we are making steady progress on. We've
34 gotten two out of four of our new higher slips built, but we have
35 two to go. We have a lot of capital needs, and our ongoing costs
36 have continued to rise.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
39 Do you have a number of what you're looking to raise the rates?

02:59PM 40
41 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**
42 I think it's clearly delineated in the --

43
44 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
45 In the resolution.

46
47 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**
48 -- BRO report.

02:59PM 49
50 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
51 But we have a question. Was it \$2 or something, or --

52
53 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**
54 Our tariff is -- has a number of rate classes, so they vary across
55 the rate classes. For the most part, they are around 8 or 9%.
56 We're asking for -- for example, we're asking for a dollar more on

1 our one-way fare, \$14 to \$15, and \$2 more on our roundtrip fair of
2 \$22 to \$24. However, there are -- we're asking for the resident
3 discount one way. We're asking for 50 cents more per trip, and for
4 a resident roundtrip, we're asking 60 cents more for the roundtrip.
5 Those are kind of bulleted examples of our request, but it's quite
6 granular in nature. We have different tariffs for everything.

7
8 Our largest increase is in the passenger, the high priced passenger
9 fare, not the discounted passenger fare, which is going to -- from
03:00PM 10 \$2 to \$3, a significant increase. However, we haven't touched that
11 rate, I believe, in 13 years, and it's consistent with the rate of
12 inflation over that period of time. The problem has been every
13 time when we come for relief, there's a certain percentage, and the
14 \$2 always gets rounded down to \$2 again, because we don't do
15 pennies in the -- in the passenger fare. So we really need to
16 address that and bring that fare up.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

19 So your fees are going up, not as much for your residential, but
03:00PM 20 more for visitors?
21

22 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

23 Actually, the percentage rate is very similar for the residents and
24 for the visitors. We try to keep it pretty flat. This is
25 really -- I guess you could call it an inflation adjustment
26 request. Just our costs are going up. We continue to invest in
27 the company, and we're just trying to make sure that we don't go
28 broke.

29
03:01PM 30 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

31 Well, you do realize that when it comes to the trades that utilize
32 the ferries, they're going to put that cost onto the -- to the
33 homeowners, so just something to be aware of. It's -- your
34 residents are going to feel it.

35
36 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

37 Oh, we are keenly aware of that. You know, it's a very small
38 community and people are the first to talk to us about it.

39
03:01PM 40 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

41 And I get it, yeah. What kind of feedback are you getting from
42 your community members?
43

44 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

45 Really, we haven't had a lot of direct feedback specific to the
46 amount. The only feedback is, oh, no, you know, a rate increase,
47 and people's hair are on fire. But I plan to speak to the Town
48 Board and at their work session tomorrow. I think the residents
49 will be particularly comforted by the fact that we're not
03:01PM 50 addressing the resident passenger rate at all, so -- and the other
51 rates are lower than the rate of inflation. Everybody's paying a
52 little more.
53

54 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

55 Well, you sort of touched on my next question. I wanted to know,
56 if this has been advertised throughout the communities to give your

1 residents an opportunity to come out and speak on it, you know, in
2 public hearing. Have you met with your local --

3
4 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

5 I've spoken with both our Legislator and the Legislator in the
6 adjoining district, the Supervisor of the Town of Shelter Island,
7 and the former Mayor of the Village of Greenport before we
8 finalized our presentation.

03:02PM

9
10 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

11 Have you had any community meetings on this?

12
13 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

14 No. I was anticipating a community meeting. When I spoke with the
15 Supervisor of the Town, that's really his wheelhouse. And
16 tomorrow, when I present at the work session, I'll have a chance to
17 address concerns. But to be fair, our petition is in already, to
18 your point.

03:02PM

19
20 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

21 It's not incumbent upon this Legislature to mandate you have one,
22 I'm just --

23
24 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

25 No.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

28 It's good practice to make sure that, you know --

03:02PM

29
30 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

31 We've always tried to be very forthcoming with the community, and
32 this application is no exception.

33
34 **LEG. TROTТА:**

35 I have a question.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

38 Legislator Trotta.

03:02PM

39
40 **LEG. TROTТА:**

41 So what is the resident fee for one way?

42
43 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

44 The residents' fee for one way is six -- 6.40 now.

45
46 **LEG. TROTТА:**

47 Six-forty. I thought you didn't use cents, I thought you were
48 doing dollars only.

03:03PM

49
50 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

51 When you're in the residents, they're handled by -- we don't do
52 pennies on the cash fares, which is our highest fare rate. So
53 that's where the \$3 token would be, instead of a \$2 token, we don't
54 make change there. However, people that travel at a discount, and
55 it's not just the residents, there is a non-resident discount rated
56 well, which available to anybody in Suffolk County, they pay in a

1 prepaid ferry pass card. Let me show you.

2
3 **LEG. TROTТА:**

4 Okay, I get it. So there's a -- so if I get on, I'm -- I mean, I'm
5 getting a 50% increase if I ride the ferry if I'm a passenger. Is
6 that a passenger, also, or just a foot passenger?

7
8 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

03:03PM

9 It's a passenger in a car or a foot passenger. But if you travel
10 frequently to Shelter Island, we'll issue you a ferry pass card and
11 you can travel at the nonresident passenger rate of 2.50, instead
12 of the current \$2. So, in other words, for somebody that just
13 shows up on a one-time trip, they're going to pay \$3. Somebody
14 like yourself that might come quite often, you have a \$2.50 rate.
15 And because of the residents' physical isolation on Shelter Island,
16 they're afforded \$1.50 rate.

17
18 **LEG. TROTТА:**

19 Lance, did we look at like their profit and loss --

20
21 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

22 Yes, we --

23
24 **LEG. TROTТА:**

25 -- before?

26
27 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

03:04PM

28 Yes, we issued a report. We look at their financial statements for
29 the past two years, including their 2021 financial statement, also
30 included 2020. So we have the equivalent of three years of
31 financial statements. We look at their profits, the revenue flow,
32 the outlay, what they have planned.

33
34 This, this request, the North Ferry is investing a lot in capital
35 projects. They've raised two of their loading ramps, one on
36 Greenport side, the other one on Shelter Island side, for
37 raising -- rising tides. They have a new docking system that
38 they're going to institute on the boats, so that they don't have to
39 keep the boats in gear.

03:05PM

40
41 **LEG. TROTТА:**

42 How much money, how much money are they making? Are they making
43 money?

44
45 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

03:05PM

46 So, yes, they're making money. They have significant retained
47 earnings, which they're plowing back into capital projects. Rather
48 than borrowing, they're using cash for these projects that are
49 ongoing. They've got about \$2 million in capital expenditures that
50 they plan on spending in the next couple of years. Plus they've
51 had a major labor agreement that went into effect this year, which
52 has a significant impact on their operating costs, too. So we
53 estimated that they would have about a little bit -- little bit
54 less than \$800,000 annually on the increase of fares. But if you
55 take the union agreement, energy costs, and what they're putting
56 back into capital improvements, we felt that they warranted an

1 increase.

2

3 **LEG. TROTТА:**

4 What was the gross, their gross revenue? Just pick a year.

5

6 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

7 I'm thinking. Gross revenue, it varied from year to year, because
8 they, you know, mixed in there, which made it a little bit
9 difficult in looking at their financials, when you had COVID
10 stimulus funds --

03:06PM 10

11

12 **LEG. TROTТА:**

13 Ten million dollars, \$8 million?

14

15 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

16 A million dollars is a fair --

17

18 **LEG. TROTТА:**

19 One million?

20

21 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

22 Well, you're talking gross --

23

24 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

25 Our gross revenue is in the \$8 million category.

26

27 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

28 Yeah, that's --

29

30 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

31 And out of that last --

32

33 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

34 That's gross, right.

35

36 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

37 Out of that last year, our net revenue was 350-something thousand
38 dollars, 300 -- between three and \$400,000.

39

40 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

41 Yeah, I was --

42

43 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

44 We're not -- we're not making any money.

45

46 **LEG. TROTТА:**

47 Okay. So let me ask, I mean, we -- are they landing on County
48 land? What gives us the right to even do this?

49

50 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

51 This is -- Suffolk County has the authority to regulate, license
52 ferries, for all ferries that operate within the waters of Suffolk
53 County. We're the only county, my understanding, in New York State
54 where we have several ferry companies. We have Fire Island, we
55 have North Ferry.

03:07PM 50

56

1 **LEG. TROTТА:**

2 But who owns -- where you dock, who owns that property where you
3 dock?

4
5 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

6 On the Shelter Island side, the dock is owned by the Shelter Island
7 Heights Property Owners Association, and on the Greenport side,
8 it's owned by the MTA.

9
03:07PM 10 **LEG. TROTТА:**

11 So you have to pay those people fees --

12
13 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

14 Yes.

15
16 **LEG. TROTТА:**

17 -- I'm assuming.

18
19 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

03:07PM 20 We have rents to the MTA, and the rents to the --

21
22 **LEG. TROTТА:**

23 You guys are getting screwed all over the place here. Okay.

24
25 (**Laughter**)

26
27 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

28 It's a Difficult business to be in, although, also, a very exciting
29 and rewarding business to be in. So I'm very proud our company.
03:08PM 30 Our request here is just to be able to continue to push the company
31 forward and not go broke at the same time.

32
33 **LEG. TROTТА:**

34 Okay. All right, I get it. Thank you.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

37 Legislator Fleming.

38
39 **LEG. FLEMING:**

03:08PM 40 Thank you. Thank you, Bridg, for making the trip here and for
41 the -- and for the contribution that you make, that the company
42 makes to the public transportation system. And, Lance, thank you
43 for your thorough report. I would just note for the Legislature,
44 for my colleagues, we received the report by email on the 14th of
45 April at 11:07, so thank you for that, Lance.

46
47 And I would just note that -- Lance, correct me if I'm wrong, but I
48 think your review found that the requested fare increase had merit,
49 and would provide sufficient revenue for maintaining current
03:08PM 50 service levels, and, also, that the North Ferry provides a vital
51 vehicle and passenger ferry service; is that accurate?

52
53 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

54 Yeah, that's accurate. Again, was saying to Legislator Trotta,
55 given the fact that they're taking a significant portion of the
56 retained earnings and investing them back into the company. So

1 between rising operating costs and significant capital improvements
2 that they're making, and many -- we went out there, we saw the
3 operations, and, you know, these capital improvements are necessary
4 to continue the business into the future.

5
6 **LEG. FLEMING:**

7 And thank you. And question for Mr. Hunt. The capital
8 improvements include the purchase of a new boat, I believe.

9
10 03:09PM

11 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

12 We have -- that's being financed on an ongoing basis, that's
13 correct, yes.

14 **LEG. FLEMING:**

15 And, of course, rising sea levels have contributed significant
16 capital burdens.

17
18 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

19 Yeah, it's --

20 03:09PM

21 **LEG. FLEMING:**

22 If you want to just talk a little bit about what you're investing
23 in order to ensure that the boats can reach the docks, in light of
24 sea level rise.

25
26 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

27 Actually, we've had -- we've had occasions in the last several
28 years where we were unable to make the connection because of high
29 tides, storm tides, sometimes in unnamed storms. I also mentioned
30 that we have capitalized a pier or a landing on the Greenport side,
31 and this year I'm very excited to announce we just completed one on
32 the Shelter Island side. They're both 18 inches higher than the
33 prior landing, and they allow us to connect when we have these high
34 tide storm events. We have two to go, and they're quite costly.
35 The Greenport one was 300-something-plus thousand dollars. The one
36 on Shelter Island, we don't have all the bills in yet, but it's
37 going to be in that neighborhood, plus another \$150,000 or so in
38 slip, related slip work. Next year, we plan to finish the bulkhead
39 in Greenport and raise our other slip in Greenport. And then the
40 following year, we plan to improve our west slip and raise it as
41 well. So these are ongoing capital hits, and we try to manage them
42 in conjunction with our cash receipts.

43
44 03:10PM

45 **LEG. FLEMING:**

46 And can I ask just for the record, if one does not have a private
47 boat, is there any way to get to and from Greenport from Shelter
48 Island?

49 **BRIDGFORD HUNT:**

50 Not to Greenport. There is Klenawicus International Airport, which
51 could take a private plane to Mattituck. But other than that,
52 we're the only show in town.

53
54 03:11PM

55 **LEG. FLEMING:**

56 And I'm aware of at least one food delivery that was actually
delayed, because the boat couldn't reach the dock.

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03:11PM

03:12PM

03:12PM

03:12PM

03:12PM

BRIDGFORD HUNT:
Yes, it --

LEG. FLEMING:
Is there -- are there instances where folks on the island really wouldn't be able to get food if your boat was not running?

BRIDGFORD HUNT:
If our boat wasn't running at all, nobody would get anything. Everything on Shelter Island comes by the boat, even the roads themselves. That said, very recently, in an unnamed storm, the Bozzuto truck was delayed for four hours waiting for the tide to go out, so --

LEG. FLEMING:
For the record, that is a truck that is carrying what?

BRIDGFORD HUNT:
It's a -- it's a tractor trailer truck bringing groceries to our supermarket.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
I think we get the point where you're going with this, I really do. I mean, that's -- you provide a vital service to the community, people who choose to live on the island, I get it, I get in. You know, not have a boat, I don't get that. I mean, if I lived on an island, I would definitely have a way off that island, there's no doubt about it.

*(*Laughter*)*

Anyway, Legislator Fleming, I truly appreciate your questioning, and we get it. He did mention the capital projects that you've been faced with, and we appreciate you -- you know, listen, with the rising tides and everything else, we get it, and we appreciate your efforts to accommodate. You have to, you know, you got to roll -- you know, you got -- you got to spend money to make money, I guess, you know.

BRIDGFORD HUNT:
We got to do what we got to do.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
You got to do what you got to do, exactly, well said. Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Asked and answered, thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Very good. So with that, we have a motion to discharge without recommendation for the sake of public hearing. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed?

1 **CLERK TASSONE:**
2 *Six. (Vote: Discharged Without Recommendation 6-0-0-1/Not Present:*
3 *Leg. Thorne)*

4
5 **LEG. TROTТА:**
6 Mr. Chairman, I have a quick question I would like to ask BRO, if
7 that's okay.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
03:13PM 10 Does it have to do with 1364?

11
12 **LEG. TROTТА:**
13 No, nothing to do with that.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
16 All right. So I just want to go on record, 13 -- 1364 is
17 discharged without recommendation.

18
19 **LEG. TROTТА:**
20 Okay.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
23 Yes.

24
25 **LEG. TROTТА:**
26 Lance, just all of our phones just went off, well, some of us did,
27 and that the Court, New York State Court of Appeals just decided
28 that the tax map verification fees for Nassau County, which is an
29 identical lawsuit to the one in Suffolk County, was just found that
03:13PM 30 the taxes are illegal, and may or may not have to be returned. Can
31 you just give me a summary of approximately how much money this
32 County has received via the tax map verification fees over the past
33 four or five years, that we may or may not have to pay back?

34
35 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
36 Is that something you need time to put together, Lance?

37
38 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**
39 Well, I have some -- I have some rough numbers.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
42 Okay.

43
44 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**
45 So back in 2015, the tax map certification fee, we were bringing in
46 about 10.6 million. Increase in fees brought that up to about 35,
47 \$36 million. So from 2016 on, we've been, according to the budget,
48 bringing in about \$36 million.

49
03:14PM 50 **LEG. TROTТА:**
51 Thirty-six times --

52
53 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**
54 Well, 36, but previous to that, it was 10.6. So say --

55
56

1 **LEG. TROTТА:**
2 We're talking --

3
4 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**
5 -- 25 million a year.

6
7 **LEG. TROTТА:**
8 -- hundreds of millions of dollars.

9
03:14PM 10 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**
11 Significant. Now I know -- I think you were -- had a question
12 about the real property mortgage administrative tax, which was new
13 in 2017.

14
15 **LEG. TROTТА:**
16 That's different. That's -- yeah, that's a different one, the --

17
18 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**
19 That's a different --

03:14PM 20
21 **LEG. TROTТА:**
22 I think that's another lawsuit, actually.

23
24 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**
25 I don't know. But you were just talking about the tax map --

26
27 **LEG. TROTТА:**
28 Tax map verification.

29
30 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**
31 Yeah, so --

32
33 **LEG. TROTТА:**
34 But you were talking about --

35
36 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**
37 We can't say for sure what the delta is, but that's why I like to
38 refer to 2015, where we had 10.6 million, and 2016, it went up to
39 34 million. This budget, in 2023 adopted, has 35.7 million.

03:15PM 40
41 **LEG. TROTТА:**
42 Which is exactly what Nassau has, actually, got the same amount
43 budgeted. So it's safe to say that this is --

44
45 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**
46 So round numbers, 20 -- you know, this year, it looks like, if you
47 were to take 2015 from the 2023 adopted, it's about \$25 million
48 difference.

03:15PM 49
50 **LEG. TROTТА:**
51 Okay. If you would, could you -- I'm assuming this is going to
52 come down for Suffolk County very quickly, you know, rather
53 quickly, because in talking to the Suffolk County lawyer who filed
54 the case against Suffolk County, he was there three weeks after
55 Nassau County did, and they asked him no questions during his
56 testimony. So I'm assuming at some point we're going to learn that

1 we're going to have to stop collecting this. So, I mean, I might
2 have some questions for you, but I'll send them by email. Thank
3 you very much.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

6 And just keep in mind, before we all hit the panic button,
7 litigation stage, it still is going to go through the Court of
8 Appeals. Nassau County has already released a statement that
9 they're looking to perhaps lower the rate. Instead of going back
10 to Court, there may be some kind of settlement. I'm not really
11 sure. I'm sure we'll follow their lead, as we are not named in any
12 of these lawsuits as of right now. Anyway, that being said, I
13 appreciate the information, Lance, and if you get it to us in the
14 near future, it would be -- it would be appreciated.

15
16 So before we end, I would just like to take a moment, and as I like
17 to do, thank our I.T. Department for keeping us going, thank our
18 Stenographer staff for keeping up with the rapid pace, and, of
19 course, our Sheriff's Department for keeping us all safe. So thank
20 you all for that. And seeing no further business, we stand
21 adjourned. Thank you.

22
23 (**The Meeting was Adjourned at 3:16 p.m.**)
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