

1 (**The meeting was called to order at 2:24 p.m.**)

2
3 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

4 All right. Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the Public Works,
5 Transportation and Energy Committee. If you could please all rise
6 for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator Piccirillo. And
7 please remain standing for a moment of silence.

8
9 (**Pledge of Allegiance**)

02:24PM 10
11 Just take a moment of silence to reflect upon -- we just came off
12 Memorial Day -- for all our veterans serving here and abroad, for
13 our healthcare workers, our First Responders, and, of course, our
14 essential employees out there, a moment of silence for them. Thank
15 you.

16
17 Before we get started, I'd like to recognize our pages, our Suffolk
18 County pages are in the room, some of them are in the house today.
19 If you want to just stand real quick, our pages. Stand up, be
02:25PM 20 recognized. Thank you for being here, our future leaders.

21
22 (**Applause**)

23
24 There we go. Very good. All right. With that, can we have a roll
25 call, Mr. Clerk?

26
27 **CLERK TASSONE:**

28 Yes.

29
02:25PM 30 (**Roll Call by Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature**)

31
32 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

33 Present.

34
35 **LEG. TROTTA:**

36 Here.

37
38 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

39 Here.

02:25PM 40
41 **LEG. FLEMING:**

42 Present.

43
44 **LEG. ANKER:**

45 (*Absent*)

46
47 **LEG. THORNE:**

48 Present.

49
02:25PM 50 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

51 Present.

52
53 **CLERK TASSONE:**

54 Legislator Anker.

55
56 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

1 Legislator Anker has an excused absence for today.

2

3 **CLERK TASSONE:**

4 *Six. (Absent: Leg. Anker)*

5

6 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

7 Thank you. Any correspondence?

8

9 **CLERK TASSONE:**

02:25PM 10 All correspondence have been distributed accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

11

12 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

13 Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Public portion. Do we have any speakers?

14

15 **MR. DELUCA:**

16 There are no speakers, Mr. Chairman.

17

18 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

02:25PM 19 All right. And we have no cards. Is there anybody in the audience
20 that would like to address the Legislators at this point? All
21 right. Seeing none, we'll move on. Appointments resolutions, we
22 have none. We have -- Commissioner, you're not doing the
23 presentation today. My understanding, it wasn't being done. Okay,
24 so that's what I'm hearing. Okay. So that's been removed.

25

26 All right. Moving on to *Tabled Resolutions*, and that's *I.R. 1065 -*
27 *Amending the 2023 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating*
28 *funds in connection with Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment*
29 *Installation at Various Suffolk County Facilities (CP 1834).*

02:26PM 30 *(Co. Exec.)* I'll make a motion to table.

31

32 **LEG. TROTТА:**

33 Second.

34

35 **LEG. THORNE:**

36 Second.

37

38 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

02:26PM 39 We have a second from Legislator Pic -- sorry, Trotta. And anyone
40 on that motion? All in favor? Opposed? My mic, sorry. In favor?
41 Opposed? Abstentions?

42

43 **CLERK TASSONE:**

44 *Six. (Vote: Tabled 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)*

45

46 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

47 I.R. 1065 is tabled. *I.R. 1174 - Appropriating PAYGO funds in*
48 *connection with Purchase of Replacement Non-Public Safety Vehicles*
49 *(CP 1823). (Co Exec.)* I make a motion to table that as well.

02:26PM 50

51 **LEG. THORNE:**

52 Second.

53

54 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

55 I got a second from Legislator Thorne?

56

1 **LEG. THORNE:**

2 Right here.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

5 Yes.

6

7 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

8 On the --

9

10 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

11 I should recognize the voice by now.

12

13 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

14 On the motion.

15

16 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

17 On the motion, Legislator Krupski.

18

19 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

02:27PM 20 Are we going to get comments from the -- or is this tabling based
21 on the comments from the Department about --

22

23 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

24 This tabling is based upon from both the Department, DPW, and the
25 County Executive's Office.

26

27 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

28 Thank you.

29

02:27PM 30 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

31 Anyone else on the motion? In favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

32

33 **CLERK TASSONE:**

34 *Six. (Vote: Tabled 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)*

35

36 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

02:27PM 37 *I.R. 1174 is tabled. I.R. 1294 - Amending the 2023 Operating*
38 *Budget, transferring Assessment Stabilization Reserve funds and*
39 *appropriating funds in connection with the Purchase of Sewer*
40 *Facility Maintenance Equipment (CP 8164). (Co. Exec.)* Again, I
41 have a motion to table.

42

43 **LEG. TROTTA:**

44 Second.

45

46 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

47 Second from Legislator Trotta. Anybody on that motion?

48

49 **LEG. FLEMING:**

02:27PM 50 Is that, again, at the Department's request or -- I'm sorry, I
51 should use this.

52

53 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

54 Yes. It's all -- they all coincide with the electric vehicles.
55 Anyone else on the motion? Seeing none, all in favor? Opposed?
56 Abstentions?

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02:28PM

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02:28PM

CLERK TASSONE:
Six. (Vote: Approved 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
I.R. 1294 is tabled. All right. We have *I.R. 1318 - Appropriating funds in connection with Improvements to CR 38, North Sea Road (CP 5505). (Co. Exec.)*

LEG. FLEMING:
Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Motion to approve from Legislator Fleming.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Second from Legislator Krupski. Anyone on that motion?

LEG. THORNE:
On that motion.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
On the motion, Legislator Thorne.

LEG. THORNE:
I guess the question, Mr. Chairman, would be for the DPW folks that are planning this. I just got off the phone with the Ambulance Chief in the area in reference to this and they are deeply concerned with the access that they're going to have once they bump out curbs and increase the shoulder width, if you will, of actually accessing the roadway itself for emergency vehicles. And I am very concerned that our emergency fire trucks and ambulances can get through this area, so --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Bill? You want to come on up, Bill?

LEG. THORNE:
Is Bill here?

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Or Joe.

LEG. THORNE:
Anyone? Oh, hey, Bill, I didn't see you back there.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
How are you doing, Bill?

MR. HILLMAN:
Very good. Afternoon. Bill Hillman, Chief Engineer, Highway Structures and Waterways. Yes, we met with Emergency Services and the Fire Department. We assured them. They have a site plan

1 that's approved by the Town, and their site plan is not being
2 altered, it's going in as per planned. And we assured them that we
3 would actually go above and beyond their -- their site plan to
4 ensure that no parking would be -- no vehicles would park in front
5 of their facility and they would have full access.

6
7 **LEG. THORNE:**

8 Not necessarily just their facility, Bill, but my understanding
9 from the EMS, and, obviously, as the Chair of Fire Rescue, this
02:29PM 10 concerns me greatly, that if you're putting -- bumping out
11 sidewalks and things like that on Main Street, a lot of emergency
12 vehicles, with increased traffic, and backing out of cars, I don't
13 know what the parking actually looks like, backing out of cars and
14 things like that, they're concerned about accessing areas where the
15 sidewalks are going. And their thought pattern is, is that -- and,
16 again, this is their neighborhood, so I went to them. Their
17 concern is the ability to get a fire apparatus or ambulance
18 apparatus through that area with all the increased traffic and
19 parking, and having enough room on the roadway. And I don't know
02:30PM 20 that that's been addressed, according to what I just -- I talked to
21 the Ambulance Chief maybe a half hour, 40 minutes ago.
22

23 **MR. HILLMAN:**

24 We met with them on the 18th, we heard their concerns. We
25 discussed the project with them. We explained that there's a
26 mountable curb. So if they needed to drive, you know, drive over
27 the sidewalk, they would be able to do that. We heard all their
28 concerns.
29

02:30PM 30 **LEG. THORNE:**

31 What does that do for pedestrian traffic if they have to drive over
32 the sidewalks?
33

34 **MR. HILLMAN:**

35 Well, I think -- I think an emergency vehicle with its lights on
36 isn't going to hit a -- hit a pedestrian. You said they were
37 concerned about accessing properties in an emergency, and I'm
38 saying that they can --
39

02:30PM 40 **LEG. THORNE:**

41 What I'm saying is that they're worried about the curbs being too
42 far out, that the traffic, the increased traffic and width of the
43 actual road with the traffic that's going to go on that road or
44 park on that road is going to interfere with the response time of
45 their ambulance unit.
46

47 **MR. HILLMAN:**

48 Again, that --
49

02:31PM 50 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

51 Just for clarity, you're saying that the road's going to -- is the
52 road going to narrow?
53

54 **MR. HILLMAN:**

55 The road is not narrowing, and we explained that to them. I'm not
56 sure if this individual was at the meeting, but the people from

1 Emergency Services and Fire who attended the May 18th meeting were
2 very pleased, and happy, and satisfied with the project when we
3 left.

4
5 **LEG. FLEMING:**

6 If I may --

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8 **LEG. THORNE:**

9 Please.

02:31PM 10

11 **LEG. FLEMING:**

12 -- Mr. Chair. I had passed on the information to Legislator
13 Thorne, because I know he wanted to talk with the folks. Ambulance
14 in -- the Southampton Ambulance is building a brand new ambulance
15 barn right there, so that's the site plan that Mr. Hillman was
16 talking about. But they have Co-Chiefs right now, the ambulance.
17 It's Ian King and Richard White, so -- I'm sorry, Joe Riccardi.
18 Richard White is Fire Department. But Ian was unable to be there.
19 He had his -- he was with his daughter, but Joe was there and
20 expressed the concerns.

02:32PM 21

22 And I have to say, I am really impressed with the engineers'
23 willingness to really sit with these folks. They went through
24 aerials. The four engineers were at that one meeting, where
25 they've had a number of meetings. So I know they think that's a
26 priority. One of the reasons why I've advocated for this, this
27 resolution in the past, is because the Fire Department reached out
28 to me asking for it. The resurfacing aspect of this project is so
29 critically needed. And I do worry if it gets waylaid, because
30 driving it, bumping an ambulance along a road that's part cement
31 and part asphalt has been reported to me as being really
32 frightening.

02:32PM 33

34 But, at any rate, the Ambulance is being heard by the engineers,
35 I'm absolutely certain. And the engineers have, you know,
36 committed to making adjustments to the plan based on these, these
37 reports. And we will -- and these requests. And we will -- I just
38 got off the phone with Councilman Tommy John Schiavoni who offered
39 to advocate for the project. He -- there was a story in the paper
40 about it the other day, and so just with regard to the ambulance.
41 And Tommy John is a longtime First Responder as well. So I think
42 the First Responders are going to have plenty of opportunity to
43 continue to weigh in, and I won't -- you know, I will certainly
44 encourage that kind of --

02:33PM 45

46 **LEG. THORNE:**

47 My only concern is giving a green light to what, \$11 million? That
48 I just need assurances that the EMS and Fire Squads are going to
49 have a very heavy weigh-in, because they have very specialty
50 vehicles, that that is a field, either fire or EMS, that changes
51 very rapidly with different type vehicles and sometimes larger
52 vehicles, or like our MERV unit for the County, and that's why.
53 But if you're happy with it, if you think that they have been heard
54 and that they will continue to be heard, then --

02:33PM 55

56 **LEG. FLEMING:**

1 Continue to be heard is the key, and that's what --

2

3 **LEG. THORNE:**

4 That's what I want to make sure.

5

6 **LEG. FLEMING:**

7 I have to say, in East Hampton there was a project, Springs
8 Fireplace Road, County Road 41, where at first we weren't very
9 happy on my team with the way the engineers were interacting with
10 the locals, and it turned out to be a great and very popular
11 project. I could also say my Chief of Staff is a former member of
12 the Southampton Ambulance, so the relationships are there as well.

02:34PM

13

14 **LEG. THORNE:**

15 All right. Well, the -- so, on the record, Mr. Hillman, you will
16 continue to work with the Fire and EMS squads addressing their
17 concerns for accessibility; is that correct?

18

19 **MR. HILLMAN:**

20 Absolutely. We do that on every project and we always will.

02:34PM

21

22 **LEG. THORNE:**

23 All right. Thank you, sir. I have no further questions,
24 Mr. Chairman.

25

26 **MR. HILLMAN:**

27 Could I just ask for --

28

29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

30 Yeah, please.

31

32 **MR. HILLMAN:**

33 Who did you speak to at the Emergency Services, so we could --

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35 **LEG. THORNE:**

36 Ian King, I believe it was.

37

38 **LEG. FLEMING:**

39 Ian King is the Co-Chair.

02:35PM

40

41 **MR. HILLMAN:**

42 Okay.

43

44 **LEG. THORNE:**

45 Ian King is the Co-Chair of the --

46

47 **MR. HILLMAN:**

48 Okay.

49

50 **LEG. THORNE:**

51 -- agency out there. So if you would do a reach-out to him as
52 well.

53

54 **MR. HILLMAN:**

55 Absolutely.

56

1 **LEG. THORNE:**
2 And make sure his needs are concerned -- are met.

3
4 **MR. HILLMAN:**
5 A hundred percent. Thank you.

6
7 **LEG. FLEMING:**
8 Co-Chief. He was on the list for the meeting, but was with his --
9 yeah.

02:35PM 10
11 **MR. HILLMAN:**
12 Okay. No, it is Joe Riccardi, and Joe Riccardi was with -- was at
13 our meeting.

14
15 **MR. HILLMAN:**
16 Okay. Ian King, though, got it.

17
18 **LEG. FLEMING:**
19 Ian was not available, yeah.

20
21 **MR. HILLMAN:**
22 Perfect.

23
24 **LEG. THORNE:**
25 Again, I'm not necessarily against the project, I just want to make
26 sure that our emergency needs of the County are met.

27
28 **LEG. FLEMING:**
29 Yes, it's important.

02:35PM 30
31 **LEG. THORNE:**
32 I have nothing further, Chairman.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
35 All right. So, Bill, if you don't mind. So we just got off a call
36 prior to the committee, which I appreciate you being on, and you
37 discussed the meeting you had at the fire -- firehouse with --
38 let's call them stakeholders, which would be business owners and
39 First Responders. And just for the record, we have no issue with
02:35PM 40 the pavement project, resurfacing, we know -- we know that's an
41 issue. The issue seems to be the sidewalks and the curbing and
42 where that's going. And you had -- at this meeting, you had made a
43 commitment to mark out, because they were having difficulty really
44 understanding it with the over -- overheads, the pictures, so
45 you're going to actually go out and mark. That has not been done
46 yet though, correct?

47
48 **MR. HILLMAN:**
49 That's correct.

02:36PM 50
51 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
52 Okay. So if by approving this today to move forward, when do you
53 believe that that mark-out, that commitment is going to be done?

54
55 **MR. HILLMAN:**
56 Our goal is to do that before the end of June, before it would turn

1 to July.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

4 Why so long?

5

6 **MR. HILLMAN:**

7 We want to get it right. You only have one opportunity to make a
8 positive impact into the community. And, you know, when we walk in
9 the door, unfortunately, when we walk in we're immediately morons.

02:36PM 10

11

(**Laughter**)

12

13 And we need to change, change their opinion of us. And when you
14 get something wrong, it's not a good way to do that, so we're
15 making sure. We're going property by property, and making sure
16 that we're proposing the -- what we believe to be the proper curb
17 cut in the proper location. They have given us their concerns
18 property by property. Now we want to lay it out on a plan, and we
19 want to make sure we have the proper layout, and we want to make
20 sure we have the ability to lay it out in the field properly,
21 because, you know, one thing is showing it on a plan, but then
22 being able to measure off the building 40 or 60 feet and making
23 sure, okay, this -- if we're saying this is where the back of
24 sidewalk is going to be well, well, then that's where the back of
25 sidewalk is going to be. We want to make sure we get it right.

02:37PM 20

26
27 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

28 I agree 100%, but isn't that what we should be voting on, then, not
29 the prospect of something? If we're going to designate funding for
30 a project, shouldn't we get that right as well?

02:37PM 30

31

32 **MR. HILLMAN:**

33 Yeah, yes.

34

35 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

36 The answer is yes, right?

37

38 **MR. HILLMAN:**

39 Yeah.

02:37PM 40

41 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

42 Okay. So you're not -- you're not committed to doing this until
43 the end of June, just the mark-out part of this. So what's the
44 rush in pushing this through today and not tabling it?

45

46 **MR. HILLMAN:**

47 Well, the Department requested this to be tabled because we had
48 concerns. In my opinion --

49

02:38PM 50

51 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

52 We still do.

53

54 **MR. HILLMAN:**

55 What's that?

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57 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

1 We still do.

2

3 **MR. HILLMAN:**

4 In my opinion, we have alleviated those concerns sufficiently where
5 we would be comfortable moving forward with a -- with a resolution.

6

7 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

8 You would be comfortable, but are the residents comfortable? You
9 made a commitment to the residents to have these mark-outs placed
10 where they can visually see it, and you said get it right, those
11 are your words.

02:38PM

12

13 **MR. HILLMAN:**

14 Sure. And --

15

16 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

17 So we have a turnaround here of two weeks, we can always come back.
18 But I think it's your responsibility to make sure that the
19 community's on board. We tabled this because of the community
20 concerns. Those concerns are not fully met. You've made a
21 commitment and in your mind you're going to satisfy those
22 commitments, correct?

02:38PM

23

24 **MR. HILLMAN:**

25 Correct.

26

27 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

28 But you said it yourself, you want to get it right. And if you
29 don't have it right yet, how can we appropriate the funding to a
30 project that's not, quote-unquote, not completely done right yet or
31 unsure of?

02:38PM

32

33 **MR. HILLMAN:**

34 What I'm saying -- what I'm -- what I'm saying is we're not -- it's
35 not that we're not sure of something. When we -- when we put a
36 spray can mark on the pavement, we want to make sure that that is
37 in the right location.

38

39 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

40 And if it's not, it gets changed.

02:39PM

41

42 **MR. HILLMAN:**

43 Sure, but then we --

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45 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

46 Right.

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48 **MR. HILLMAN:**

49 -- lose confidence of the -- of the community --

02:39PM

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51 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

52 Right.

53

54 **MR. HILLMAN:**

55 -- by saying that that -- "Sorry" --

56

1 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

2 Okay.

3

4 **MR. HILLMAN:**

5 -- "it's not there, it's really over here."

6

7 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

8 We have -- we have a motion to move forward based on information --
9 again, I'm going to make a motion to table until we do get it
10 right. I don't believe in appropriating funding for a project
11 that's in theory correct, but not what the community is on board
12 with yet. So I'm making a motion to table. Once again, I
13 apologize, but just based on what I'm hearing from you, Bill, you
14 want to get it right, and so do we, we have that obligation. And
15 we have a second to table. The motion to table goes first.

02:39PM

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17 **LEG. FLEMING:**

18 I think Mr. Krupski wants to be heard.

19

02:39PM

20 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

21 Oh, Mr. Krupski. I'm sorry, Legislator Krupski, go right ahead.

22

23 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

24 Thank you. I just -- and I'm not --

25

26 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

27 Are you on the motion to approve or on the motion to table?

28

29 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

30 On the -- oh, thank you. Thank you for your concern.

02:40PM

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32

(*Laughter*)

33

34 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

35 They're going to cut that mic.

36

37 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

38 Yeah. I just want to -- my only comment is, because I know where
39 the road is, but I'm not familiar with the road. I can't tell you
40 which cut and which -- you know, which location and everything.
41 But I have to say DPW rebuilt Roanoke Avenue years ago. They're --
42 and it was big, because they put a sidewalk on both sides, and it
43 involved some retaining walls and taking down some trees and -- but
44 their community outreach I thought was outstanding. And after the
45 project, I don't think we got a single complaint, because they did
46 the community outreach beforehand, they were very capable. And
47 that was my experience on a very busy road.

02:40PM

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49 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

50 Well, I appreciate that, but is this --

02:40PM

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52 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

53 So --

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55 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

56 What does this have to do with this experience?

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02:40PM

02:41PM

02:41PM

02:41PM

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Well, I think -- you know, I have confidence in their abilities to do the --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
No one's questioning their confidence and abilities.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Yeah, that's all, because, like I said, I'm not familiar with the particulars.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Did you hear the same thing I heard? They want to make sure they get it right. And so as of today, they're not sure if it's right.

LEG. FLEMING:
On the motion.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
So as of today you're comfortable in voting on something that they just said they're not sure if it's right?

LEG. KRUPSKI:
I heard them say that they're going to meet with the community and make sure that they get it right.

LEG. FLEMING:
On the motion.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
So just I want to make sure I understand you clearly, Al, Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Yeah, I'm -- yeah, I'm confident that they can get it right if they --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
So you're good with -- all right. You answered my question.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Well, could I ask the -- through the Chair, the Chief Engineer a question?

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Yes, whatever you'd like, the floor is yours.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Are you confident that if you meet with the community, you could get this project done properly?

MR. HILLMAN:
Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

1 Thank you.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

4 Now you heard them say they're not going to even mark until the end
5 of June?

6

7 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

8 Yes. It was because the -- from the project I remember at Roanoke,
9 and I could be corrected, Bill, on this, was that the community
10 outreach was done before the work was planned or done, so that it
11 was -- it was done with people's -- the planning was done with
12 people's concerns in mind.

02:42PM

13

14 **MR. HILLMAN:**

15 Yes. We're in preliminary engineering presently and that's when we
16 do public outreach. This is normal course of business for us. I
17 think County Road 39 issues kind of weighed into the County Road 38
18 issues unnecessarily.

02:42PM

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20 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

21 Absolutely.

22

23 **MR. HILLMAN:**

24 But this is what we do. We meet with the communities, we find
25 common ground, and we move forward with projects. We did it on
26 Roanoke Avenue. We've done it on, you know, dozens of roadways
27 across the County. So I am confident --

28

29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

30 I know you have.

31

32 **MR. HILLMAN:**

33 -- that we can find common ground.

34

35 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

36 And I'm a big supporter of DPW. I'm -- you know, you got a great
37 Commissioner. You guys do great work over there, Bill, yourself
38 included. Just my concern is the words that came out of your
39 mouth, you want to make sure you get it right. So you're asking us
40 to vote and allocate funding on a project, as of right now you're
41 not sure if it's right, but you -- you're confident, as am I, that
42 in the future you will get it right. So what is the rush in
43 putting this -- pushing this allocation through today when we're
44 reconvening in two weeks, or even, you know, after that? We're not
45 going anywhere.

02:43PM

46

47 **MR. HILLMAN:**

48 As I said, the Department requested it to be tabled to a point in
49 which we felt comfortable moving forward and --

50

51 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

52 All right.

53

54 **MR. HILLMAN:**

55 -- we're at that point.

56

1 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

2 Thank you.

3

4 **LEG. FLEMING:**

5 On the motion, if I could be heard.

6

7 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

8 On the motion, Legislator Fleming.

9

02:43PM

10 **LEG. FLEMING:**

11 Thank you. I just want to note that for all projects, road
12 reconstruction projects, drainage projects, that there is a point
13 at which the Legislature needs to reassure the Department that we
14 are supportive of the direction they're moving in, and that we
15 think that, you know, they should know and have the confidence that
16 the funding will be there as they -- as they continue this work.
17 This is a very important investment in the community, particularly
18 because the ambulance barn is being built. And this is a moment at
19 which these -- these -- the frontage, the road frontage needs to be
20 dealt with. I guess nobody is listening to me at this point.

02:44PM

21

22 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

23 I'm listening, I'm listening.

24

25 **LEG. FLEMING:**

26 But I would urge, I would really urge my colleagues to offer the
27 support to the Department that has done what the Legislature asked
28 for. This has been -- this has been tabled a number of times. The
29 Department is now saying, after sending four engineers out, having
30 many -- you know, a number of other meetings with the Town
31 Engineer, etcetera, that they're ready to move forward, and they
32 want our support to move forward. I would urge you, please, for
33 the -- for the purposes of supporting our community, for safety,
34 road reconstruction, support for the emergency services, please
35 allow this to move forward to the General Meeting. Thank you.

02:44PM

36

37 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

38 Is this -- is this -- this is to go forward to the General, not
39 for -- not for public hearing, correct?

02:44PM

40

41 **LEG. FLEMING:**

42 Yeah, this is a standard resolution, so we would be moving it to
43 the General Meeting. It would just -- I made a standard motion to
44 approve out of committee, so that the General -- the full
45 Legislature can consider appropriating the funding.

46

47 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

48 Legislator Piccirillo.

49

02:45PM

50 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

51 If I could have a moment, Mr. Chairman. If there are people on the
52 committee that are uncomfortable with this, maybe we could
53 discharge it without recommendation, so that we could advance the
54 resolution without showing direct support.

55

56 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

1 Oh, that's -- that's not -- that's not --

2

3 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

4 Up to you, you're the Chair. Just to --

5

6 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

7 But, yeah, it's inaccurate. I have full confidence in the
8 Department. I just was going based off the words. So, you know
9 what, I will put my faith in the Department. I'll put my faith in
10 the Commissioner and Bill Hillman. The Legislator wants it, she
11 feels it's what her community wants. I will withdraw my motion to
12 table.

02:45PM

13
14 **LEG. TROTТА:**

15 I'll withdraw my second.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

18 Table, table motion is withdrawn, Mr. Clerk.

19
20 **CLERK TASSONE:**

21 We got that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

02:46PM

22
23 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

24 All right. So we have a motion to approve.

25
26 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

27 I think a motion to discharge without recommend -- oh, you want a
28 motion to approve?

29
30 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

31 We have a motion --

02:46PM

32
33 **LEG. FLEMING:**

34 It's -- a motion to approve is pending.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

37 We have a motion to approve and a second, right?

38
39 **LEG. FLEMING:**

40 *(Nodded Yes)*

02:46PM

41
42 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

43 Any further motions on this? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

44
45 **CLERK TASSONE:**

46 *Six. (Vote: Approved 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)*

47
48 **LEG. FLEMING:**

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr. Piccirillo.

02:46PM

50
51 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

52 Yes, Ms. Fleming.

53
54 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

55 Chair, if I may. Apologies. I just wanted to go back to I.R. 1294
56 for a second. We had supplied backup that relates what vehicles

1 would be purchased with this resolution, and the Department can
2 specify. I think originally there were electric vehicles, but
3 we've corrected that and the right information is in the backup
4 material.

5
6 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

7 So, Michelle, are you saying that 1294 no longer has electric
8 vehicles in those purchases?

9
10 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

02:47PM 11 Yeah, and I can have Janice McGovern speak on -- or Joe Brown speak
12 on it as well.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

15 Yeah, please, come on up.

16
17 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

18 Joe Brown, Commissioner of Public Works.

19
20 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

02:47PM 21 That's a nice suit there.

22
23 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

24 Thanks. It's Spring.

25
26 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

27 Springtime.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

02:47PM 30 We definitely got the right resolution, right, **1294**, correct?

31
32 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

33 It's the sanitation. I can check really quick. Sanitation --

34
35 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

36 This is *Amending the 2023 Operating Budget, transferring Assessment*
37 *Stabilization Reserve funds and appropriating funds in connection*
38 *with the Purchase of Sewer Facility Maintenance Equipment.*
39 *(CP 8164). (Co. Exec.)*

40
41 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

42 Yes.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

45 That's the one?

46
47 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

48 Yeah.

49
50 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

51 Okay.

52
53 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

54 We had originally planned to do electric vehicles in 2024, not with
55 this, not in this resolution, which is for 2023.

56

1 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
2 So we have the amended resolution? I'm sorry, I have not seen it.

3
4 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
5 So there -- yeah, there's no electric vehicles planned in -- you
6 know, with the purchase of this, these funds. Those were in later
7 years, which would be future resolutions.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
02:48PM 10 Yeah. Can you -- when were the backup sent out, Joe?
11 Commissioner. I'm sorry.

12
13 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
14 Yeah, I don't recall. We could get that information. I don't
15 recall when the backup was sent out.

16
17 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**
18 It was right before the last committee meeting last time, which is
19 why I believe it was tabled initially.

02:48PM 20
21 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
22 I find it hard to believe we all missed it.

23
24 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
25 We only get 474 emails a day, so.

26
27 *(*Laughter*)*

28
29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
02:49PM 30 That's conservative, Legislator.

31
32 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**
33 We confirmed it was sent over Monday, May 15th.

34
35 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
36 Monday?

37
38 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
02:49PM 39 May, May 15th.

40
41 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
42 Thank you.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
45 Let me just check, hold on. All right. We're going to get back to
46 that. We'll bring it back up in just a minute. We're getting the
47 information, all right? Joe, we'll call you back up in a minute,
48 all right?

49
50 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
51 Okay.

52
53 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
54 We just got to keep this meeting moving, all right?

55
56 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

1 Thank you, Chair.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

4 All right. Joe, where are you? Commissioner? So I'm just
5 speaking with Legal now. So the backup is there, but it's not in
6 the resolution, from what I'm being told. So I think that makes a
7 difference.

8

9 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

02:50PM 10 So, yeah. So when we had discussions with your Department about
11 notice and things, we also -- in the examples, I had provided
12 reference, particular backup, but that -- the title of the document
13 and as filed, and it's referenced in the resolution. I don't know
14 that -- I just looked at it quick, I don't see that in this
15 resolution.

16

17 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

18 Yeah. I mean, it was submitted. Because this is an older
19 resolution, it was submitted before those discussions took place
02:50PM 20 and before you worked out the wording, which, as you know, it was
21 in the last week or two, so that that resolution, as it stands, did
22 not include that specific working. We'd have to resubmit that as a
23 separate resolution.

24

25 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

26 Or amend it. Or you could just amend, amend it.

27

28 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

29 Amend.

02:51PM 30

31 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

32 We have a quick turnaround, Joe. So is there -- is there an issue
33 with the timeline?

34

35 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

36 Well, there wasn't originally, but now it's been a couple of
37 months, so it's -- we're getting to that point where it is. But I
38 do realize we have a short cycle, a two-week cycle.

39

02:51PM 40

41 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

42 So if we can do that --

43

44 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

45 But I don't know if it's too late to --

46

47 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

48 We can do a --

49

50 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

51 I think she's shaking her head.

52

53 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

54 Yeah. I mean, Janice is having either a seizure or she's saying --

55

(*Laughter*)

56

1 We have medical personnel on hand? I'm not sure what's going on
2 back there, but I see she's anxious to get this thing through. We
3 can make a motion to discharge, but can you get that amended
4 resolution? Does it work that way?

5
6 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

7 It would be too late to amend for this cycle. But -- so it's two
8 weeks, and if that's a big deal --

02:51PM

9
10 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

11 Two weeks is not a big deal, if that's -- if it's really just two
12 weeks and it's going to go forward.

13
14 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

15 And I would say if it's one sentence added to the resolution, just
16 that we had discussed, I don't see it -- I can't speak for the
17 committee, but that was my concern.

02:52PM

18
19 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

20 Well, if it was discussed and it wasn't done, then, you know, it's
21 really incumbent upon the Department, not upon this committee. Is
22 that accurate? All right. So I'm going to hold the motion to
23 table until you come back around with the resolution with the --
24 with the amendment.

25
26 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

27 Correct.

02:52PM

28
29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

30 Thank you, Commissioner. Mr. Clerk, where are we?

31
32 (*Laughter*)

33
34 **CLERK TASSONE:**

35 We are on I.R. 1392, Mr. Chairman.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

38 **1392**, you said?

02:52PM

39
40 **CLERK TASSONE:**

41 That's correct.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

44 Okay. I thought you said 82, my bad. All right. So we have
45 ***Appropriating funds in connection with Construction of Sidewalks on***
46 ***Various County Roads (CP 5497). (Co. Exec.)*** All right. So I
47 need -- I'm going to make a motion to table this, because I still
48 have not seen the amended area of the sidewalks that were
49 originally proposed for 347 to the church. We brought up the
50 concerns and the pictures, that the community is from Oxhead Road
51 heading north would be the only ones using that. There are no bus
52 stops, there are nothing else that would facilitate or necessitate
53 the sidewalks from 347 up into that development. I'm not putting
54 sidewalks to nowhere.

02:53PM

55
56 **MR. HILLMAN:**

1 So that was -- that issue was pertaining -- no, that was --

2

3 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

4 Nicolls Road.

5

6 **MR. HILLMAN:**

7 That was on this one.

8

9 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

10 That's 1392.

11

12 **MR. HILLMAN:**

13 No, that was on this one. We sent that over, yeah. We sent an
14 email yesterday. The Commissioner sent an email yesterday.

15

16 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

17 I think it -- I think it's the same issue we just had with the last
18 proposal. It may not be in the backup. And again, he just
19 jumped --

02:53PM 20

21 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

22 Yeah, it's in the backup, but it's not in the -- in the --

23

24 **LEG. THORNE:**

25 Right, it's not in the reso.

26

27 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

28 It's not in the resolution.

29

02:53PM 30

31 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

32 Michelle?

33

34 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

35 Hi. We actually amended this, this one before the deadline.

36

37 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

38 You did?

39

02:53PM 40

41 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

42 So 1392 was amended.

43

44 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

45 Okay, that's good. When did you send the amendment out?

46

47 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

48 We sent it before the deadline on Friday.

49

50 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

51 To Counsel, but you didn't send it to us, right?

02:54PM 52

53 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

54 To Counsel, which is distributed to all Legislature once it's --

55

56 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

Maybe we're not getting emails.

57

1 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

2 All right. Listen, we don't want to -- we don't want to get in the
3 way of progress here, and it's unfortunate that this wasn't
4 proposed to us when it should have been. You're saying it was in
5 before the deadline. I will take your word for that.

6
7 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

8 Yeah, we worked with Legislative Counsel right up until then and we
9 submitted it to the Clerk and we believe the Clerk had submitted
10 and sent out the --

02:55PM

11
12 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

13 And just for the record, the amendment is withdrawing the sidewalks
14 from 347 up until the park of that community, is that correct?

15
16 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

17 It was sent on Friday. But, yeah, I can have the Commissioner
18 speak to that.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

21 This past Friday before the holiday weekend, the three day weekend.

02:55PM

22
23 **LEG. THORNE:**

24 At like four o'clock, right, 4:15, somewhere around there.

25
26 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

27 We worked with Legislative Counsel until 3:00 p.m. on Friday, so,
28 yes, it was right before the deadline, but we were adamantly
29 working to try and get these amendments correct in the way that the
30 Legislature had requested.

02:55PM

31
32 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

33 See, the problem with this, Michelle, is that we requested it at
34 the last committee meeting and you wait until the last minute to
35 get it to us, the afternoon on a Friday before a holiday weekend.
36 Now, this is the various sidewalk projects, and then we're --

37
38 **LEG. TROTТА:**

39 Does it say --

02:56PM

40
41 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

42 I'm looking, I'm looking at it now. For the first time I'm looking
43 at it. Is the amount still the same or did you amend the amounts
44 being that the -- being that the sidewalk project is going to cut
45 more than in half. Okay?

46
47 **LEG. THORNE:**

48 Tag, you're it.

49
50 **MR. HILLMAN:**

51 Yeah. So it was never the intent of the department to install
52 sidewalk from Oxhead Road to 347.

02:56PM

53
54 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

55 Well, that's what's in here.

56

1 **MR. HILLMAN:**

2 I know. What happened was the original request came in including
3 those limits. So years ago that request, those limits
4 unfortunately weren't amended, and when we submitted the resolution
5 those limits, those incorrect limits, were submitted along with it.
6 I apologize. My fault. But we -- again, we never had intentions.
7 We agree with you that sidewalks not needed. When we went out and
8 evaluated it, we made our proposal to only install the sidewalk to
9 Oxhead.

02:57PM 10

11 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

12 That's great, Bill. I appreciate you being candid. But when it
13 comes to, you know, this -- we have to do official orders here and
14 we have to approve things officially and we're getting things, you
15 know, and I -- let me just start by saying, before I go into my
16 rhetoric, that I understand we're all under a lot of pressure. We
17 all have a lot of things going on but, still, this is important
18 stuff. If this committee requests those amendments we should get
19 them in a timely manner where it's spelled out. It still says here
20 the issuance of 600,000 in serial bonds. I don't see -- I don't
21 see the change and I'm looking, and I'm looking quick. The
22 original still says 600,000 in serial bonds. So there's been no
23 decrease in the --

02:57PM 20

24
25 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

26 Chair, if I may. It was just the parameters that were changed.
27 The amount is still the same.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

30 Okay.

31
32 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

33 It was incorrect from the beginning, because it had an old
34 parameter indicated in it.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

37 So what --

38
39 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

40 But the estimate --

41
42 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

43 Let me see if I can understand what you're saying. So you're
44 saying it was wrong from the beginning. So the amount of money you
45 requested was based --

46
47 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

48 No, the amount of money was always correct.

49
50 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

51 The amount of money requested was based on the wrong --

52
53 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

54 No.

55
56 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

1 Explain it again, then.

2

3 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

4 The amount of money was based on the correct parameter but --

5

6 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

7 But not the parameters that were in the original resolution.

8

9 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

02:58PM 10 No, the -- yes, not the parameters that were in the original
11 resolution.

12

13 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

14 That's what I'm getting at.

15

16 **DIRECTOR ZARIFIS:**

17 Based on the parameters that are in now.

18

19 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

02:58PM 20 So I'll say it again. The money in the original resolution was
21 based on incorrect parameters that was provided in the resolution.
22 No? Am I saying it wrong?

23

24 **MR. HILLMAN:**

25 No. So the original request came in inclusive of Oxhead to 347.
26 It got entered into our database with those limits. Our engineers
27 -- and that's years ago when the original request came in. Our
28 engineers went out and they evaluated it. They came to the same
29 conclusion you did, that we don't need sidewalk from Oxhead to 347.
02:59PM 30 So we were progressing this project never having an intent to
31 install sidewalk from Oxhead to 347. So then --

32

33 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

34 Yet that's how it came into us.

35

36 **MR. HILLMAN:**

37 Correct, and that's when I said it was in our database that way,
38 but the engineers who were working on it were not working on that.
39 It was just in our database inclusive of that limit. So we never
02:59PM 40 had the intent. The funding was never intended to install sidewalk
41 in that limit. So that's why the funding amount didn't change.

42

43 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

44 Now, Bill, this is not my district, but I know the area. If I
45 didn't come upon this we would have approved it and then what would
46 have happened. I have no idea. What happens next?

47

48 **MR. HILLMAN:**

49 We still would have never installed sidewalk from Oxhead to 347.

02:59PM 50

51 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

52 But that's what we approved. Then they would have come back to me
53 and said why weren't these sidewalks --

54

55 **MR. HILLMAN:**

56 It's a technical typo essentially.

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03:00PM

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CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Okay. Do you have a question?

COUNSEL DUFFY:
So my only concern is now that we've changed the resolution and amended it and it refers to the backup now and the backup still says from -- from 347 down, correct? I mean, we should amend.

MR. HILLMAN:
We should correct that as well, yes.

COUNSEL DUFFY:
And I think if we do that we're fine.

MR. HILLMAN:
Okay.

COUNSEL DUFFY:
You're good with that?

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Yes, I'm good with that. So we'll table it once again.

COUNSEL DUFFY:
And will say, we did work, we did have several meetings back and forth and it was at the end of the week and, you know, we did a video Zoom meeting over it that we agreed on language and then it was also waiting on me to address some things. So I don't think -- the delay was inevitable. I wish we would have caught it. We were more worried about the secondary language.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
All right. So based on everything, we still have a motion to table, second from Legislator Trotta. Anyone else on that motion? Seeing none, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

CLERK TASSONE:
Six. (Vote: Approved 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Okay, I.R. 1392 is tabled. *I.R. 1393 - Appropriating PAYGO funds in connection with Complete Streets Fund (CP 3313). (Co. Exec.)* I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. TROTTA:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Second by Legislator Trotta. Anyone on the motion? Seeing none, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

CLERK TASSONE:
Six. (Vote: Approved 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

1 I.R. 1393 is approved. **Introductory Resolutions. I.R. 1445 -**
2 **Amending 2023 Adopted Operating Budget, amending the 2023 Capital**
3 **Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the**
4 **proposed sewerage of Lake Avenue – Smithtown (CP 8515). (Co. Exec.)**

5
6 **LEG. TROTTA:**
7 Motion.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
10 Motion from Legislator Trotta, I'll second. Anyone on the motion?
11 All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

12
13 **CLERK TASSONE:**
14 Six -- five, I'm sorry. (Vote: Approved 5-0-0-2/Absent:
15 Legislators Piccirillo and Anker)

16
17 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
18 **I.R. 1446 - Rescinding Resolution No. 127-2023, amending the**
19 **Adopted 2023 Operating Budget, amending the 2023 Capital Budget and**
20 **Program and appropriating funds in connection with engineering,**
21 **planning, design for Centereach-Selden Sewers (CP 8189). (Co.**
22 **Exec.)** I'll make a motion to approve.

23
24 **LEG. TROTTA:**
25 Second.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
28 Second by Legislator Trotta. Anybody on that motion? Seeing none,
29 all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

30
31 **CLERK TASSONE:**
32 Five. (Vote: Approved 5-0-0-2/Absent: Legislators Piccirillo and
33 Anker)

34
35 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
36 And I will cosponsor that. E-mail to follow, Mr. Clerk.

37
38 **CLERK TASSONE:**
39 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
42 **I.R. 1447 - Amending 2023 Adopted Operating Budget, amending the**
43 **2023 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in**
44 **connection with the proposed sewerage of the Coram Area (CP 8516).**
45 **(Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion to approve.

46
47 **LEG. THORNE:**
48 Second.

49
50 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
51 Second by Legislator Thorne. Anybody on that motion? Seeing none,
52 all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

53
54 **CLERK TASSONE:**
55 Five. (Vote: Approved 5-0-0-2/Absent: Legislators Piccirillo and
56 Anker)

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03:04PM

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
I.R. 1447 is approved. *I.R. 1464 - Appropriating funds in connection with Intersection Improvements to CR 4, Commack Road (CP 5584). (Co. Exec.)*

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Motion.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Motion to approve by Legislator Krupski.

LEG. TROTТА:
I'll second it for the sake of discussion.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
I got a second from Legislator Trotta. And on the motion.

LEG. TROTТА:
Bill.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Joe's up there, too.

LEG. THORNE:
I hope you give these guys coffee before the meeting.

LEG. PICCIRILLO:
Coffee? They need blood pressure medication.

(*Laughter*)

COMMISSIONER BROWN:
What's the question?

LEG. TROTТА:
Well, what -- where exactly is this on Commack Road? I know it's probably not mine, but.

COMMISSIONER BROWN:
Yeah, Legislator. It's Long Island Avenue at Commack Road.

LEG. TROTТА:
Oh, it's way down.

COMMISSIONER BROWN:
And in particular the westbound northbound turn lane requires property acquisition, so a portion of the funds is for that particular turn, which is very important.

LEG. TROTТА:
Okay. I know it's a mess over there. I am going to -- this is slightly off topic, but it has to do with something with Crooked Hill Road and the Long Island service -- Long Island Expressway Service Road. I'm going to be putting a bill in somehow to make when you get off the Expressway and you make a right onto Crooked

1 Hill Road to go into the parking lot of Costco, I can't for the
2 life of me think why you don't have a ramp, because now you're
3 waiting to get in traffic to make another right into the parking
4 lot. When you get off the exit, why don't you just have a one-way
5 into the parking lot?
6

7 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

8 What direction are you coming from?
9

03:04PM

10 **LEG. TROTТА:**

11 Coming westbound, you're coming off the Sunken Meadow Parkway
12 eastbound on the Service Road of the Expressway. You come to a
13 light. Before you get to the light, Costco is off to your right.
14 You should have just a little turning lane into the parking lot.
15 Now you've got to sit there, merge with the traffic. It would
16 take so much traffic off Crooked Hill Road.
17

18 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

03:05PM

19 Yeah. Yeah, I know the State's putting a ramp in on the -- which
20 is really the other side, the south.
21

22 **LEG. TROTТА:**

23 It's the other side, yeah.
24

25 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

26 The south side, which allows trucks direct access down to Crooked
27 Hill Road so they won't be going through the Commack Road
28 Intersection, which --
29

03:05PM

30 **LEG. TROTТА:**

31 Yeah, but that the doesn't help. I mean, because now you're
32 putting cars on a road to make a right to go into the parking lot.
33 They could just go right in. I'll discuss it with you later.
34

35 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

36 Yeah, I'll be glad to forward the concerns on or get you in touch
37 with somebody at DOT.
38

39 **LEG. TROTТА:**

03:05PM

40 It's slowing me down a few minutes getting into Costco.
41

42 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

43 So we have a motion and a second to approve. Anybody else on that
44 motion? Seeing none, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
45

46 **CLERK TASSONE:**

47 *Six. (Vote: Approved 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)*
48

49 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

03:05PM

50 *I.R. 1464 is approved. I.R. 1465 - Amending the 2023 Capital*
51 *Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with*
52 *Reconstruction of Shinnecock Canal Locks, Town of Southampton (CP*
53 *5343). (Co. Exec.)*
54

55 **LEG. FLEMING:**

56 Motion to approve.

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03:05PM

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CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Motion to approve, Legislator Fleming.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Seconded.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Seconded by Legislator Krupski.

LEG. PICCIRILLO:
On the motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
On the motion, Legislator Piccirillo.

LEG. PICCIRILLO:
Thank you, and I'm not looking to hold these resolutions up or table them, I just -- for clarification because 1466 and 1465 kind of go hand in hand. I just want to make sure that -- I know we're lessening the amount of dredge money to pay for 1465. Is that correct? That's what I was told, anyway.

LEG. FLEMING:
The locks?

LEG. PICCIRILLO:
Yeah.

MR. HILLMAN:
Yes. A small portion of the funds for this are being offset from the dredging.

LEG. PICCIRILLO:
Okay, but that's not going to affect the operational ability of dredging --

MR. HILLMAN:
No.

LEG. PICCIRILLO:
-- right?

MR. HILLMAN:
No.

LEG. PICCIRILLO:
Because we do have a lot of projects to do.

MR. HILLMAN:
Yup, that's correct.

LEG. PICCIRILLO:
I'm good.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

1 The amount is \$320,000. Is that correct?

2

3 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

4 Yeah. Legislator, to add to that, I mean, they really went through
5 a lot of work to find the money. They went to I think six
6 different sources, so the dredging is one of those six different
7 sources.

8

9 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

03:06PM 10 Okay.

11

12 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

13 Just to, you know, scavenge as much together as possible. There's
14 a lot of bulkheads that they didn't anticipate doing and when they
15 do the locks they want to do the bulkheads also. They get it all
16 fixed to --

17

18 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

03:07PM 19 No, the locks are just as important as the dredging. I just want
20 to make sure we'll be operationally sound when we do both budgets.

21

22 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

23 Yes, we want to get it all fixed at once.

24

25 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

26 Much appreciated. Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chairman.

28

29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

03:07PM 30 Anybody else on the motion? We have a motion to approve and a
31 second. Seeing nothing else on the motion, all in favor? Opposed?
32 Abstentions?

33

34 **CLERK TASSONE:**

35 *Six. (Vote: Approved 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)*

36

37 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

03:07PM 38 I.R. 1465 is approved. *I.R. 1466 - Appropriating PAYGO funds in
39 connection with Replacement of Dredge Support Equipment (CP 5201).
40 (Co. Exec.)*

41

42 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

43 Motion to approve.

44

45 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

46 Motion to approve by Legislator Piccirillo. I'll second. Anyone
47 on that motion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

48

49 **CLERK TASSONE:**

03:07PM 50 *Six. (Vote: Approved 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)*

51

52 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

53 I.R. 1466 is approved. *I.R. 1472 - Calling a Public Hearing for
54 the purpose of increasing and improving facilities for Suffolk
55 County Sewer District No. 14 - Parkland (Sludge) (CP 8128). (Co.
56 Exec.)*

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LEG. PICCIRILLO:
Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Motion to approve by Legislator Piccirillo.

LEG. FLEMING:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Second by Legislator Fleming. Anybody else on the motion? Seeing none, all in favor? Abstentions? I'm sorry. Opposed? Abstentions?

CLERK TASSONE:
Six. (Vote: Approved 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
I.R. 1472 is approved. I.R. 1478 and 1479 I'm going to ask to have motions of approval for Consent Calendar. So ***I.R. 1478 - Authorizing execution of a new Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer District No. 3 - Southwest with Brandywine Senior Living (HU-1148). (Co. Exec.)***

LEG. TROTТА:
Motion.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
We have a motion by Legislator Trotta.

LEG. THORNE:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Second by Legislator Thorne. Anybody else on the motion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

CLERK TASSONE:
Six. (Vote: Approved 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
I.R. 1478 is approved for Consent Calendar. ***I.R. 1479 - Authorizing execution of a new Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer District No. 14 - Parkland with Gateway Plaza I and II (BR-0919). (Co. Exec.)***

LEG. PICCIRILLO:
Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Motion to approve by Legislator Piccirillo.

LEG. THORNE:
Second.

1 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
2 Second by Legislator Thorne. Anybody on that motion? Seeing none,
3 all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
4

5 **CLERK TASSONE:**
6 *Six. (Vote: Approved 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)*
7

8 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
9 I.R. 1479 is approved for the Consent Calendar. *I.R. 1480 -*
10 *Authorizing execution of an Agreement by the Administrative Head of*
11 *Suffolk County Sewer District No. 3 - Southwest with 1393 Straight*
12 *Path Wyandanch (BA-1477.1-021). (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion.*
13

14 **LEG. FLEMING:**
15 Second.
16

17 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
18 Second by Legislator Fleming. Anybody on that motion? Seeing
19 nothing on the motion, all in favor? Opposed?
20

21 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
22 Opposed.
23

24 **CLERK TASSONE:**
25 Five.
26

27 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
28 Abstentions? Okay.
29

30 **LEG. TROTTA:**
31 I'm going to be opposed, too.
32

33 **CLERK TASSONE:**
34 *Four. (Vote: Approved 4-2-0-1/Opposed: Legislators Piccirillo and*
35 *Trotta/Absent: Leg. Anker)*
36

37 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
38 All right. I.R. 1480 is approved. *I.R. 1509 - Authorizing*
39 *execution of a Temporary Access Agreement with the United States*
40 *Department of the Army/Army Corps of Engineers for the use of*
41 *County Property (SCTM Nos. 0500-432.00-02.00-006.000 and*
42 *0500-409.00-08.00-002.002) commonly known as the County Dredge*
43 *Material Disposal Sites at Browns River in the Town of Islip. (Co.*
44 *Exec.)*
45

46 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
47 Motion to approve.
48

49 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
50 Motion to approve by Legislator Piccirillo.
51

52 **LEG. THORNE:**
53 Second.
54

55 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**
56 Second by Legislator Thorne. Anybody else? Anybody on that

1 motion?

2

3 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

4 On the motion.

5

6 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

7 Legislator Krupski.

8

9 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

03:09PM 10 Commissioner, is this the dredge spoil site that was used last year
11 that was DEC approved?

12

13 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

14 Excuse me, Legislator. This is one that had been used formerly
15 last time dredging was done. This allows the Army Corps of
16 Engineers to use this town site.

17

18 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

19 Great. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

03:10PM 20

21 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

22 Thank you. All right. So we're on 1509. So seeing -- anybody
23 else on the motion? Seeing none, all in favor? Opposed?
24 Abstentions?

25

26 **CLERK TASSONE:**

27 *Six. (Vote: Approved 6-0-0-1/Absent: Leg. Anker)*

28

29 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

03:10PM 30 All right. Moving on. I need a motion to recess quickly, five
31 minutes, please.

32

33 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

34 You don't need permission.

35

36 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

37 Five minutes, please. What he said.

38

39 *(The meeting was recessed from 3:11 p.m. to 3:43 p.m.)*

03:11PM 40

41 **COMMISSIONER CARACAPPA:**

42 All right. We are going to reconvene the committee. All right.
43 Before us we have Resolution *I.R. 1512 - Acting pursuant to the*
44 *Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act, (Chapter 58 of the*
45 *New York State Laws of 2023) to call a Public Hearing regarding the*
46 *establishment of a Suffolk County Wastewater Management District.*
47 *(Co. Exec.)*

48

49 **LEG. TROTTA:**

03:44PM 50 I'll make a motion to table.

51

52 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

53 I got a motion to table.

54

55 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

56 Second.

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03:44PM

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03:45PM

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
A second. We got a motion to table from Legislator Trotta, second from Legislator Piccirillo.

LEG. FLEMING:
Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
A motion to approve from Legislator Fleming.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
A second from Legislator Krupski.

LEG. TROTТА:
On the motion.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
On the motion, go ahead.

LEG. TROTТА:
Yeah, the reason I made a motion to table is twofold. One is I received this information, you know, the detailed information, it's 148 pages, on Tuesday and we had a Special Meeting on Wednesday or Thursday, and I didn't get a chance to go over any part of it. This is a very important issue. I don't want it screwed up with the having been filed if there needs to be changes and the Republicans want to make some changes to it. If we do approve this there'll be a public hearing and then if there's changes that need to be done that public hearing will have to be cancelled and it will be pushed off even further.

So in order to expedite this and get it correctly, I mean, I wish I would have got this a week ago or two weeks ago or three weeks ago, because this is not something that was just thrown together, but people in life put pressure -- when people are put under time and pressure they make mistakes and I am not going to make a mistake on something so important. And I do want the time in the future if we do have to do it and make some changes we can do it again at the following meeting.

So that was my reason for tabling and I think that everyone should really think long and hard about it because if you don't go over a huge document like that and look at all the details, the devil is always in the details. And given the time that we have now, it can still make, you know, whatever the August meeting or wherever it has to be approved to get on a ballot. I think it's only wise that we do it that way. So that's my reason for tabling. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Legislator Fleming.

LEG. FLEMING:

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I certainly appreciate the concerns
2 about being up to speed on every aspect of the things that we vote
3 on. I would note that I feel -- I feel that way, I know that
4 Assemblyman Thiele sponsored a resolution in the Assembly, the
5 Senate also, Senator Palumbo sponsored it in the Senate and we've,
6 you know, so I've followed that for a while. I was also on the
7 Working Group that made the Sanitary Code revisions that started
8 this in 2014. So this has been the topic of a lot of discussion
9 for many, many years. I think we all recognize the level of crisis
10 that we're facing with regard to our surface water quality and the
11 threat to our groundwater, our sole source aquifer.

03:46PM

12
13 But can I just note that we're just being asked to table this for a
14 public hearing. So, I mean, I would think it would be a mistake to
15 think that the public hearing wouldn't invite substantive comment
16 that might lead to changes. That's the nature of a public hearing.
17 We want to hear --

18
19 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

20 Well, your motion is to approve.

21
22 **LEG. FLEMING:**

23 -- from the public.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

26 Your motion is to approve. Are you addressing the motion to table
27 or?

28
29 **LEG. FLEMING:**

30 Yeah. I asked -- the motion to table takes precedence.

03:47PM

31
32 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

33 Yes.

34
35 **LEG. FLEMING:**

36 I made a motion to approve. The motion to table takes precedence.
37 Mr. Trotta made comments with regard to the motion to table, so I
38 thought we were discussing the motion to table. And so I wanted to
39 respond that I understand, you know, we all want to be on top of
40 these very important issues. I was very grateful to have the
41 opportunity to be briefed by the, you know, Deputy County Executive
42 and the Commissioner of Economic Development on this. Like I said,
43 I was also in the Working Group, so I have had a lot of opportunity
44 to recognize the importance of the subwatersheds plan, which is
45 many hundreds of pages but which we've had since 2020, that first
46 recommended that we consider something like this. So it's not
47 something that's out of the blue and we're not being asked to
48 approve anything today, Rob. I think we're just being asked --

03:47PM

49
50 **LEG. TROTТА:**

51 I know, that's not the point. The point is --

52
53 **LEG. FLEMING:**

54 -- to listen to the public on it. So let's get it there and listen
55 to the public.

03:48PM

56

1 **LEG. TROTТА:**

2 You're missing my point. My point is if there's some, you know,
3 this is put together by an administration that I don't have much
4 confidence in. So I want to make sure that it's correct. And if I
5 would have gotten this document earlier and looked at the details
6 --

7
8 **LEG. FLEMING:**

9 Which document are you talking about? Are you talking about the
10 legislation or the --

11
12 **LEG. TROTТА:**

13 There was 148 pages of backup document. And I'm also concerned,
14 you know, that we have a \$720 million surplus and that maybe some
15 of, you know, this money can be used to put these projects forward
16 and do it in a different way. So there's many variables here and I
17 don't like being pushed into making a decision where I'm not fully
18 briefed. And the fact that this is not something that doesn't
19 happen regularly and this is done on purpose, so I am not going to
20 jump into these things and do this. It's just not right. And it
21 actually --

22
23 **LEG. FLEMING:**

24 If I may say -- -

25
26 **LEG. TROTТА:**

27 Excuse me. Actually if -- this will be beneficial to table it
28 because if there are some big problems that we need to make changes
29 for, this will set it back two weeks because now we have to go
30 through the public hearing and that will be two meetings away and
31 will push it past any time of any referendum. So if you really
32 want to, you know, if you're just going to blindly lead by what the
33 Administration wants to do, God bless you. I'm not.

34
35 **LEG. FLEMING:**

36 I do want to just correct a couple of things. First of all, that
37 this comes out of the blue or that there's any intention in this
38 instance for the Administration to be trying to pull something over
39 by moving quickly. They reached out to each and every member of
40 this committee to ask if we wanted to sit individually and answer
41 any questions. Mr. Caracappa --

42
43 **LEG. TROTТА:**

44 The devil is in details.

45
46 **LEG. FLEMING:**

47 -- Mr. Krupski and I are all on the Working Group that, you know,
48 did these Sanitary Code revisions. Now, we've been working on it
49 since literally 2015. So I want to -- I do want to disagree with
50 you on that, but also just the basic way that the government works,
51 and that our government works, is that we have public hearings and
52 when we have public hearings we hear from the public. If we think
53 we've got it 100% right before we go to public hearings, what are
54 we telling the public, that they don't have the ability to make
55 changes? I don't think so. So I think we should move forward.

56

1 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

2 I understand the back and forth, I appreciate the comments.
3 Legislator Krupski.

4
5 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

6 Thank you. I just wanted some clarifications and I was going to
7 have the same -- the same concerns that I think if you had the
8 hearing the public would be able to weigh in. But I'd like
9 clarification from the Administration on the timeline of this to
03:50PM 10 see what it's going to actually look like. And I'm not --
11 certainly not against listening to changes that any Legislator or
12 anyone in the public would suggest. That's not -- that's not where
13 I'm going. So Mr. Scully is here. If you could give us the
14 timeline on this proposal.

15
16 **DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCULLY:**

17 If I may, Mr. Chair.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

03:51PM 20 Yes, sir. State your name for the record, please.

21
22 **DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCULLY:**

23 My name is Peter Scully, Deputy Suffolk County for Administration.
24 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I understand the
25 issues and concern to Legislators, all of whom I have worked with.
26 I just want to state for the record that the matter before you is a
27 resolution that would set a public hearing and essentially kick-off
28 what is a seven-week due diligence process by the Legislature
29 regarding this proposal to establish a district, which has been
03:51PM 30 recommended in multiple studies. The timeline would be for the
31 Legislature to vote on Tuesday the sixth to schedule the hearing
32 for June 21st. June 21st would be the date of the public hearing.
33 And the first date that the Legislature would be asked to vote on
34 anything of substance would not be until July 25th.

35
36 So I understand there are a lot of variables at play with regard to
37 the overall water quality plan. There are two legs of the process,
38 both the establishment of this structure, the district, and then
39 the establishment of a water quality restoration fund which is a
03:52PM 40 separate matter which will be before you as a Local Law. But the
41 resolution before you today does not approve either of those
42 things. It just begins a process by which the Legislature can
43 begin to consider, gather information, perform due diligence and
44 begin the public process.

45
46 So the -- you know, to respond directly to the question about
47 timeline that Legislator Krupski had asked, again, vote to schedule
48 a hearing on Tuesday the sixth, the hearing takes place on
49 June 21st, the Legislature could possibly act at the next General
03:52PM 50 Meeting on July 25th. That's the current timeline.

51
52 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

53 So, thank you, Mr. Scully. And if I could ask another question
54 through the Chair. Just for clarification, you know, I'm looking
55 at this graph here of 75% of the money is from the -- eighth
56 percent clean water plan is scheduled to go to I/A system. It

1 doesn't say I/A system replacement or septic system replacement.
2 So is that -- just to be clear, is that septic system replacement
3 or is it septic system replacement countywide?
4

5 **DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCULLY:**

6 The State authorizing legislation, the Suffolk County Water Quality
7 Restoration Act includes language that would guide expenditures
8 from the proposed Water Quality Restoration Fund, which would be
9 created using a dedicated one eighth of a cent of sales tax if
03:53PM 10 approved by the voters of the County. The language indicates that
11 75% of the funding should be used for individual systems,
12 individual clean water septic systems and 25% for sewers. But it's part
13 of a larger plan.
14

15 The overall clean water plan includes both this new proposed
16 funding source and the County's existing Assessment Stabilization
17 Reserve Fund, which if extended in the referendum would provide
18 significant additional resources for sewer infrastructure. And
19 just to point out that there are large areas of this County in the
03:54PM 20 West End Towns for which sewers would never be a cost-effective
21 option. And in those communities the solution to the lack of
22 wastewater infrastructure would be over the long-term to swap out
23 the existing cesspools or septic systems with new clean water
24 septic systems providing the resources for homeowners to make it
25 affordable.
26

27 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

28 But that's Countywide.
29

30 **DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCULLY:**

31 Yes.
32

33 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

34 Thank you.
35

36 **DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCULLY:**

37 Again, I know that there's a lot of information before you. The
38 matter before you today is simply a resolution to schedule a public
39 hearing on the idea of establishing a district. It's not the
03:55PM 40 broader issue of the plan. We could talk about that for, you know,
41 an extended period and I anticipate that we will in the weeks ahead
42 but this resolution simply would schedule a public hearing.
43

44 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

45 You know, I appreciate that, but, I -- you know, I think if there's
46 other questions about specifics of it I don't think there's a
47 problem at the committee vetting those details. Some of those
48 people have questions today. But I would just -- I don't -- I
49 don't see the -- really the harm in the process of letting the
03:55PM 50 public, towns, the villages who have been part of this process for
51 years weigh in on the specifics and to get into the nuts and bolts
52 of it sooner rather than later. So, thank you, Mr. Chair.
53

54 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

55 Thank you, Legislator. Anyone else?
56

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 Could I, while Mr. Scully is at the podium, could I put a question
3 to him?

4
5 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

6 Absolutely.

7
8 **LEG. THORNE:**

9 As he returns back.

03:56PM 10

11 **LEG. FLEMING:**

12 So, Mr. Scully, just with regard to what Al brought up on the
13 75-25. I'm asking a question just so the record is clear from the
14 start.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

17 I don't think this has anything to do with this resolution, 75-25.
18 This is about water districts. Where is the 75-25 coming from?
19 What is that about?

03:56PM 20

21 **LEG. FLEMING:**

22 The distribution of revenues from the district would be 75% towards
23 the A/I Systems, and 25% towards sewer systems. I've heard that,
24 because I think there's already been, contrary to what Mr. Trotta
25 was saying, there's always been a lot of discussion about all this.
26 It's a big, big deal.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

29 I think we're talking specifically about 1512, right?

03:56PM 30

31 **LEG. FLEMING:**

32 Correct.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

35 That's to create a Countywide sewer district.

36
37 **LEG. FLEMING:**

38 Right, which is -- springs from State legislation which delineated
39 how the -- how the funds would be expended.

03:57PM 40

41 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

42 That's a separate local law, Legislator. You're referring to a
43 separate Local Law that's not -- that is not what we are here to
44 discuss today.

45
46 **LEG. FLEMING:**

47 It is.

48
49 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

03:57PM 50

51 You're tying them together and it's a separate Local Law that would
52 be addressed at the appropriate time.

53 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

54 I'm sorry. Now Legislator Fleming has me a little confused. The
55 creation of the district would then spark this. You can't do this
56 without the creation of the district, right? There will be no

1 75-25 without the creation of the district, so it is the same
2 thing.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

5 Let me see. This is what you're referring to. So we're here today
6 talking about the districts. What you're referring to is the
7 eighth of a cent clean water plan with the 75-25 split. So --

8
9 **LEG. FLEMING:**

10 That's correct.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

13 -- what we're doing here, what we're doing here with this, with the
14 -- it's part of the package. It's what came in the package. So
15 what we're voting on today is creating a sewer district that, yes,
16 would create -- would alleviate depleting the funds, and this is
17 all in the packet. So the only information I received, though be
18 it late Friday I didn't receive it until Tuesday, I did review it
19 and I did ask questions. I'm not saying, you know, and I will say
20 in a matter of this magnitude that we were going to vote on
21 information especially in this -- in the excess of 100 and
22 something pages, it should have been made available earlier. And I
23 know there was some separate meetings, one-on-one meetings. I get
24 that, but obviously it wasn't enough. And so I understand where
25 some of my colleagues are coming from on that end.

26
27 The information I did get, and I read, and I asked about, was the
28 creation of a sewer district which would eliminate inequities in
29 different sewer districts that are currently paying -- some are
30 paying phenomenal amounts of money in sewer fees and some are
31 paying next to nothing and it's inequitable. By creating this
32 district, and you can correct me if I'm wrong, I think Commissioner
33 or, Scully, you're out there, by creating this district would
34 pretty much set everybody, the balance after a 10-year period, it
35 would eliminate or alleviate tapping into the quarter percent sales
36 tax that's already a law that's on the books. Because all --
37 everything indicates if we continue to use the money the way we're
38 using it we're going to deplete that fund and there will be no
39 money for sewers.

40
41 By creating this sustainable district where it's equitable to all
42 people, all residents paying the same amount, some will go up, some
43 will go down, but in the end everybody will be paying the same, all
44 right? There's a whole different bunch of variables as far as
45 opt-ins and everything else. That all can be explained. But I'm
46 not going to associate the creation of a water district with a
47 separate law of an eighth of a cent sales tax increase which is
48 totally separate. When and if that happens then you can equate the
49 two. This is about creating a Suffolk County Water District that
50 would -- that would eliminate the inequities in the payments that's
51 going on here and eliminate the over usage of that quarter percent
52 sales tax funds, thus creating more money to go towards sewers.

53
54 That's what this is about right now. There are different cogs to
55 this procedure as you brought up, as my colleagues to the left
56 brought up. But that is a separate piece of law that we're going

1 to be subject to discuss and vote on down the road. But right now,
2 let's just keep it to where it's at right now, and that's the
3 creation of a Water District.

4
5 **LEG. FLEMING:**

6 So you're supportive of moving forward to approve it for the public
7 hearing on the consolidation?

8
9 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

04:01PM 10 We have a motion to table which will be voted on and then we have a
11 motion to approve which will be voted on. You'll know my position
12 on that during the vote.

13
14 **LEG. FLEMING:**

15 Okay, thank you.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

18 Anybody else on motion?

19
20 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

21 One more question.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

24 Sure. Legislator Krupski.

25
26 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

27 It's for the Administration. The outreach on this proposal, was it
28 done? I know it's done legally, right? But has it been done
29 specifically to the towns and villages? And if not, could it be?

04:01PM 30
31 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE:**

32 With regard to the -- sorry. With regard to the broader clean
33 water plan, obviously there's been extensive interaction with the
34 towns and villages over the past five years through things such as
35 the Article 6 working group. We do work closely with the towns and
36 villages on issues related to wastewater and sewers. So there has
37 been significant outreach, both over that five-year period and more
38 recently, both to the government and to community groups, which
39 have been, you know, all of that has been very positive. In trying
04:02PM 40 to urge movement by the Governor relative to the State budget, we
41 were very pleased to see letters of support from all of the -- one
42 letter of support from all of the Republican Senators and also to
43 receive letters of support from Town Supervisors including
44 Supervisor Wehrheim, Supervisor Carpenter and Supervisor Romaine.

45
46 There's very broad support for the overall wastewater solution.
47 But as the Chair points out, the matter before the committee today
48 is limited to simply the scheduling of the public hearing relative
49 to the district. And while I understand there is a tremendous
04:02PM 50 amount of information that the committee is considering, I just
51 want to make sure they understand there's going to be a robust
52 process moving forward over the next seven weeks to try and sort
53 our way through that, see if people are comfortable with it and if
54 not, what sorts of tweaks they would want to see in order to move
55 forward.

1 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

2 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

5 Thank you, Legislator. On the motion, Legislator Piccirillo.

6
7 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to say the quiet part out loud
9 because I think there's just a lot of amnesia at the horseshoe,
04:03PM 10 because I remember hearing about clean water since I'm, I don't
11 know, 15 or 16 years old. I became an Aide, I became a Legislator
12 and we continue to talk about clean water. Then the County
13 Executive and this body continually illegally raided the ASRF to
14 plug budget holes for \$250 million. We went to court not once, not
15 twice, but eight times and the judge told us no, you can't use
16 these funds. They still use them.

17
18 And then to add insult to injury to the taxpayers who the clean
19 water money that they robbed, they put a ballot referendum on that
04:03PM 20 the language is totally ubiquitous and had them pass it and take
21 the money back. Where were the environmental groups? Not one
22 person came in here. This is the biggest BS story I've ever heard
23 in my entire life. Spielberg couldn't write this.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

26 Legislator, any further comments?

27
28 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

29 Just so the record's clear that the \$250 million was raided
04:04PM 30 illegally eight times from this body and the County Executive's
31 Office. There's just going to be another slush fund.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

34 Legislator Trotta.

35
36 **LEG. TROTТА:**

37 Yeah. Lance, I have a couple of questions for you. The General
38 Fund Reserve Fund, can you tell us how much money is in that? I
39 can tell you if you want. It's 30,051,000. The Tax Stabilization
04:04PM 40 Reserve Fund, \$254,209,440. The Retirement Contribution Reserve
41 Fund, \$210 million. The Debt Service Reserve Fund, \$166 million.
42 It comes to somewhere like, am I correct, about \$720 million?

43
44 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

45 Excuse me. Those numbers in various funds you're correct in what
46 you quoted.

47
48 **LEG. TROTТА:**

49 Okay. So we've raided the funds, we have 700 million. It's safe
04:05PM 50 to say we have another hundred and -- 200 million in contingency
51 funds stashed all over the County? I can go over them if you want
52 because I have them, I have them all. If you want me to go over
53 them I will.

54
55 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

56 I don't have them memorized, but we do have quite a bit of

1 contingency funds. There --

2
3 **LEG. TROTТА:**

4 Someone a lot smarter than me gave them to me and I have them all.
5 So what we're standing here is we're talking about a mismanaged
6 County that was on the brink of bankruptcy, and if it wasn't for
7 the Federal Government pumping money and causing inflation and
8 making it harder to live here, we would be bankrupt now. But now
9 we're asking for more money. Essentially, it's coming down the
10 pike, it's happening, and meanwhile that's why I put a bill in, I
11 asked Counsel to put a bill in to take \$200 million from those
12 funds somewhere to fund sewer projects. And that's why I probably
13 would never support this, because the money is there. And it
14 should have been never taken and it's been totally mismanaged.

15
16 **DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCULLY:**

17 Mr. Chair, if I could.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

20 Yes.

21
22 **DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCULLY:**

23 Just to point out that with respect to any past litigation
24 regarding the use of funds that were originally dedicated for one
25 purpose for budget stability, please be aware that the County
26 Legislature in 2014 amended the environmental bill of rights to the
27 County to specifically preclude any redirection of funding and the
28 County tried to preclude any redirection of funding intended for
29 one purpose for another. So under County law that's no longer a
30 possibility. The history, of course, is interesting.

31
32 And then with regard to the issue of reserve funds, you know, the
33 Legislator is correct, the County in the early part of the 2010
34 decade found itself with an operating deficit in hundreds of
35 millions of dollars. It is now in the strongest shape it's been in
36 in a decade. The Legislature created reserve funds to protect
37 taxpayers against future downturns in the economy.

38
39 **LEG. TROTТА:**

40 Excuse me, stop. The Legislature did not protect the funds, the
41 Federal Government pumped \$9 billion into our economy. We made --
42 we did not make a single bill, not \$1 saving thing to make this
43 happen. Not one. Not one. We didn't cut a thing to do that. It
44 was strictly money pumped into the economy.

45
46 **DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCULLY:**

47 I don't want to get into an argument.

48
49 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

50 Yeah, I don't want to have a back and forth on this, guys.

51
52 **DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCULLY:**

53 I just want to point out that the Legislature in the context of the
54 budget has created the reserve funds that you referenced and there
55 are in place to protect the taxpayers against future downturns in
56 the economy. My only point. I'm sorry.

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04:08PM

04:09PM

04:09PM

04:09PM

04:09PM

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Thank you. I would just say this. I agree with a lot that I heard up here tonight, this evening, from my colleagues on both sides. It's a lot of information to process in a short amount of time on such a big, big decision to make. However, I just feel it would be -- I just don't think it would be right to deny the public its opportunity to have a say. Any questions when we may have, we have an opportunity to do our homework, we have an opportunity to make the changes, we have an opportunity to vote again. A vote to go forward with a public hearing is not a vote to go forward with this resolution. A vote to go forward with a public hearing is an opportunity to hear all sides, an opportunity for us to do our homework and make an educated decision, and the best way to make an educated decision is to hear all sides. And, yes, do our homework. There's over 140 pages of documentation that you can base your decision on. That was not put together overnight. I suggest that we all go home and read it and read it again. There's a lot riding on this for the residents of Suffolk County in more ways than one.

I'm going to put the vote up now. We have a motion to table and a second. I need a roll call vote, Madam Clerk.

*(*Roll Called by Hope Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk*)*

LEG. TROTTA:

Yes.

LEG. PICCIRILLO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

No.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

No.

LEG. FLEMING:

No to table.

LEG. ANKER:

(Not Present).

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Legislator Anker has an excused absence today.

(Roll call continued)

LEG. THORNE:

No to table.

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:

Two.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

The motion to table fails. We have a motion and a second to

1 approve I.R. 1512. Roll call vote.

2

3 (**Roll Called by Hope Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk**)

4

5 **LEG. FLEMING:**

6 Yes.

7

8 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

9 Yes.

04:10PM 10

11 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

12 Yes.

13

14 **LEG. TROTTA:**

15 No.

16

17 **LEG. THORNE:**

18 Yes.

19

04:10PM 20

21 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

22 No.

23

24 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

25 *Four. (Vote: Approved 4-2-0-1/0pposed: Legislators Trotta and
26 Piccirillo/Absent: Leg. Anker)*

27

28 **CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

29 I.R. 1512 is approved for a public hearing. Seeing no other
30 procedures in front of us, we stand adjourned, thank you.

04:10PM 31

32 (**The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.**)

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