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2 **PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY COMMITTEE**
3
4 **OF THE**
5
6 **SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**
7
8 **MINUTES**
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12 A meeting of the Public Works, Transportation & Energy Committee of
13 the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Maxine S. Postal
14 Auditorium of the Evans K. Griffing Building, 300 Center Drive,
15 Riverhead, New York on June 12, 2023.
16

17
18
19 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

20 Leg. Nicolas Caracappa, Chairperson
21 Leg. Robert Trotta, Vice Chair
22 Leg. Sarah Anker
23 Leg. Bridget Fleming
24 Leg. Al Krupski (excused absence)
25 Leg. Anthony Piccirillo
26 Leg. Dominick S. Thorne
27

28
29
30 **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

31 William Duffy, Counsel to the Legislature
32 Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature
33 Hope Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature
34 Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office
35 Joseph Brown, Commissioner/Department of Public Works
36 Maureen McGovern, Deputy Commissioner/DPW
37 William Hillman, Chief Engineer/Highway/DPW
38 Michelle Zarifis, Director/Intergovernmental Relations/CE
39 Robert Martinez, Aide to Leg. Caracappa
40 Irene Donohue, Aide to Leg. Fleming
41 Ali Nazir, Aide to PO
42 Brendan Sweeney, Aide to PO
43 And all other interested parties
44

45 **MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

46 Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer
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THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:07 PM

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

I'm calling the meeting to order. Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to Public Works, Transportation & Energy Committee. If we could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance that'll be led by our Legislator, let's pick, Sarah Anker, why not.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Please remain standing for a moment of silence, please. Our thoughts will go to all those serving overseas and home for our healthcare workers, our first responders.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

Thank you. Could we have roll call, Mr. Clerk, please.

(Roll call by Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature)

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Here.

LEG. TROTTA:

Here.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

(No response)

LEG. FLEMING:

Present.

LEG. ANKER:

Here.

LEG. THORNE:

Present.

LEG. PICCIRILLO:

Present.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

(No response)

CLERK TASSONE:

Six.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

Thank you. Do we have any correspondence?

CLERK TASSONE:

All correspondence have been distributed accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

Thank you. We'll now enter the public portion. Oh, I'm sorry, just for the record Al Krupski -- Legislator Krupski has an excused

02:08PM

02:08PM

1 absence. My apologies.
2
3

4 **PUBLIC PORTION**

5 Moving onto public portion, our first speaker is Roy Reynolds. Is
6 Roy Reynolds with us? There he is. Welcome, Mr. Reynolds. Just
7 state your name for the record. Just remind you you have three
8 minutes.
9

10 **ROY REYNOLDS:**

11 Okay. The name is Roy Reynolds. I'm president of the East
12 Moriches Property Owners Association. And I'm here with some
13 residents from the Eastport area, also.
14

15 First, I want to congratulate the Suffolk County Department of
16 Public Works for the great job they did over the last few years of
17 fixing up the roadway in the central business district in Eastport.
18 We got new sidewalks, lighting and repaving. Department has the
19 support of the local civics and the Chamber of Commerce. That
02:09PM 20 being said there's still some work that needs to be done to improve
21 the traffic situation in the business district. We are plagued by
22 speeding and dangerous traffic flow, patterns as the rest of Long
23 Island is. But this is affecting motorists and pedestrians using
24 the businesses in the area.
25

26 This week we received a new traffic study for the Eastport Central
27 Business District, which we have started to review. As time
28 allows, I have some preliminary comments which are meant as
29 constructive comments. Exceptional field work was done by the
02:09PM 30 department which gives us a solid basis to formally make
31 recommendations. Following the study the existing rumble strips
32 were refreshed and they are warning motorists of the transition
33 into the business district. However, the study does not appear to
34 have any new specific recommendations to calm traffic and reduce
35 speeding.
36

37 Based on the study we know people are speeding through the district
38 and the speeds have increased over the last few years. Speeds have
39 increased by 15%. We know people are primarily crossing in the
02:10PM 40 area between the two crosswalks and basically are not using the
41 Union Avenue crosswalk at all. We know people are parking in front
42 of driveways. We know people are doing three point turns in the
43 middle of the district. We know there are an inordinate amount of
44 accidents prior to the study period that were not considered in the
45 study. The study used the data from the pandemic period where
46 traffic and accidents are expected to be less. Fifteen crashes
47 versus four. At one point the study actually proposed increasing
48 the speed limit and indicated that lowering it would increase
49 fatalities. That's not logical. Speeding is an overlying factor
02:10PM 50 and it needs to be reduced. In our report we recommended some
51 actions. As an example we recommended interactive radar speed
52 limit signs be installed at entrances to the district to calm the
53 traffic --
54

55 (Audio disruption)
56

1 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

2 That's not you, sir, don't worry about it.

3
4 **ROY REYNOLDS:**

5 Can somebody have stopped the clock? That would have helped.
6 Okay, all right. I only need a few more seconds anyway. Okay, is
7 that back? Okay, you should have a photo in front of you right
8 now. It's actually an interactive speed sign in use in
9 Westhampton. So, do you have that photo? I don't know if you do
02:11PM 10 but have you ever not slowed down for one of these signs? I slow
11 down. Everyone I know slows down. The County has a policy of not
12 using them on county roads. They're being used all over the county
13 on town roads with great success.

14
15 (Audio disruption)

16
17 Is there anything I can do here to fix it? Okay. The interactive
18 speed signs are being used all over the county on town roads with
19 great success. So why not think outside the box and try them in
02:12PM 20 the Eastport area? My time is obviously running out so we plan on
21 completing a review of the study in writing and we look forward to
22 more actions to be taken in the district. Okay. And we would at
23 some point like to set up a meeting, a community meeting with DPW
24 and the other town -- other county officials and maybe town
25 officials and perhaps our Legislator Bridget Fleming could
26 facilitate that. We'd like to meet down in Eastport or some other
27 place of your choice. Don't hold this against me, please. Do you
28 have any questions on this? I don't know.

29
30 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

31 Not at this time but thank you for your time.

32
33 (Off the record - audio disruption)

34
35 We'll try and continue. Is Marie Kinneary -- I'm hoping I'm
36 pronouncing that correct. Have a seat, Marie.

37
38 **MARIE KINNEARY:**

39 Thank you.

40
41 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

42 Just state your name for the record. I remind you you have three
43 minutes.

44
45 **MARIE KINNEARY:**

46 Thank you. Thanks for the opportunity to be here. My name is
47 Marie Kinneary. I live at 506 Montauk Highway in Eastport in one
48 of the several of the historic homes in our business district.
49 Family and friends right now are finding it very difficult to
02:15PM 50 safely exit and enter my driveway. Visibility is handicapped by
51 parked cars and a curve in the road. People desperate for parking
52 frequently block my driveway. When my driveway access is narrowed,
53 I can't turn onto the highway without pulling out dangerously close
54 far out into the oncoming traffic. And when entering my driveway I
55 can't see the pedestrians, the little kids on bicycles through
56 these parked cars. Sadly, the cars behind me aren't always

1 prepared to stop. There are over sixteen driveways like mine in
2 the downtown area.

3
4 I've made a few personal modifications to try and ensure the safety
5 of my family and my friends. I built a long driveway with a
6 turnaround in the back. I bought an SUV, they're higher, more
7 visible, more safety beepers but we still don't feel safe. A year
8 ago I asked the County for help. I made a few suggestions. Please
9 slow down the traffic, hatch in front of my driveway and/or mark
02:16PM 10 the adjacent spots so the drivers don't infringe on my driveway
11 space and I can pull out safely, in and out safely. I was told my
12 concerns will be part -- made part of an area study. And after
13 more than a year I called to find the results. I was told that the
14 County didn't mark parking spots and the person I spoke to faulted
15 the local town governments for allowing businesses to open without
16 providing parking for their customers. I was told lowering the
17 speed limit wouldn't make it safer because it's a matter of
18 enforcement. No solution for me.

19
02:17PM 20 The recent study says that you found few accidents and they didn't
21 warrant changes in the procedures. Consider, please, that this is
22 COVID times and the date is skewed. I have lived here 24/7 for 40
23 years and I can tell you what is happening on the block. I have
24 had three cars totaled out front and several trees knocked down.
25 Can you still hear me? Somehow someone actually crashed into the
26 front corner of the building next door. We've been lucky that
27 there were no serious injuries but the conditions now are worse
28 than I've ever seen them and luck won't hold out forever. This
29 study has no solution for me. Restricting the parking in front of
02:17PM 30 my driveway is not recommended. But it's done in other business
31 districts. And I think Roy left a picture in front of you from
32 East Main Street in Patchogue where you can see that marking spots
33 assures the space will be used efficiently and helps prevent
34 blocking access to the driveways.

35
36 It's my job to keep my family and friends safe. And I come to you
37 as caretakers of this county road to find a solution that will work
38 for my community. I'm asking that you mark the streets so we can
39 safely enter and exit our driveways. I don't want to be rear ended
02:18PM 40 again waiting for someone to unblock my driveway. Please lower the
41 speed limit and see that it's enforced. There are probably other
42 solutions. I'm not a traffic engineer. You have traffic engineers
43 and law enforcement in your employ. Please let's charge them
44 regarding a solution for our town. Thank you.

45
46 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

47 One second. I don't know if you can -- I don't know. Marie, I
48 know you read all that off and I appreciate that. Where do you
49 live? Do you live on a county road?

50
51 **MARIE KINNEARY:**

52 I live on a county road 506 Montauk Highway, the middle of the
53 Historic District.

54
55 **LEG. FLEMING:**

56 It's Montauk Highway in Eastport.

1
2 **MARIE KINNEARY:**

3 Montauk Highway, County Road 80. And I've been there over 40
4 years.

5
6 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

7 And you're requesting hatch marks in front of your house or --

8
9 (Off the record)

10
11 **MARIE KINNEARY:**

12 I'm requesting that the area in front of my driveway somehow be
13 labeled so people know not to park in it because they constantly
14 do. There is cross hatching in that picture you see from
15 Patchogue. It doesn't have to be the same thing. There's another
16 place that has on the curb little red spots on the side of the
17 driveway to say: Driveway, please do not block, there's other ways
18 -- there may be other ways to do it other than the cross hatching
19 but it needs to be marked and I know it's a historic district, I
20 don't want it to be ugly but it's not safe the way it is.

02:20PM

21
22 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

23 Have you been in contact with the Historic Society or anybody in
24 your community?

25
26 **MARIE KINNEARY:**

27 It's been talked about and nobody has -- nobody has opposed my
28 concern. But we can take a vote or a survey. I mean I'm president
29 of Eastport Green Project also, which is a community organization.
30 Our Vice president is going to be speaking next. We know -- I
31 mean, kids are riding bicycles, walking up and down the street,
32 getting ice cream. These driveways -- a lot of the businesses are
33 right on the street right up at the sidewalk. You can't see people
34 on the sidewalks until they're right in front of you. And the cars
35 park blocking the driveway. There's no parking. Cars infringe on
36 the spot. There's a slanted spot on either side of your driveway
37 that the cars, from what the police told me, people are not
38 supposed to park where the curb changes height on the side. That's
39 there so that you can have enough room to arc out and stay in your
40 lane. But people constantly block that and say "you have enough
41 room. You can get out". And I can't get out without pulling out
42 so far that I'm in the other lane and oncoming traffic can hit me.

43
44 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

45 Does anyone have any questions?

46
47 **MARIE KINNEARY:**

48 So mark mine if you don't mark everybody else's and see if
49 everybody else says "I want one like that."

50
51 **LEG. ANKER:**

52 I have a quick question. Over here (indicating). Is that -- what
53 type of road is that; is that a state road or a village road?

54
55 **LEG. FLEMING:**

56 It's County Road 80. It's Montauk Highway in Eastport where it

1 transfers between the town of Brookhaven and the Town of
2 Southampton.

3
4 **LEG. ANKER:**

5 So it would be up to the County to make those changes for the
6 roadway.

7
8 **LEG. FLEMING:**

9 On the road, yes, it would be. But the traffic enforcement is the
02:22PM 10 duty of the town. On the one side is the town of Southampton; on
11 the other side it's Suffolk County Police Department.

12
13 **LEG. ANKER:**

14 Gotcha. Okay, thanks.

15
16 **MARIE KINNEARY:**

17 Thank you. Thank you for your time.

18
19 **LEG. FLEMING:**

02:23PM 20 Thank you, ma'am.

21
22 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

23 Our next speaker is Diane Bavosa.

24
25 **DIANE BAVOSA:**

26 All right. Hi, I'm Diane Bavos. I'm Vice President of Eastport
27 Green Project. So my concern today is the road -- Montauk highway
28 than leads to the Andrea Spilka Park. A park dedicated to Andrea
29 Spilka recently open on the south side of Montauk Highway, County
02:23PM 30 Road 80 just east of Seatuck Creek on the border between Brookhaven
31 and Southampton towns. The highway that crosses the creek is built
32 on an earthen dam. This is one of the prettiest places in our
33 historic town with a great view of West Lake to the north and a
34 little waterfall on the south side where the water level drops as
35 it crosses the dam and enters the creek.

36
37 This was the site for a duck farm and several mills. Now, it's
38 renown for bird watching and fishing. Across the dam from the park
39 on the west side of the creek you will find our historic business
02:24PM 40 district. But if you are on the south side of the road, you're out
41 of luck. You can't get there from here because the sidewalk ends
42 abruptly at a guardrail when you get to the dam. You can't get
43 across to the park or any place east for that matter. And there
44 isn't a safe place to cross to the sidewalk on the north side.
45 Traffic speeds by.

46
47 In 2021 in preparation for the park Eastport Green Project and East
48 Moriches Property Owners Association did a community survey that
49 received 129 survey responses. In part it showed that 75% want a
02:24PM 50 sidewalk and/or boardwalk added on the south side of the highway.
51 71% would also like to have a boardwalk on the south side; 86% want
52 at least one crosswalk on the highway added by the park.

53
54 We were told when the park was created that these issues might be
55 addressed when the dam was scheduled for maintenance in 2025. We
56 have been patiently waiting. It's a dangerous area as cars speed

1 and visibility is limited as the road rises and curves. Bicyclists
2 frequently ride the one sidewalk as they don't feel safe on the
3 narrow road. The concrete walls next to the sidewalk are falling
4 and exposing metal bars in several places. The concrete is
5 unsightly and badly in need of painting. Weeds and sand are
6 abundant on the sidewalk. No one maintains it. We've recently
7 been told that work on this dam has been removed from the County
8 five-year plan. No additional sidewalk, crosswalks or boardwalks
9 for at least five years. The County is letting one of the
02:26PM 10 prettiest places in our town become an eyesore. This is dangerous
11 and it needs to be remedied. We ask for your help. Any questions
12 or?

13
14 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

15 I'm afraid to turn my mike on but thank you for your time. I
16 appreciate it.

17
18 **LEG. ANKER:**

19 I'm sorry, which district is this in? Is that your district?

02:26PM 20
21 **LEG. FLEMING:**

22 My district.

23
24 **LEG. ANKER:**

25 Okay. And you're aware of all that.

26
27 **LEG. FLEMING:**

28 Yeah, and I'm happy to continue to meet with the community and
29 thank you for coming and talking. We worked very hard on the
02:26PM 30 Andrea Spilka Park. And this earthen dam is unique in the County.
31 There is not another such thing. It's a bridge that's being
32 supported by dirt. And to -- I'm sure Mr. Hillman can talk about
33 it. We've had long discussions about it and we advocated very much
34 for at least getting the crosswalk on the eastern side from the
35 school and extending those sidewalks, which was something that we
36 were very proud to do. It took a longtime to do. So thank you for
37 your advocacy and the advocacy of the Eastport Chamber and your
38 organization.

39
40 **DIANE BAVOSA:**

41 Eastport Green Project, yes.

42
43 **LEG. FLEMING:**

44 That the Brookhaven side is more challenging because that southern
45 sidewalk can't be constructed until such time as all the DEC
46 permits and the other things that are very complex around that
47 earthen dam are resolved. So I think -- unless the chief engineer
48 wants to speak further about it, we have spent a good deal of time
49 trying to advocate for traffic calming there. We've done traffic
02:27PM 50 studies and certainly for the work on the Andrea Spilka Park, it
51 was the goal, and I think the goal was met, to do as much as we
52 could without reconstructing the dam because the dam reconstruction
53 is going to cost many, many, many, many millions of dollars, so.
54 And it's not in the immediate capital plan because of the costs.
55 So, if the Committee wanted more information, I would suggest the
56 chief engineer as a good person, but we continue to meet with the

1 community -- with Al Krupski, too, because in the new cycle you're
2 going to be in LD 1, the legislative district. It's usually -- Al
3 Krupski's here and he's met at the diner with the chamber and
4 others and Roy. So we'll continue to do that. It's a very
5 challenging project and it's important for these folks to hear.
6 So, thank you for your advocacy.

7
8 **DIANE BAVOSA:**
9 Okay.

10
11 **LEG. FLEMING:**

12 And my office, feel free 631-852-8400, I think you all know, you're
13 welcome to continue to have that conversation.

14
15 **DIANE BAVOSA:**
16 Okay.

17
18 **LEG. ANKER:**

19 I just wanted to say also Eastport is one of the most beautiful
20 home town types of areas that I visited. And it's important to
21 keep that feeling and for the local residents. I give you a lot of
22 credit for the many projects, especially working with Legislator
23 Fleming, to really keep that quality of life within that area. So
24 great job, though, thank you.

25
26 **LEG. FLEMING:**

27 I would note also that Assemblyman Thiel was the was who was able
28 to secure the funding for the sidewalk from the school to the park,
29 which seemed to be the best option without being able to do it
30 across the bridge. So that came from state funding, that piece of
31 it, but it was the county engineers who worked on doing their
32 crosswalk in conjunction with the town. It's a very complex
33 location.

34
35 **DIANE BAVOSA:**

36 Aside from -- you know, I understand the difficulty with that, but
37 the other side, the north side where, you know, that crosses the
38 lake and there's a concrete sort of, you know, wall there that is
39 really crumbling and deteriorating. And I don't know if that can
40 be done separately, but that seems to need some attention as does
41 the sidewalk is really -- needs weeding and attention.

42
43 **LEG. FLEMING:**

44 No, you're absolutely right. From a water quality prospective as
45 well as a public safety prospective as well as an aesthetic
46 perspective. And we're pushing it. It's the county engineers who
47 need to be able to find the funding and move it forward. It's a
48 massive county. And we've been pushing it but the park and the
49 amenities that went along with the park were part of that. And we
50 are very proud of having worked with the engineers and the state to
51 find the funding and to get the work done. They worked with the
52 homeowners there as well. And I'm sorry that your home isn't in
53 that corridor where they were, but, you know, we will continue to
54 push it. It's one of a number of extremely important projects
55 throughout the County, but I hope you enjoy the park because that
56 was hard to get that done, so.

1
2 **DIANE BAVOSA:**

3 Yes, we do.

4
5 **LEG. FLEMING:**

6 Thank you.

7
8 **DIANE BAVOSA:**

9 Thank you.

10
11 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

12 Is that it? All right. Thank you very much. Our next speaker is
13 Christopher Poelker, Poelker, Poelker, I'm sorry if I'm
14 mispronouncing that wrong, Christopher. Poelker, I think it is.

15
16 **LEG. FLEMING:**

17 So, I'm not on the capital working group this year, but those who
18 are, if you can consider that earthen dam, it's pretty unusual even
19 throughout, you know, roadwork around the country, so, but it needs
20 to be addressed. It's expensive. Thank you.

02:31PM

21
22 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

23 Just state your name for the record, please, and you have three
24 minutes.

25
26 **CHRISTOPHER POELKER:**

27 Hi. My name is Christopher Poelker. I'm actually here for -- I
28 believe I might have been called a little early. I'm here for the
29 Lexing Village Introductory Resolution 1580.

30
31 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

32 This is a public portion so you can speak to anything you like.

33
34 **CHRISTOPHER POELKER:**

35 Oh, sure, sure. Okay.

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

38 You're referring to Resolution 1580?

39
40 **CHRISTOPHER POELKER:**

41 Yes, that's correct, 1580. Good afternoon, County Legislators. My
42 name is Chris Poelker. I'm the Town Engineer for the Town of
43 Islip. I'm currently here today on behalf of Supervisor Angie
44 Carpenter to show support for the Town of Islip sewer district
45 number one, which is in regards to the connection of the sewer
46 collection facility at Lexington Village Condominiums to the
47 Southwest Sewer District contract number -- town contract number
48 DBD 1-23.

02:32PM

49
50 So currently the county and the town are working together on the
51 Central Islip DRI project on Carlton Avenue, which have both been
52 -- we've both been very fortunate to receive multiple grants as
53 well as million dollars secured by the town to -- you know, these
54 funds are allocated towards the CI project, Central Islip project.

55
56 The county and town both contributed ARPA funds to this project as

1 well. And as the CI project is under budget, a potential
2 resolution's come to light that the county and town could
3 potentially relocate such ARPA funds to Lexington Village Project.
4 This could cover additional funds needed to resolve the shortfall
5 due to supply chain shortages as we're all aware of. Please be
6 aware that this Lexington Village project will remedy a major
7 health and safety issue that is occurring in this environmental
8 justice area. The town has explored different funding methods to
9 make up the shortfall, but they would all require state comptroller
10 approval in order to increase taxes in that district. So, you
11 know, and the comptroller won't really allow us to assess higher
12 taxes on this district, on this community, you know, due to that
13 it's mostly over 50% Section 8 housing and low-income housing.

02:33PM

14
15 So I just wanted to go on the record to show support from the town
16 for this project on behalf of Supervisor Angie Carpenter and, you
17 know, we really appreciate your support -- any support that the
18 committee may be able to give on this project. Thank you. I'm
19 from the Town of Islip.

20
21 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

22 You are from the Town.

23
24 **CHRISTOPHER POELKER:**

25 Yes.

26
27 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

28 We have some questions for you if you don't mind.

29
30 **LEG. TROTТА:**

31 Is this a new project or this an existing project?

32
33 **CHRISTOPHER POELKER:**

34 So this is an existing project. A little bit of background on the
35 project, it started in '95, order of consent. And then the town,
36 you know, they weren't able to fund the project so the town -- this
37 town helped create a taxing district to fund the sewer project.

38
39 **LEG. TROTТА:**

40 Wait. Are these condos or apartments or what are they?

02:35PM

41
42 **CHRISTOPHER POELKER:**

43 They're condos.

44
45 **LEG. TROTТА:**

46 And they're individually owned?

47
48 **CHRISTOPHER POELKER:**

49 Yes.

02:35PM

50
51 **LEG. TROTТА:**

52 By low-income people; is that what it is?

53
54 **CHRISTOPHER POELKER:**

55 Yes, that's our understanding.

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02:35PM

02:35PM

02:36PM

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02:37PM

LEG. TROTТА:
How many units are there?

CHRISTOPHER POELKER:
Off the top of my head, I'm sorry, I don't have that number in front of me but it's maybe like 2 to 300.

LEG. TROTТА:
Okay. And what are the criteria to live there?

CHRISTOPHER POELKER:
I'm not completely aware of that answer.

LEG. TROTТА:
Like you have to make less than 50,000 a year? I mean can you sell it and make a profit?

CHRISTOPHER POELKER:
It's in a really low-income area. You know, I'm not sure -- I'm sure the board has certain criteria, you know, when bringing someone new in, but I can't speak to that at this moment.

LEG. TROTТА:
All right. So right now they're hooked up to what?

CHRISTOPHER POELKER:
Right now they have a sewer treatment plant on-site. And the sewer treatment plant is currently failing. And it's -- I know they've been pumping out the tanks. They had an issue with infiltration. You know, the overall system, you know, can't take the flow.

LEG. TROTТА:
And how much is this for again, I forgot?

CHRISTOPHER POELKER:
It's approximately \$700,000. It's \$700,000,

LEG. TROTТА:
So it's less than 10,000 a unit if there's 200 units. Because, you know, what I go by is if I'm a homeowner and I'm going to get \$10,000 for these advanced wastewater systems, someone who owns a condo should sort of be in the same realm. If this was an apartment complex, I would not be supporting it.

CHRISTOPHER POELKER:
Yeah, but the difficulty is if the town was to pursue trying to amend the sewer district, we'd have to go back to the state comptroller and that's going to -- and they give us a very difficult battle trying to get the original one approved. So if we go back and we ask for additional, you know, to increase the district --

LEG. TROTТА:
All right, thank you.

1
2 **CHRISTOPHER POELKER:**
3 Thank you. Any other questions?

4
5 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
6 All right, we're good. I appreciate it.

7
8 **CHRISTOPHER POELKER:**
9 Thank you so much.

10
11 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
12 I don't see any other speakers. I don't have any other cards in
13 front of me. Is there anyone who would like to address the
14 Committee at this time? All right, with that we'll close public
15 hearing. We have no appointment resolutions and no presentations.

16
17 **TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

18
19 We're going to move onto Tabled Resolutions beginning with **IR 1065,**
20 **Amending the 2023 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating**
21 **funds in connection with Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment**
22 **Installation at Various Suffolk County Facilities (CP 1834). (Co.**
23 **Exec.)** I make a motion to table.

24
25 **LEG. TROTТА:**
26 Motion to table.

27
28 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
29 We got a motion from Legislator Trotta. I'll second that motion.
02:38PM 30 Anyone on the motion?

31
32 **LEG. FLEMING:**
33 Just on the motion, I know this is critically important that we
34 move -- you know, that we advance electric vehicles and, you know,
35 reduction in fossil fuels considering what we're seeing happen in
36 terms of climate change and the fact that, you know, Long Island is
37 one of the top -- actually there's a Moody's Analytics Report that
38 I recently read that indicates that Long Island is the fourth
02:38PM 39 ranking urban or suburban area in the United States for chronic and
40 ongoing threats because of extreme weather events and sea level
41 rise.

42
43 So I appreciate, you know, the County Executive wanting to move
44 forward and just wondering if I can ask again, as I did in the last
45 committee, what the rationale is for continuing to table our moving
46 forward to sustainable electric vehicle landscape for our roadways?

47
48 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
49 Anyone else?

02:39PM 50
51 **LEG. ANKER:**
52 On the motion. On the motion.

53
54 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
55 Yes, on the motion.

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LEG. ANKER:

By tabling this, I know this came up in the past meetings, committee meetings, is this going to be an issue for our funding; our partnership funding?

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

Just so you know, this tabling came at the request of the County Executive's office as well.

LEG. FLEMING:

Yeah, just wondering what the rationale is, that's all. Can we --

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

A lack of information requested on the vehicles for the past, you know, six months.

LEG. FLEMING:

That's why the County Executive is asking that it be tabled?

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

Nope. Because they have not come forward with the information requested.

LEG. FLEMING:

No, I'm just wondering, Mr. Chair, you said the County Executive also asked that it be tabled.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

Yeah, from his office. I didn't say the County Executive. I said the office of the County Executive. Okay, so there is support of the tabling motion because they did not provide the information requested by this Committee.

LEG. FLEMING:

Okay. Just wondering what that information is?

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

So, we have a motion and a second on the tabling.

LEG. FLEMING:

Is there -- could we just understand what the information is that's lacking?

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

You were on this Committee, Legislator, and you heard all those comments. If you want to go back and read the transcripts, please go right ahead. We have a big concern with electric vehicles and what are we going to do with the batteries; what are we doing with the storage; what are we doing with the cost of them; what are we doing with the research. They were supposed to come back to us with what's going on in case we have a infrastructure meltdown here, what are we supposed to do then? There was a whole litany of questions that I don't have in front of me at this moment because this was an understanding that we did ask those questions, we provided those questions. They have the questions. They have not

1 provided answers to those questions. So I'm not going to waste
2 anymore of this Committee's time until those answers to those
3 questions are brought forward. We went through this already. I'm
4 not going to reintroduce these questions for either an argument
5 that you want to have on it, or debate you want to have on it.
6 This debate and argument has been laid out there for the public
7 already, it's on record. And that's as far as I'm going. We have
8 a motion to table.

9
10 **LEG. FLEMING:**

11 But I'm just -- I'm afraid there's a misunderstanding. I wasn't
12 intending to argue. I really was wondering if we can get
13 clarification so that we can move forward with something that's so
14 critically important because of our vulnerability.

15
16 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

17 I don't see it as -- we do not have the same opinion on the
18 criticalness of this resolution. If it were so critical, the
19 answers to those questions would have been supplied to us quite
20 sometime ago and they have not.

21
22 **LEG. FLEMING:**

23 Can we just clarify from the County Executive that they understand?
24

25 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

26 Michelle, are you in? Michelle, would you mind coming up please.
27

28 **LEG. FLEMING:**

29 My only question is, is there a clear understanding so that -- of
30 what the communication needs to be on this particular resolution?
31 I wasn't sure.

32
33 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

34 Also we requested a presentation that has not been ready to --
35

36 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

37 Right. So, thank you, Chair. So we had spoken with the chair of
38 the committee that he had requested that the Department of Public
39 Works present on the electric vehicles. We have had some
40 conversations back and forth trying to move this forward but we are
41 okay with tabling this for now as we need to have further
42 conversations on this with the caucus and the Legislature.
43

44 **LEG. FLEMING:**

45 I'm just wondering if there is clarity on what's holding it up. I
46 know it's a little bit different. I know that you all have a
47 concern with regard to funding resolutions on capital projects or
48 on road projects. I've heard that --
49

50 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

51 And who would that be "you all"?
52

53 **LEG. FLEMING:**

54 Well, Mr. Chair, you said it at the -- you said the last
55 committee -- you know, Mr. Trotta came out and said *we're tabling*
56 *everything*. And then there was some discussion.

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CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
When you say "you all."

LEG. FLEMING:
Yourself and --

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
You're talking about the entire committee or are you talking
certain members of this committee?

LEG. FLEMING:
I'm talking about the folks who are supporting a tabling
resolution. Someone -- people who want to table it.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
If you go back and look at the records, it's been unanimously
supported in this committee in the last few meetings so you would
be included in that statement.

LEG. FLEMING:
I'm asking for -- I'm not trying to --

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
I'm answering your question. That you just made a comment --

LEG. FLEMING:
What?

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
-- that "you all." You said "you all."

LEG. FLEMING:
Right.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
If I go back and pull up the voting record, you supported the
tabling motion each and every time.

LEG. FLEMING:
I am doing my very best to work in a nonpartisan way to continue to
address --

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
Here we go --

LEG. FLEMING:
-- the important issues of this Committee. So if you make
arguments and the County Executive comes up and it's made as it was
in the last two cycles --

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
Three.

LEG. FLEMING:
-- that, okay, three cycles that there isn't a level of

1 satisfaction, because of the gravity of some of these things,
2 because of our responsibilities to the taxpayers around our
3 infrastructure, it seems to be critically important that rather
4 than continue to have tabling and tabling and tabling cycle after
5 cycle after cycle that we understand both sides of whatever this
6 issue is because --

7
8 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

9 I agree with that.

10
11 **LEG. FLEMING:**

12 So that there would be a clear understanding of what the
13 information is that's lacking. So, Mr. Chairman, I am only trying
14 to understand, because I'm not in these conversations, I have not
15 been included in these conversations. I'm here trying to just
16 follow and do my job and my responsibility as a member of this
17 committee.

18
19 So I'm in the dark on why it is that it's continuing to take such a
20 longtime. And I'm just hoping at this point that we can get some
21 clarity on what the specific information is that is holding up this
22 important project. I don't even know if this is the same -- I
23 thought this one was a little different from the others. So if
24 it's not, I guess, it's a general question. What's missing?
25 What's the information missing?

26
27 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

28 Legislator Fleming, I must again address your comments as being
29 inaccurate. You sat in those committee meetings. You got the same
30 information we all had. You were here for the questions that were
31 proposed. To offer on public record that you have no information,
32 that you were in the dark is completely inaccurate. You attended
33 those committee meetings. You voted each and every time to uphold
34 the tabling. You voted for it. So you voting at that time in the
35 dark, is that what you're trying to say? You were in the dark at
36 the time you cast your vote to table.

37
38 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

39 Chair, if I may --

40
41 **LEG. FLEMING:**

42 I have not been in the conversations. I haven't been. I'm trying
43 to be supportive of things that will move this forward. And so I
44 have voted with the majority of the committee on this because I'm
45 told at the public committee meetings that there's missing
46 information.

47
48 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

49 And there continues to be.

50
51 **LEG. FLEMING:**

52 I'm not in on the conversations otherwise. No, I'm not.

53
54 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

55 There continues to be that missing information. Nothing has
56 changed since the last committee meeting, Legislator, nothing.

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LEG. ANKER:
Chair, if I may step in?

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
Yes, Michelle.

MICHELLE ZARIFIS:
Just to provide clarity. Apologies. We also needed to amend the funding source for this resolution. So that was another reason.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
We will have the presentation when we get the information that's needed. Anyone else on the motion to table?

LEG. ANKER:
I have a question.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:
Again, there are some questions and a presentation would be really helpful if we could have that because it's millions and millions and millions of dollars, right? Or -- no. 1.5 million? I don't have --

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
Well, there's different -- there's varying amounts on each one of these IRs.

LEG. ANKER:
So two questions I have.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
Yes.

LEG. ANKER:
Holding up on this resolution, is it going to affect our ability to gain partnership money as we move forward at this point?

MICHELLE ZARIFIS:
I'll have the Commissioner speak to that.

LEG. ANKER:
Okay. And the other question, it talks about electric. Does that include hybrid electric cars?

MICHELLE ZARIFIS:
I'll have the Commissioner speak to that as well.

LEG. ANKER:
Okay, thank you.

COMMISSIONER BROWN:
Good afternoon. Commissioner Joe Brown, DPW. To answer your

1 question -- what was first question again?

2

3 **LEG. ANKER:**

4 Will it affect our ability to acquire partnership funding?

5

6 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

7 Not currently. We are going after some funding that's available in
8 the infrastructure bill and other sources. But it's not going to
9 affect that based on the current applications. It doesn't mean --
10 there's a lot of new applications; new possibilities for funding
11 we're expecting to come out over the course in the next year. So,
12 it could potentially but not currently.

02:48PM

13

14 **LEG. ANKER:**

15 All right, that's good. And the other question is when you talk
16 about the electric stations, does that include also charging hybrid
17 cars?

18

19 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

20 Not currently. We're not that far along. This would be electric
21 vehicles. We're not at that point but we have had discussions with
22 fire rescue emergency services, for instance, who want something
23 that would be a different form of a hybrid that would run either a
24 hundred percent on fuel or a hundred percent on electricity so you
25 can go from one to the other during an emergency. So we are
26 looking into those types of options, but we have an awesome hybrid
27 fleet as it is right now that we are using even more as the
28 electrification technology continues to improve.

02:48PM

29

30 **LEG. ANKER:**

31 Yeah, I have a hybrid Toyota and I think it's 70 miles per gallon
32 and it's both gasoline, I can use that; and I just plug the thing
33 into my garage wall. And it uses very, very little electricity.
34 My electric bill has not changed hardly. So I think again with the
35 concerns of all electric, I can understand that because we don't
36 have the charging stations and that's why we're here today to try
37 to figure out where we can place them and how we can get more of
38 them. But I personally prefer the hybrid right at this point
39 because they work really well. So maybe we can consider
40 incorporating that into our fleet. And I know we already -- do we
41 have the ones that plug in and also take gasoline?

02:50PM

42

43 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

44 Not currently, but, you know, we're just at the beginning of the
45 process.

46

47 **LEG. ANKER:**

48 Right. Thank you.

49

50 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

51 Legislator Piccirillo.

52

53 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

54 Thank you. Actually I'm good; it was answered.

55

56

1 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

2 Okay, very good. Any other questions for Commish? Commissioner,
3 you might as well just hang around. All right. So we have a
4 motion and a second on IR 1065. Seeing no other motions, Mr.
5 Clerk, you okay?

6
7 **CLERK TASSONE:**

8 Motion to table.

9
10 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

11 Yeah, motion to table, right. Seeing no other, all those in favor?
12 Opposed?

13
14 **LEG. FLEMING:**

15 Opposed.

16
17 **CLERK TASSONE:**

18 Five. (VOTE: 5-1-0-1/LEG. FLEMING OPPOSED/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT
19 PRESENT)

20
21 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

22 Abstentions? All right. Moving on, IR 1174, Appropriating PAYGO
23 funds in connection with Purchase of Replacement Non- Public Safety
24 Vehicles (CP 1823). (Co Exec.).

25
26 **LEG. TROTТА:**

27 Motion to table.

28
29 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

02:51PM 30 I have a motion to table from Legislator Trotta; second Legislator
31 Thorne. Anyone on that motion? Seeing none, all in favor?
32 Opposed? Abstentions?

33
34 **CLERK TASSONE:**

35 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT)

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

38 IR 1174 is tabled. And I forgot to mention, I'm sorry, IR 1065
39 prior to that was also tabled.

40
41 **IR 1294, Amending the 2023 Operating Budget, transferring**
42 **Assessment Stabilization Reserve funds and appropriating funds in**
43 **connection with the Purchase of Sewer Facility Maintenance**
44 **Equipment capital project 8164. (Co. Exec.).** Now, again on this,
45 though, we had some explanation at last meeting that certain
46 vehicles were removed from this project, the agreed -- well, we had
47 agreed to amend language that has not yet been submitted. Both
48 sides have agreed to table this until such language is approved --
49 submitted and approved. So, motion to table from Legislator
50 Trotta.

51
52 **LEG. FLEMING:**

53 Just a point of clarification, Mr. Chair?

54
55 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

56 Do we have a second?

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02:52PM

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LEG. PICCIRILLO:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
We have a second from Legislator Piccirillo. Yes.

LEG. FLEMING:
You said both sides have agreed. What are the two sides?

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
That would be this Committee and the County Executive's office.

LEG. FLEMING:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
Anyone else on the motion to table? Seeing none, all in favor?
Opposed? Abstentions?

CLERK TASSONE:
Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT)

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
IR 1294 is tabled hopefully for the last time. And that brings us
to IR 1392, **Appropriating funds in connection with Construction of
Sidewalks on Various County Roads (CP 5497). (Co. Exec.)**. I'll
make a motion to table this one as well as there's been some
questions raised from the County Executive's office on previously
agreed to language. So we will wait and receive some other
language so I'm going to make a motion to table. Is there a
second?

LEG. TROTTA:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
Second from Legislator Trotta. Anyone on that motion to table?

LEG. FLEMING:
On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
Legislator Fleming.

LEG. FLEMING:
Thank you. Commissioner, is the County Executive in agreement with
the tabling of this particular sidewalk legislation?

COMMISSIONER BROWN:
No, Legislator, I don't believe so. We did change the wording to
make it clear that we are not --

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
I'm going to ask Michelle Zarifis to come up to the microphone,
please. Can you clear that last question up?

1
2 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

3 Hi, Chair. Yes, we're working with the Legislature to figure out
4 what the amendments needed to be made are. So we just need that
5 clarification before moving forward.

6
7 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

8 Thank you, Michelle. Any other questions?
9

10 **LEG. FLEMING:**

11 So the County Executive does support the tabling?
12

13 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

14 Yes.
15

16 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

17 The Chair recognizes Counsel, William Duffy.
18

19 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

02:53PM 20 Just to be clear we worked on language. You sent me over language
21 on Friday, which I said we were comfortable with. As I'm told that
22 you're not comfortable with the own language you did and that's why
23 we're tabling it.
24

25 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

26 So we just need clarification on our end on a few things as well.
27 So until that is done.
28

29 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

02:54PM 30 Right. We thought this was a done deal. This came as a surprise
31 to me as well, but if the language isn't there, both sides aren't
32 sure, we'll table it one more time, hopefully for the last time,
33 we'll get this through. On the motion, Legislator Anker.
34

35 **LEG. ANKER:**

36 Yeah, my concern, too, is just making sure that we're taking care
37 of our roads and our infrastructure in a safe way. My son was
38 literally blocks away from the devastation in Philadelphia when the
39 whole road just fell in. So, I mean, that's an extreme example but
02:54PM 40 if we can just all get on the same page and just make sure that
41 we're all safe especially with the infrastructure. Thank you.
42

43 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

44 Are you referring to I 95 where the fire was?
45

46 **LEG. ANKER:**

47 (Nodding head yes)
48

49 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

02:55PM 50 Oh, that wasn't -- okay, I get it. Thank you. Okay, so we have a
51 motion and a second to table IR 1392. Anyone else on that motion?
52 Seeing none, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
53

54 **CLERK TASSONE:**

55 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT)
56

1
2 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
3 IR 1392 is tabled.

4
5 **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

6
7 Moving on, Introductory Resolutions. **IR 1529, Appropriating funds**
8 **in connection with Application and Removal of Lane Markings (CP**
9 **5037). (Co. Exec.).** I have a motion to table, Legislator Trotta.
10 Is there a second?

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

14
15 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
16 Second from Legislator Thorne. I understand this is another issue
17 with language as are the next two. So if there is -- if you want
18 to clear the air now, now is the time. Any questions on the
19 language? Same issue; same exact issue as the last IR, Legislator
20 Fleming.

21
22 **LEG. FLEMING:**
23 Meaning that the Committee has asked for language that wasn't
24 exchanged; is that what's happening?

25
26 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
27 Legislator recognizes Counsel William Duffy.

28
29 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**
30 We had suggested language or requested language that was -- their
31 standard resolution says that it's funding a certain project but
32 that may change. And there was no system where we were notified of
33 that the funding, about the change. We have requested and worked
34 on language where they provide notification to the Legislature if
35 they change to the project that they're working on. I thought we
36 had language that everybody was comfortable with. I found out that
37 that wasn't the case.

38
39 **LEG. FLEMING:**
40 Thank you very much. I do appreciate that clarification. Is it
41 for every single resolution on the agenda?

42
43 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
44 It is not.

45
46 **LEG. FLEMING:**
47 So it's for?

48
49 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**
50 It's for projects where certain candidate sites are listed but they
51 want the ability to maybe vary from that list and work on something
52 else. We understand that that comes up from time to time. We just
53 want some type of notification process in place. What had been
54 suggested that in normal day-to-day operations that they would give
55 us two-weeks notice but in case of an emergency they could do the
56 emergency work and then come back and notify us as soon as

1 practical. It's my understanding that some in the administration
2 wants further language clarifying the emergency situation aspect of
3 it. So we're just kind of configuring out that last little bit.

4
5 **LEG. FLEMING:**

6 I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

7
8 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

9 And just for the record, this Committee has approved hundreds of
10 millions of dollars in improvements to our infrastructure, to our
11 county property, to a whole slew of projects. We are not looking
12 to stand in the way of progress in any way, shape or form. We have
13 just come to the point where these requests, these resolutions have
14 come in without -- you know, we spend more time asking questions on
15 the resolutions that are very vague. We made it very clear months
16 ago that these IRs will no longer be considered if we don't have
17 the appropriate information. Instead of going back and forth
18 asking questions what's it going to, what's not going to, what's
19 going to happen if it doesn't get this if we don't get a proper
20 grant, if we don't have the matching funds, if you decide to change
21 your mind, is it an emergency, it's not an emergency, is it going
22 to go somewhere else.

23
24 As elected officials in our district, we wrote on the resolution
25 for money to be appropriated to a certain project. We go back and
26 tell our district members, our civics, our chambers, whoever else
27 just to learn that something else came up, and I'm not saying, you
28 know, it could have been an emergency, maybe not, just a change of
29 mind, different direction. One Legislator asked for -- to move her
30 project ahead in front of another one. All of a sudden those
31 projects aren't getting done. There's no notification, no
32 communication. We have to find out months down the road. That is
33 no longer going to be the case. We are going to run a tighter ship
34 here. That was brought up months ago. And no one likes change, I
35 understand that, but change is here. Live with it; deal with it.
36 Be responsive to it so we don't have to hold up these projects any
37 longer in any one of our districts.

38
39 So, if I haven't been clear before as Chairman of Public Works, I'm
40 making it clear now. Again. You can thank yourselves for any
41 holdup on any projects. It's not a matter of lack of trust. It's
42 a matter of lack of communication. I want to be perfectly clear on
43 the record. This is not a partisan politics thing. This is a
44 mismanagement issue; a lack of communication issue. Am I clear?
45 You got anymore questions regarding appropriate language that has
46 to be worked out between the County and this Legislature and
47 Counsel, very good, let's move on. So we have a motion and a
48 second to table IR 1529. Anyone on the motion? Seeing none, all
49 in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

50
51 **CLERK TASSONE:**

52 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT)

53
54 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

55 IR 1529 is tabled. IR 1536, Appropriating PAYGO funds in
56 connection with the Purchase of Public Works Fleet Maintenance

1 **Equipment Replacement (CP 1769). (Co. Exec.).**

2
3 **LEG. TROTТА:**

4 Motion to table.

5
6 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

7 Motion to table by Legislator Trotta; second by Legislator Thorne.
8 Anyone on that motion?

9
10 **LEG. FLEMING:**

11 Yes, Mr. Chair.

12
13 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

14 Yes, Legislator Fleming.

15
16 **LEG. FLEMING:**

17 On this, the purchase of publically -- so this is a purchase of
18 maintenance equipment?

19
20 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

21 Correct.

22
23 **LEG. FLEMING:**

24 And so is the notification language that Mr. Duffy was describing,
25 is it -- is that the concern on this one as well? Is it that they
26 may buy different equipment rather than equipment that's referred
27 to and you need 14 days for that?

28
29 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

03:00PM 30 What I'm being told from Counsel is that, once again, the language
31 that we thought we had agreed to verbally has, again, not been
32 submitted or there's been some last minutes changes to that or
33 concerns with that language. So my understanding is that that
34 should be corrected. The Chair recognizes Counsel William Duffy.

35
36 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

37 Also one of the issues are that if you -- they do provide backup
38 material that says these are the vehicles we want to buy, but if
03:01PM 39 you read the resolution it never refers to the backup or the
40 specific vehicles. So we've also just asked just reference the
41 backup, that you're gonna -- you want to purchase these vehicles
42 that are listed in this backup document, or if you're not going to
43 list all the vehicles, it's not provided. So even though you have
44 a backup document that lists a bunch of vehicles, pursuant to the
45 resolution that's before us, we're just appropriating money
46 without any guarantee that that's going to the purchase of any
47 specific vehicles. And we just want to tie it to something.

48
49 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

03:01PM 50 Chair, if I may, this is not for vehicles. These are tools and key
51 entry locks and tire -- -

52
53 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

54 This is 1536, right, correct? Okay.

1 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

2 Yes. These are things in our mechanics' shops. We do this every
3 year.

4
5 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

6 Seventy thousand dollar heavy duty lift?

7
8 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

9 Yes, heavy duty lift.

03:02PM 10

11 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

12 Very significant tools. It's not a \$5 hammer or a screwdriver.
13 The cheapest piece of equipment is \$10,000. I mean, if we're
14 allocating all this money, I think we should have some guarantee in
15 the resolution that that's what you're going to purchase. I'm not
16 asking you to count screws or screwdrivers here.

17
18 **LEG. FLEMING:**

03:02PM 20

19 So you're looking for an inventory of things that are going to be
20 purchased with the expended funds?

21
22 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

23 We're requesting that they have a backup that's says "we want to
24 purchase this piece of equipment," this money, that somewhere that
25 backup is referenced in the resolution. Right now you may think
26 that that's what's it is, but there's no guarantee in this
27 resolution that that's what the money's going towards. I'm not
28 accusing anybody of any wrongdoing; but to be efficient and to be
29 accurate, I think, it should refer to what they're buying.

03:03PM 30

31 **LEG. FLEMING:**

32 Yeah, I totally understand and I just think it's very important at
33 this point that there be clarity on these issues. Was there a memo
34 or, you know, anything in writing that listed what the concerns
35 were so that those of us who weren't in the conversations would
36 have an understanding of what the specifics of the holdup are?
37 Because I think it's valuable information.

38
39 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

03:03PM 40

40 Well, we had, like I said, we had gone and had a couple of Zoom
41 meetings. We've gone back and forth in e-mails with what we
42 thought was appropriate. And I thought, like again, I thought we
43 had an agreement but I think my understanding is that
44 Administration -- part of the Administration we had an agreement
45 with and others -- then others raised some concerns. Happy to
46 entertain their concerns. So we're just waiting on that further
47 revision so we can sign off on that, we can move forward.

48
49 **LEG. FLEMING:**

03:03PM 50

50 Mr. Chair, as a point of order, would it be -- could I ask that a
51 memo be distributed to the members of the Committee who are not in
52 these conversations so that we have a clearer understanding of the
53 specifics of the request?

54
55 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

56 Yeah, absolutely.

1
2 **LEG. FLEMING:**

3 It might make it move more quickly.
4

5 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

6 That's not out of line. Listen, I'm arguing here for more
7 communication. So, I would absolutely agree to something like
8 that. And as counsel -- and, again, this is -- I don't take any
9 joy in this. This is frustrating to say the least, you know, to
03:04PM 10 get in the way of progress and to get the proper supplies and
11 equipment to a department that probably desperately needs it for
12 the services of our residents. And had this been cleared up, this
13 is like a very minor technical issue, but one that should be
14 addressed and not ignored or have any kind of -- be a football of
15 any sorts. I'm not sure. I don't understand why this is
16 happening. A resistance from either side; I'm not really sure.
17 But I would urge both sides, both DPW, our Counsel and any other
18 player involved to come to a resolution on what seems to be from my
19 perspective something very simple. No one's asking anybody to
03:05PM 20 relinquish control of any kind. It's just communicate. I get it.
21 Change is difficult sometimes. There's been a way of doing things
22 around here for quite sometime and I get that. We're moving to a
23 different strategy now. And you have to adapt. We all have to
24 adapt. So for the sake of our residents, for the sake of our
25 departments, our employees, please adapt. And let's move ahead.
26 It's just going to lengthen our agenda for next time. Okay? Thank
27 you. Did we vote on that, Mr. Clerk?
28

29 **CLERK TASSONE:**

03:06PM 30 We did not. We do have a motion and a second to table.
31

32 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

33 We're still on 1536; correct?
34

35 **CLERK TASSONE:**

36 That's correct.
37

38 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

39 We have a motion to table; a motion and a second to table 1536.
03:06PM 40 Anyone on that motion? All in favor? Opposed?
41

42 **CLERK TASSONE:**

43 Five. (VOTE: 5-0-0-2/LEGISLATORS KRUPSKI and PICCIRILLO NOT
44 PRESENT)
45

46 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

47 Just say it. IR 1536, that's not even funny, 1536 is tabled.
48 Hopefully this is along the lines of the last one but IR 1537,
49 **Accepting and appropriating 100% NYS PAVE-NY in the amount of**
50 **\$2,069,569, EWR \$607,996 and POP \$1,379,713 Program funds and**
51 **amending the 2023 Capital Budget and Program appropriating**
52 **additional funds in connection with Strengthening and Improving**
53 **County Roads (CP 5014). (Co. Exec.).**
54

55 **LEG. FLEMING:**

56 Motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

1
2 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

3 I have a motion to approve. And now I have motion to table from
4 Legislator Trotta; second by Legislator Thorne. The motion to
5 table.

6
7 **LEG. FLEMING:**

8 This is a hundred percent grant from New York State.
9

10 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

11 Yes, ma'am, I see that.
12

13 **LEG. TROTТА:**

14 This is something that's been -- if I may, through the Chair, this
15 is something that's been going for months. The Chair's been asking
16 for more detailed information. He hasn't received it. And until
17 we get it, it's not going to be approved. The money, you know,
18 it's still -- you say, oh, it's grant money, guess what? It's
19 taxpayer money. We're not going to give the County Executive a
03:07PM 20 blank check to do whatever he wants. The party's over.
21

22 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

23 That's the position of Legislator Trotta. We're just looking for
24 more communication. We're looking for the same language between
25 our Counsel, for the backup to state what it's going to be used for
26 in case there is a change of plans. At this point my head is
27 spinning.
28

29 **LEG. FLEMING:**

03:08PM 30 This is -- we used to call it *take the money*. This is a hundred
31 percent grant coming from New York State to support road
32 reconstruction. I would definitely be concerned that we're going
33 to lose millions of dollars if we don't -- see, this is different,
34 Mr. Chair, from the ones that you were describing along the lines
35 of notice or backup of specifics. This is different from what you
36 described so far.
37

38 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

03:08PM 39 I do not disagree with you, Legislator Fleming. So why in that
40 case would the appropriate language not be forward if the concern
41 was shared by everybody; the same concerns you and I have are
42 obviously not shared by everybody. Because the language that was
43 requested has not been brought forward. So I question that. Why
44 we are doing this again? Why are we asking yet again, why are we
45 all sitting here doing the same thing we did two cycles ago, if not
46 three? I'm really perplexed and disturbed by it if I'm being
47 honest. And it seems like there's a push and pull here. And I
48 don't want to get back on that box. I just want to move through
49 and have an understanding this is -- what we got a stalemate here?
03:09PM 50 I don't understand it.
51

52 **LEG. FLEMING:**

53 But, Nick, this is CHIPS. This is the CHIPS funding. This is
54 potholes.
55
56

1 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

2 The chair recognizes Counsel, William Duffy.

3
4 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

5 But the same issue is they list candidate sites and they reserve
6 the right to change any of those sites. The Administration --

7
8 **LEG. FLEMING:**

9 This is the notice objection.

03:09PM 10

11 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

12 Yes.

13
14 **LEG. FLEMING:**

15 May I put a question to the Commissioner?

16
17 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

18 Can I just finish what I was saying? We did agree on language.
19 They sent over a resolution that had the language in it and then
20 withdrew it and put back the original motion.

03:09PM 21

22 **LEG. FLEMING:**

23 Okay. May I just ask a question?

24
25 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

26 You have the floor, Legislator Fleming.

27
28 **LEG. FLEMING:**

29 Thank you. Will the CHIPS funding or the pave or potholes funding,
30 any of the funding that's listed in this reso be jeopardized if
31 we're unable to move forward on it?

03:10PM 32

33 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

34 Yes, Legislator, I believe there are deadlines associated with
35 these three, you know, hundred percent state funded grants. So,
36 yes, we do need to move forward to be able to spend the state grant
37 funding.

38
39 **LEG. FLEMING:**

40 And do you know the specific deadline because I'm seeing this is
41 over \$4 million in state support for our roads.

03:10PM 42

43 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

44 No, I could ask. I'm not sure what the chief engineer does. I
45 could ask him to come up and speak to that issue with specific
46 deadlines but --

47
48 **LEG. FLEMING:**

49 With something of this enormity, I'm wondering if we could just
50 discharge this one. If there's no danger of losing the funding,
51 it's one thing. But if we're talking about over \$4 million of road
52 reconstruction funding, I think we should be clear whether we're
53 going to lose that if we're unable to do it until the next cycle.

03:10PM 54

55 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

56 I have questions also but right now it looks like Michelle --

1 Michelle, you want to add something?

2

3 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

4 Yeah, Chair, if I may.

5

6 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

7 Yes.

8

9 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

03:11PM 10 So I just spoke to the chief engineer. I believe we have until the
11 end of the year so we have time. We are okay with tabling this for
12 a cycle.

13

14 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

15 Great. Because my question would be if it was that important, if
16 we're that close to losing, why was the resolution submitted and
17 then withdrawn and resubmitted to the same exact way? What is
18 going on? What is going on? But even though we have 'til the end
19 of the year, that is really not behooving our residents and we are
03:11PM 20 not playing nice in the sandbox here, ladies and gentlemen. I am
21 frustrated. And that's an understatement. Well, we have options
22 here. We can either adapt, conform, all get together; or we can
23 recommend a discharge without recommendation, approve it, and then
24 we make our own amendments to it. But that doesn't really solve
25 the issue of having an understanding of what's expected and what's
26 it going to take to make this process work. Because I for one am
27 really tired of this. This is unnecessary. And it's an impediment
28 on the services to our residents. And I'm going to ask nicely that
29 both sides communicate, keep us all in the loop on those
03:12PM 30 communications so we can chime in and maybe put our recommendation
31 or two cents in. So I'll be more than happy to do so. So do we
32 see -- Mr. Commissioner, do we see a new resolution coming forward
33 because one was submitted, withdrawn, and then resubmitted in the
34 original fashion. What is the next play?

35

36 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

37 I think I would have to defer to the County Executive's office --

38

39 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

40 She's on her way up.

41

42 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

43 -- comments to them.

44

45 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

46 Chair, if I may, I think it's already been stated several times
47 just we need clarification on our end before moving forward.

48

49 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

03:13PM 50 Then I'm going to ask a favor that, you know, the fact that the
51 original resolution did not go through because you needed original
52 language, you got on board, you submitted something else and then
53 you pulled that and resubmitted the original one. That to me, you
54 know what, that's a little bit insulting that that would happen in
55 that manner. It's sort of like, you know, disregarding the wishes
56 of this Committee.

1
2 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

3 So, I apologize. It was actually an administrative error.
4

5 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

6 Okay, we're going to give you an absolute break since you walked up
7 a very different aisle not too long ago and you're just
8 re-acclimating yourself. So, I get it, Michelle, it's all good.
9 Is anyone out there that could answer any questions? Or are we
03:14PM 10 going to be good going forward or are we going to, you know, do I
11 have your word on this, Michelle, that we're good to go?
12

13 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

14 Yeah, we'll move forward and speak further with the Legislature to
15 try and get this ball rolling.
16

17 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

18 All right. If there's anybody I can count on, Michelle, it's you.
19 Legislator Thorne, did you have something to say?
20

03:15PM 21 **LEG. THORNE:**

22 I just wanted to take a minute with this young lady who's up and
23 down this aisle all day, but congratulations on your recent
24 marriage. We all are so happy for you.
25

26 (Applause)
27

28 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

29 Thank you, Legislator.
30

31 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

32 Anthony? Legislator? All right. So we have a motion to table.
33 Is there -- we're going to uphold that until -- we heard from
34 Michelle and the County Executive's Office. I think we can wait
35 one more time. So we have a motion and a second to table. Anybody
36 on that motion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
37

38 **CLERK TASSONE:**

39 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT)
40

41 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

42 All right, that's IR 1537 is tabled. **IR 1541, Authorizing an**
43 **execution of a new Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk**
44 **County Sewer District No. 3 – Southwest with Costco Melville**
45 **(HU-1027). (Co. Exec.).** I'll make a motion to approve, how about
46 that, we start moving.
47

48 **LEG. TROTТА:**

49 Second.
50

51 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

52 We have a second. Is that Thorne? Oh, I'm sorry, Legislator
53 Trotta. We have a motion and a second to approve. Anybody on that
54 motion? Then we will place that on the consent calendar.
55
56

1 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

2 I'm voting no.

3

4 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

5 Okay, so just to be clear, we have a motion and a second on 1541.

6 We have one opposition. Is that correct?

7

8 **CLERK TASSONE:**

9 We didn't call the vote.

10

11 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

12 Call the vote.

13

14 **CLERK TASSONE:**

15 This is to place on the consent calendar, Mr. Chair?

16

17 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

18 Okay, yeah. We're just going to re-vote just to make sure it's

19 clear for the record. All in favor? Opposed?

03:16PM

20

21 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

22 Opposed.

23

24 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

25 Abstentions?

26

27 **CLERK TASSONE:**

28 Five. (VOTE: 5-1-0-1/LEGISLATOR PICCIRILLO OPPOSED/LEGISLATOR
29 KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT/CONSENT CALENDAR)

30

31 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

32 1541 is approved for the consent calendar. IR 1542, Authorizing
33 execution of a new Agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk
34 County Sewer District No. 6 – Kings Park with St. Catherine's of
35 Siena Medical Center (SM-1214). (Co. Exec.).

36

37 **LEG. TROTТА:**

38 I make a motion to approve but I have a question.

39

40 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

41 We have a motion to approve. Is there a second? I'll second it.

42 On the motion, Legislator Trotta.

43

44 **LEG. TROTТА:**

45 Yeah. Why -- apparently this expired in 2010. Why are we just
46 getting around to this now?

47

48 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

49 Legislator, we put in a new process for some of these expired -- I
50 wouldn't say expired but very old applications to the sewer
51 agencies. So now that they have to renew annually, it's something
52 that the Chair was very involved in.

53

54 **LEG. TROTТА:**

55 Annually they have to be renewed?

56

1 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

2 They have to be brought up -- if they've expired, if they've gone
3 past their original expiration date, they have to be brought up to
4 be current.

5
6 **LEG. TROTТА:**

7 They raise the rates whenever we did this; would they go up every
8 year no matter what?

9
10 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

11 No, legally they've not been raising the rates. And, you know, we
12 consulted with Counsel on that unless it was --

13
14 **LEG. TROTТА:**

15 They haven't raised them at all?

16
17 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

18 No, I'm not aware of any that we've raised, but we did -- that
19 question did come up. It came from the Chair. It came from others
03:18PM 20 and the Committee and we did ask that question of legal what we can
21 raise and what we couldn't.

22
23 **LEG. TROTТА:**

24 So we're raising the rates. Do we get 3% a year for the past 13
25 years or is it just 3%?

26
27 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

28 To the ratepayers, you're talking about --

29
30 **LEG. TROTТА:**

31 I'm talking about the hospital, is it going up, you know, 3% times
32 33% increase or is it a 3% increase? And how long is this contract
33 for?

34
35 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

36 Yeah, they'll have an increase. I could ask the specific increase
37 for this one of our chief engineer Janice McGovern if you'd like.

38
39 **LEG. TROTТА:**

03:18PM 40 You can't say no. The sewage has to go somewhere obviously.

41
42 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

43 It doesn't exceed 3% but I can ask her.

44
45 **LEG. TROTТА:**

46 Yeah, I mean, you think it's 3% -- are they making up for the 13
47 years or is it just 3%?

48
49 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

03:18PM 50 They're renewing their existing agreement so that it's going past
51 the expiration date.

52
53 **LEG. TROTТА:**

54 Do we have -- in the backup is that agreement there in the backup?
55 I didn't see it.

56

1 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

2 I don't know. You know what, when it comes to this, this is just a
3 -- this is a situation -- let me just clarify. This was a
4 situation, I sit on the sewer agency, we recognize that this was
5 kind of a preexisting issue here where some of these renewals were
6 not being done and there was really no oversight on it. We changed
7 the rules in that commission -- in the sewer agency that now
8 Commissioner Brown and his staff are reviewing all applications to
9 make sure they find -- everybody's up to date. And believe me,
10 we've had some 30 years expired; we have some 20, 10. Now we did
11 adopt new rules on the process. And we have something in the works
12 where going forward there could be fines levied, but that's going
13 to be an act of legislation. We can't do that without an active
14 legislation for these, but we're giving all agencies that are out
15 of compliance right now an opportunity to come in and -- so far
16 every time our letters went out, they've respond, you know.

03:19PM

17
18 **LEG. TROTТА:**

19 I mean, it's tough to vote on this if we don't know how much
20 they're going up, if they're going up; how long is this going to be
21 for.

03:20PM

22
23 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

24 Rates do go up if they're connected to our sewer district. A lot
25 of what appears before us are applications that connect to private
26 sewer district. In this case it's our sewer district so the rates
27 would go but the connection fee did not change just to clarify.

28
29 **LEG. TROTТА:**

30 Oh, it's connected. So the rates -- maybe there's someone in the
31 back know how much they're going up? Is it 3%?

03:20PM

32
33 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

34 Is Janice coming up?

35
36 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

37 Yeah, Janice could maybe provide further information. But it is
38 capped at 3%.

39
40 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

41 No, it's preexisting. Yeah, it's preexisting.

42
43 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McGOVERN:**

44 Janice McGovern, Chief Engineer, Public Works. So I don't have the
45 exact value. I know there was a resolution, I don't know, probably
46 about a year ago that in Kings Park had a whole schedule of how the
47 rates were. I just don't have it memorized at the moment. But for
48 this particular one, years ago when the sewer agency agreement was
49 signed by both parties, at the time there was not a renewal
50 process. So after 25 years, the contract where they had already
51 connected and these people had already connected and they had
52 already previously paid. So they had already paid but there was --
53 there's an agreement. And, you know, it's about this thick
54 (indicating) and it says, you know, things like if you did not take
55 good care of it or if you wanted the county to take over your sewer
56 district, there are processes. It's all written out in this

03:21PM

1 contract.

2
3 Now what was lacking, which was brought up, was a continuity so
4 that when that contract expired, I think it was 25 years, there
5 just was no method or followup to have that contract reenacted and
6 resigned. And that was what was being enforced recently. And
7 that's why we see many of these right now. It's a good idea just
8 to make sure that a contract after it expired, even if it really
9 has no impact, there's not more fees being paid because the fees
10 were already paid.

11
12 **LEG. TROTТА:**

13 How much is it going up for the hospital? Is it going up --
14 because it hasn't had -- I'm assuming hasn't had an increase in the
15 past ten years. If the contract stops at 25 years and it was ten
16 year ago, did it go up?

17
18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McGOVERN:**

19 So when you make -- okay, it's a little bit different. So when you
20 -- this is particularly -- the fees were paid back in the day. The
21 fees to connect this hospital and all the value was paid years ago.

22
23 **LEG. TROTТА:**

24 Yeah.

25
26 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McGOVERN:**

27 It was already paid in full. So we're renewing the contract by
28 which they connected years ago. So that they already paid. That
29 is not going up. That was paid. Now your question is a little bit
30 different than what this is about. Your question is about their
31 operating costs and their other costs.

32
33 **LEG. TROTТА:**

34 The flow. How much sewage they get, you know, their monthly
35 payment, is it going up?

36
37 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McGOVERN:**

38 So, I can't recollect exactly right now what we went over and was
39 in the resolution in the backup of the resolution months ago that
40 had the fees and which years how much it was going up. But we can
41 send that to you afterwards. I just don't remember it by heart.

42
43 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

44 See, one of the major issues we had here was these contracts were
45 good for 20, 25 years; some less, some more. And it wasn't
46 incumbent -- we didn't have a method to identify when they were up.
47 There was nothing. It was solely dependent on the contractors to
48 renew. And a lot of these places changed management firms. They
49 had no idea. There was a whole slew of --

50
51 **LEG. TROTТА:**

52 Does the hospital know -- have you been in contact with the
53 hospital? Do they know what's going up?

54
55 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McGOVERN:**

56 So what's going on in this particular thing that's being looked at

1 today is really just signing -- resigning of a contract that
2 expired on fees that were already paid and the connections were
3 already done years ago.

4
5 **LEG. TROTТА:**

6 What about the flow charges?

7
8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McGOVERN:**

9 Flow charges is a separate situation than what this is today, but
10 those will be going up in a scheduled way that was voted on --

11
12 **LEG. TROTТА:**

13 Is it scheduled in that contract?

14
15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McGOVERN:**

16 In this particular contract --

17
18 **LEG. TROTТА:**

19 You know something, I'm just going to withdraw my motion to
20 approve. Motion to table it; then you can send me everything over
21 and I'll read it.

22
23 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

24 Yes, Legislator, just to give you a little more information, we
25 have the connection fee, which they don't have to pay again to
26 renew. And there are increases in the rates but the chief engineer
27 doesn't recall them offhand, you know, having so many customers.
28 We can get back to you with what those increases are. In answer --

29
30 **LEG. TROTТА:**

31 Because I'm sure you know there's a pending lawsuit with that sewer
32 district and that you raised the rates, you know, three thousand
33 percent or something.

34
35 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

36 We can get back with the history of how the rates have gone up.
37 But they were aware. They applied. It was they -- the hospital,
38 you know, hires an engineering firm on their behalf, they apply.
39 So they're aware that they renewed their connection agreement.

40
41 **LEG. TROTТА:**

42 All right, there's no rush -- I mean it's been 13 years. I think
43 one cycle will be okay that we can table this for now. Thank you.
44 So I'll make a motion to table.

45
46 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

47 Is there a second?

48
49 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

50 Second.

51
52 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

53 Second from Legislator Piccirillo. So, just for clarity, Janice,
54 so that information was not in the backup, is that what you're
55 saying? I know it's a separate thing we're talking about.

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McGOVERN:**

2 It's a separate issue, so it wouldn't have been applicable to be in
3 the backup of this, which is resigning of the contract because it's
4 a separate situation. But I want to -- we can send you what was
5 part of that backup from the resolution about the fees from Kings
6 Park. I forget. Was it eight months ago, something like that.

7
8 **LEG. TROTТА:**

9 I'm more concerned -- that hospital's not doing very well. It's
10 one of the lower performing hospitals. And I just want to check
11 with them to make sure they know about this. And I want to see
12 how much it's going up because, as you know, there's a pending
13 lawsuit about this.

14
15 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

16 Commissioner, didn't they come in through the sewer agency?

17
18 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

19 They did, yeah. And this agreement has nothing to do with their
20 rates.

21
22 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

23 Right.

24
25 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

26 Their annual rates --

27
28 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

29 This is just renewing the agreement with the County that was
30 already -- I think you're mixing the two subjects, Legislator
31 Trotta.

32
33 **LEG. TROTТА:**

34 I may be but it's been 13 years since they didn't have one and I
35 don't think 30 days will make a difference, so. I appreciate the
36 indulgence to table it for a cycle so I can clear it up.

37
38 **LEG. ANKER:**

39 On the motion.

40
41 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

42 Legislator Thorne, you want to say something?

43
44 **LEG. THORNE:**

45 Thank you and good afternoon. I do have a question just because --
46 and maybe it's a new-guy mistake, but when we start looking into
47 these contracts that have been around for quite sometime, are we
48 then updating -- when it becomes time for them to renew the
49 contract, are we then updating the contracts so it does have fee
50 schedules and everything in it? I'm not talking about what
51 happened ten years ago. Whatever happened ten years ago, happened
52 ten years ago. But when the new contracts are coming out of
53 something that expires, do we -- do we review the contract and make
54 sure it has everything spelled out like fee schedules? Because my
55 concern is that that would speed the process up quite a bit if
56 everything is spelled out in the new contracts. And I'm not

1 necessarily talking just about this particular reso. I'm talking
2 about in general. Are we looking at that as a general to bring
3 everything on some kind of normal formula of a contract as it
4 relates to the sewers?
5

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McGOVERN:**

7 I don't believe, and I will check with Afreen Wright and Boris
8 Rukovets who have worked with the chair on developing the updating
9 of the signatures and reestablishing the contract. Because when
03:27PM 10 the contracts expired, although it was a contract which initially
11 was for paying the connection fee and having someone as a
12 contractee come into the district, the exact details of the fees
13 were not in those contracts. I do not believe right now the exact
14 details are in the extended contracts but they reference the
15 billing process and the process for payment fees. But I do not
16 believe the exact values are in there. I would like to be able to
17 verify that since I'm not a hundred percent sure right now to give
18 you that answer.
19

20 **LEG. THORNE:**

21 Yeah, outstanding, it doesn't have to be answered today. It just
22 seems that if it's normal standard practice for a 3% raise every
23 year or whatever -- or possible 3% raise, I would think that that
24 language would be in there. And, again, it doesn't have to be
25 answered today but it seems like as we approach some of these older
26 contracts that we update them so we don't keep going down the same
27 road with this over and over again, right. So whenever you get a
28 chance. It's fine. It's nothing pressing. It's just a suggestion
29 to make your job easier.
30

03:29PM 31 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McGOVERN:**

32 Okay.
33

34 **LEG. THORNE:**

35 Thank you. Thank you, Chair.
36

37 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

38 You're quite welcome. Again, I think these are suggestions that
39 help move these processes along so we're not stuck here in
03:29PM 40 committee asking these questions. The more information that we
41 have available to us in these resolutions, the better. But this is
42 something that we're learning as we go and, again, we're all going
43 to adapt and we'll find a way to streamline this. So, Legislator
44 Trotta, does your motion to table still stand?
45

46 **LEG. TROTТА:**

47 I don't think it's going to be -- yeah, I mean if they were to tell
48 me *we have to do this now* I would do it. But I just want to be
49 clear, you know, considering there's a pending lawsuit. So I
03:29PM 50 appreciate a tabling and we'll talk about it in the future. Thank
51 you.
52

53 **LEG. ANKER:**

54 On the motion.
55
56

1 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

2 On the motion, I'm sorry, Legislator Anker.

3
4 **LEG. ANKER:**

5 Again, I didn't hear a yes from you that this is not going to
6 affect as far as if we have to wait on this. Will we lose funding;
7 is this going to be an issue? I just want to make sure because
8 there was nothing on the record.

9
10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McGOVERN:**

11 No, this won't be an issue.

12
13 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

14 All right. We have a motion and a second, I do believe, is that
15 correct, Mr. Clerk, on the tabling motion?

16
17 **CLERK TASSONE:**

18 To table.

19
20 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

21 Okay. So all in favor to table? All in favor? Opposed?
22 Abstentions?

23
24 **CLERK TASSONE:**

25 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT)

26
27 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

28 IR 1542 is tabled. IR 1543, Authorizing execution of an Agreement
29 by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer District No. 15
30 - Nob Hill with Preserve at Smithtown (SM-1764). (Co. Exec.). I
31 make a motion to approve.

32
33 **LEG. TROTТА:**

34 Second.

35
36 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

37 Second by Legislator Trotta. Anybody on that motion? All in
38 favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

39
40 **CLERK TASSONE:**

41 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT)

42
43 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

44 IR 1543 is approved. IR 1545, Appropriating funds in connection
45 with Downtown Montauk Stabilization Project, Town of East Hampton
46 (CP 5383). (Co. Exec.). Motion by Legislator Fleming.

47
48 **LEG. FLEMING:**

49 Motion to approve. Thank you.

50
51 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

52 Is there a second?

53
54 **LEG. TROTТА:**

55 Second.

03:30PM

1 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
2 Second by Legislator Trotta. Anybody on that motion?

3
4 **LEG. TROTТА:**
5 Yeah, just quickly on the motion it says that we're 50% funding but
6 we're paying 500,000 and it's only 966,000. Seventeen thousand
7 dollars.

8
9 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
03:31PM 10 Yes, Legislator, we don't know how much we're going to pay every
11 year. We just know --

12
13 **LEG. TROTТА:**
14 So you made it up.

15
16 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
17 -- historically what it's been.

18
19 **LEG. TROTТА:**
20 I gotcha.

21
22 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
23 We did have one really good year but in general it's been -- our
24 share has been approximately 500,000 per year.

25
26 **LEG. TROTТА:**
27 All right. Thank you.

28
29 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
03:31PM 30 Can you cut Legislator Trotta a receipt for that 17,000, please?
31 Thank you, I appreciate it. We have a motion and a second. All in
32 favor? Objections? Abstentions?

33
34 **CLERK TASSONE:**
35 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT)

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
38 IR 1545 is approved bipartisanly.

39
40 **LEG. FLEMING:**
41 Thank you.

42
43 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
44 IR 1568, Amending the 2023 Capital Budget and Program and
45 appropriating funds in connection with Underground Injection
46 Control (UIC) Management Program (CP 8220). (Co. Exec.). We have a
47 Motion by Legislator Piccirillo; second by Legislator Thorne.
48 Anybody on that motion? All in favor? Objections? Abstentions?

49
50 **CLERK TASSONE:**
51 Five -- six. Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT)

52
53 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
54 That's IR 1568; correct? Yes, IR 1568 is approved. IR 1569,
55 Amending the 2023 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating
56 Improvements to County Road 79, Bridgehampton - Sag Harbor Turnpike

1 (CP 5583). (Co. Exec.) I'm going to make a motion to table and
2 I'll tell you why. Do I have a second?

3
4 LEG. TROTТА:
5 Second.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
8 Second from Legislator Trotta. So on this motion.

9
10 LEG. FLEMING:
11 I'll make a motion to approve.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
14 I have a motion to approve. Is there a second on that?

15
16 LEG. ANKER:
17 Second.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
03:32PM 20 And a second. So, I have some questions. So, the funds are
21 requested to advance planning and design for this project so
22 construction can be advanced; whereas sufficient funds are not
23 included -- sufficient funds -- there are no funds included for
24 this project to cover the cost requested pursuant to Suffolk County
25 Charter Section C-413, an offsetting authorization must be approved
26 from another capital project. And according to this, you were
27 pulling funds from County Road 39, that critical project that you
28 lobbied so desperately for our last cycle --

29
30 LEG. FLEMING:
31 No, sir.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
34 That's what it says here.

35
36 LEG. FLEMING:
37 38. No, no, it's so confusing. And the whole community is --

38
39 CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
03:33PM 40 39 is the one that --

41
42 LEG. FLEMING:
43 59 is the one that was pulled. That's the one where it merges with
44 the Sunrise and it was impossible --

45
46 CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
47 Okay.

48
49 LEG. FLEMING:
03:33PM 50 -- to do the project because of traffic.

51
52 CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
53 Okay. And 38 is what we approved.

54
55 LEG. FLEMING:
56 38 is still well underway in terms of community planning.

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03:34PM

03:34PM

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03:35PM

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

So why is now -- this coming up now like out of nowhere?

LEG. FLEMING:

Because this is -- it's not out of nowhere. County Road 39 was first proposed in the community.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

Yes. Now this is the Sag Harbor Turnpike. This is different.

LEG. FLEMING:

Right. So three roads that are relevant in the discussion. And I know it's confusing. The first that was proposed was County Road 39. That's the merge with the Sunrise. It's the trade parade. It's a nightmare parking lot most of the time. And there's no work that's going to happen on that. So this funding was available. Then there's County Road 38 which is still moving forward. But County Road 79 is the Bridge Sag Turnpike. It goes from Montauk Highway up to the village.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

I know where it is.

LEG. FLEMING:

Up to Mashashimuet.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

We just did extensive amount of work on that Sag Harbor Turnpike.

LEG. FLEMING:

Exactly.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

Okay.

LEG. FLEMING:

So that -- the community has been clamoring for that project since I've been in office. And so the discussion was that if the 39 project wasn't going to go, it should be re-appropriated for the 79 project where the community -- there are women in that community who first started pushing for this project when they wanted their kids to go to elementary school; the walk to the elementary school. And they are now entering high school.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

What is exactly you're asking for in this project?

LEG. FLEMING:

The Commissioner of Public Works has requested that the funds move from County Road 39, which cannot be accomplished at this point --

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

I get it.

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 -- because of the challenges to County Road 79, the Bridge Sag
3 Turnpike. It's the northern half of the turnpike. The southern
4 half, Nick, from Scuttle Hole Road down was done some years ago.
5 And the northern half was never accomplished. It goes from Scuttle
6 Hole up to the park in -- Mashashimuet Park in Sag Harbor.

7
8 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

9 So this just -- this project just really came up and it's being,
10 like, pushed through.

11
12 **LEG. FLEMING:**

13 No, it's in the capital budget --

14
15 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

16 I looked in the capital budget. I didn't see anything here for
17 that.

18
19 **LEG. FLEMING:**

20 Oh, yeah, it's been in -- but it's in subsequent years because
21 during --

22
23 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

24 It's not in '23; it's not in '24; it's not in '25.

25
26 **LEG. FLEMING:**

27 It was pushed into subsequent years because --

28
29 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

30 Subsequent years, construction.

31
32 **LEG. FLEMING:**

33 Because we were asked to tighten our belts. And 39 and 38 were
34 made priorities. Now, 39 cannot be accomplished, which means that
35 there is room to move that funding to the third ranking important
36 project in the district.

37
38 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

39 Or save it for more pressing projects within the county, which we
40 can do.

41
42 **LEG. FLEMING:**

43 Well, the Commission has asked that it be put in 79. We're asking
44 that it be put in 79.

45
46 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

47 Legislator Thorne?

48
49 **LEG. THORNE:**

50 I guess for my own education, obviously you know the area better
51 than I do, but when you say that other road that leads into Sunrise
52 can't be accomplished, I mean at some point we're going to have to
53 do something with that road; am I wrong?

54
55 **LEG. FLEMING:**

56 I don't know. I'll tell you what happened when Steve Levy was the

1 County Executive and I wasn't in this seat, there was a project
2 proposed to widen County Road 39. I think everybody's familiar by
3 the Lobster Inn there -- the old Lobster Inn, it's a nightmare.
4 Funding was pulled from that project, a million dollars was pulled
5 from that project right before implementation and so shoulders and
6 sidewalks never happened. And it's a very good lesson that if you
7 don't do it when you're doing these huge construction projects,
8 chances are you're never going to be able to go back and do it.
9 Because right now the conditions on County Road 39 are so bad that
10 there was an uproar when they suggested any kind of construction,
11 you know, reconstruction on the road. And so I think everyone
12 including myself and my team agreed that it makes more sense to do
13 a project that's more doable and more desired by the community
14 which is --

03:37PM

15
16 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
17 But is it necessary?

18
19 **LEG. FLEMING:**
20 Absolutely, it is so necessary.

03:37PM

21
22 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
23 What is the scope of the project that we're talking about? I mean,
24 I don't see it.

25
26 **LEG. FLEMING:**
27 It is in the capital budget. I'll get it for you while the
28 Commissioner's talking.

29
30 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
31 I have it right here but I don't see the scope of the --

32
33 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
34 Chair, it's a major repaving. There's work being done on the
35 shoulders, sidewalk. There's a lot of environmental work that has
36 to be done.

37
38 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
39 Sidewalks, yeah, I have an issue with sidewalks in that area and
40 that roadway. I just ran a run on them; running another one a
41 couple weeks there. There is a lot of just open space there. It
42 is not a community. This is sort of similar to the situation in
43 Stony Brook. I'm not going to put sidewalks that are never going
44 to be utilized.

03:38PM

45
46 **LEG. FLEMING:**
47 But that's not --

48
49 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**
50 I went to a public meeting there on this project a year and a half
51 ago. And it was, you know, universally asked for, the sidewalks.
52 A lot of parents came in saying how dangerous they feel walking
53 along that road and having to cross that road. And I don't recall
54 anybody saying *don't put in sidewalks*. This is different than some
55 of the other roads out there. They want the ability to walk their
56 children around safely. And they were some of the same parents

03:38PM

1 that the Legislator's referring to that had been waiting a longtime
2 for this.

3
4 **LEG. FLEMING:**

5 It goes, Nick, from Mashashamuet Park down to the dump, right. It
6 goes back the old -- it's now a lobster place and the dump and it's
7 all residences. It's -- the southern portion of the turnpike is
8 the Long Pond Greenbelt. The northern portion is basically, you
9 know, it's restaurants and farm stands.

10
11 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

12 That was done already.

13
14 **LEG. FLEMING:**

15 I wish it had been done already. I've been working on it for six
16 years. Nope, it hasn't been done. The southern portion was done.

17
18 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

19 Southern, okay, yeah, right. I stand corrected. My apologies.

20
21 **LEG. FLEMING:**

22 You're not the only one who made the 39, 38 mixup. It's caused a
23 lot of confusion even in the newspapers.

24
25 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

26 But even that, I get that. Just that this is the first time, you
27 know, we're seeing this. This is something that just came about
28 and I don't have any -- any information on the scope of the
29 project. We're getting in gear now a major paving project, curbing
30 and sidewalks, but we have no -- other than that, what just came
31 out of Commissioner's mouth, we have nothing here in the -- that,
32 you know, outlines the work.

33
34 **LEG. FLEMING:**

35 But it's described -- it's a major road reconstruction described in
36 the capital -- in the three-year capital program. It's in the
37 capital program.

38
39 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

40 For subsequent years. It's not in this three-year program.

41
42 **LEG. FLEMING:**

43 It wasn't funded in -- in the past it was funded and it got pushed
44 back. In the past it was funded. And when we were facing the
45 fiscal strains that, you know, many like to talk about, I was one
46 of the people who said we've got to make priority rankings in our
47 districts.

48
49 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

50 So this fell to third.

51
52 **LEG. FLEMING:**

53 After 39, which is also critically important but can't be done
54 right now because of the conditions of the roadway because of the
55 traffic.

1 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

2 Chair, I believe this is our oldest pavement that we have on the
3 county road. It's from the '90s. It's held up very well.

4
5 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

6 This still fell to third place in the rating, so.

7
8 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

9 It's coming to that point where we need to do something.

03:41PM 10

11 **LEG. FLEMING:**

12 Nick, third in my district?

13
14 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

15 Yes, Ma'am. I'm just reading the project description if you don't
16 mind. Is this planned on being done in two phases as is described
17 in the current contract?

18
19 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

03:42PM 20

21 This is -- this is the second phase, I believe, when it refers to
22 those two phases.

23 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

24 So the one, the 27, that's got a hold, that's the one that's
25 already been done, right?

26
27 **LEG. FLEMING:**

28 The southern portion from Scuttle Hole to Montauk Highway, 27.

29
30 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

31 Commissioner, in your estimation this is something that's
32 critically needed?

33
34 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

35 Yes. And when you're dealing with pavement this old, it can really
36 fall off the edge quickly. So I was surprised, I think it was '98,
37 we really -- we pushed it back a couple of times because it held up
38 better than expected. But we are now at that point where you get
39 pavement that's a quarter of a century old, you know, we'd be
40 running a risk if we let it continue, you know, to deteriorate. It
41 can really accelerate like the LIE did a couple years ago.

03:42PM 42

43 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

44 In all fairness, Commissioner, this wasn't budgeted 'til subsequent
45 years. This was going to be bypassed all together if 39 went
46 through. Now I'm hearing -- am I wrong?

47
48 **LEG. FLEMING:**

49 Yeah, no, it was scheduled -- the planning was scheduled to begin
50 in '25. It wasn't pushed off forever. It was pushed back. It was
51 originally --

03:43PM 52

53 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

54 '25. We're in '23.

55
56

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 I know.

3
4 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

5 We've been actively designing this for quite a few months now. So
6 it's not like -- this is something we've been working on. There
7 was a time where it was deferred but we stopped from the design
8 perspective stop deferring it. It's in full fledged design at this
9 point.

10
11 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

12 So the entire amount of this funding 3,175,000 is coming from the
13 original line from County Road 39; you're just re-appropriating it
14 to this project now?

15
16 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

17 Yes, that's accurate between planning and construction. And
18 planning, you know, in our world includes design.

19
20 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

21 All right. I will stick to my original comment I said earlier.
22 I'm not looking to stand in the way of progress. I will withdraw
23 my motion to table. You have a motion to approve from Legislator
24 Fleming and a second from Legislator Anker. All in favor?
25 Opposed? Abstentions?

26
27 **CLERK TASSONE:**

28 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT)

29
30 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

31 IR 1569 is approved. IR 1571, Amending 2023 Adopted Operating
32 Budget, amending the 2023 Capital Budget and Program and
33 appropriating funds in connection with Coastal Resiliency Management
34 (CP 5384). (Co. Exec.).

35
36 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

37 Motion to approve.

38
39 **LEG. FLEMING:**

40 Motion to approve.

41
42 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

43 We have a motion to approve. Is there a second?

44
45 **LEG. ANKER:**

46 Second.

47
48 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

49 I made the motion.

50
51 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

52 I'm just going to wait on Counsel for a second, please.

53
54 **LEG. FLEMING:**

55 I'll second the motion to approve.

56

03:45PM

1 **LEG. ANKER:**
2 On the motion.

3
4 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
5 While we're waiting, on the motion, Legislator Anker.

6
7 **LEG. ANKER:**
8 Yeah, I just want a little bit information on the cost; that's all.

9
10 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
11 You need the Commissioner back up here?

12
13 **LEG. ANKER:**
14 Yes.

15
16 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
17 Commissioner Joe Brown, come on down.

18
19 **LEG. ANKER:**
03:46PM 20 Or Michelle.

21
22 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
23 Or Michelle.

24
25 **LEG. FLEMING:**
26 Can I just remind you that this -- we got an e-mail from the
27 Commissioner of Economic Development on June the 7th referencing an
28 April 24 presentation at EPA that listed 25 at risk coastal sites.
29 This would fund the first three. We have a 10% match that we have
03:46PM 30 to provide in order to receive \$4.2 million from the Hazard
31 Mitigation Grant Program at New York State. These are three --
32 it's almost 500 acres of coastal wetlands. It includes the Scully
33 Wetlands system; it includes Cupsogue Marsh and the Smith Point
34 South Marsh. And we did receive that specific information at EPA
35 and then recently on June the 7th.

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
38 Understood. Now forgive me for my fog, so this was already set to
39 be tabled. This was agreed to be tabled because there's a lack of
03:47PM 40 information. This was -- the way it's drawn up in the resolution
41 is to match the grant funding. We do not have that grant funding.
42 We do not have that grant funding available to us and we ask the
43 question if we don't get that grant funding, what's going to happen
44 with this funding here and there was no answer. They're going to
45 put in, from what I understand, language replacing to this IR
46 suggesting that where the money will go if we do not receive that
47 grant funding. Right now that language does not exist. So we do
48 not have the grant funding for this.

49
50 **LEG. FLEMING:**
51 Mr. Chair, if I may, we did --

52
53 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
54 Is there someone here from Economic Development? No, well.

55
56

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 We did receive a presentation, which we have, that identified 25
3 specific sites that are at risk on the coastline. They include 8
4 county roads; they include 3 major marsh systems; they include
5 several parks. And the first three in the ranking are the three
6 that are the subject of the application for the HMG grant. And so
7 the funding is proposed to exist now in -- there's \$200,000 that's
8 being expended currently. That was 1755 money. And there was an
9 RFP that went out. And the presenters at the -- what was it, April
10 25th -- 24th EPA meeting included the engineers who were awarded
11 that RFP. They proposed -- they had slides that included the 25
12 sites. And the point is that we have these serious
13 vulnerabilities, as I mentioned before, Moody's Analytics issued a
14 report in February that said among the most -- the 100 most populous
15 areas in the United States, Long Island ranks fourth in
16 vulnerability on the area of heat, sea level rise and water stress;
17 fourth in the nation. And addressing these kind of priorities is
18 exactly how we responsibly react to that reality.

03:48PM

19
20 And so these five -- it's 500 acres of marshland, which can be
21 rehabilitated. They're specifically noted. But I can say, Mr.
22 Chair, having, you know, read and spoken with these engineers and
23 listened to their presentations, that if this -- if the funding
24 doesn't come through in New York State, that doesn't mean we
25 abandon the project. What's being proposed is there's \$200,000
26 that's being expended on the planning right now. That planning
27 includes the work that's already been delivered, which is, for
28 instance, the identification of the sites. But then they're going
29 to continue to propose proactive engineering. And this -- the
30 first 500 is ARPA. And the proposal is that in the capital budget
31 every year \$500,000 can be expended in these very, very vulnerable
32 county assets that we have an opportunity to defend in the face of
33 sea level rise and extreme weather events.

03:49PM

03:50PM

34
35 So I think we do have a very thorough understanding of the specific
36 projects that this is proposed for. And even if we don't get the
37 grant funding, we're still going to need to expend this money on
38 defending these areas.

39
40 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

41 Understood. But that's not the way it's written. And I posed
42 questions to the Commissioner of Planning Economic Development.
43 Her reply was they're going to request tabling to add language
44 about wetlands restoration and the HMGP grant. That was the
45 message I received and that's what I agreed to until such time we
46 have that language. I'm going to make that motion and agree to the
47 motion to table that I received from Economic Development &
48 Planning.

49
50 **LEG. FLEMING:**

51 Mr. Chair.

52
53 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

54 And since there's no one here from that department --
55
56

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 Since there isn't anyone here from that department, but we did
3 receive a wealth of specific information over the course of the
4 past couple of months --

5
6 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

7 I have it over here. I have it. I sat in on the Zoom.

8
9 **LEG. FLEMING:**

03:51PM 10 -- can we discharge it? Can we discharge it knowing that we
11 have --

12
13 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

14 That your motion is to discharge without recommendation?

15
16 **LEG. FLEMING:**

17 Discharge without recommendation.

18
19 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

03:51PM 20 Will you remove your --

21
22 **LEG. FLEMING:**

23 I will withdraw my approval motion and make instead a motion to
24 discharge.

25
26 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

03:52PM 27 All right. So the motion to approve has been withdrawn as the
28 second. We now have a new motion on the floor from Legislator
29 Fleming to discharge without recommendation. And is there a second
30 to that?

31
32 **LEG. ANKER:**

33 Second.

34
35 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

36 There's a second on the floor from Legislator Anker. So we'll
37 entertain that vote.

38
39 **CLERK TASSONE:**

03:52PM 40 We do have a motion and a second to table.

41
42 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

43 Sorry.

44
45 **CLERK TASSONE:**

46 We do have a motion and a second to table.

47
48 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

49 Tabling motion goes first, then.

50
51 **LEG. FLEMING:**

52 Discharge goes first.

53
54 **CLERK TASSONE:**

55 Oh, I'm sorry. Just wanted to make sure everybody was aware.

1 **LEG. ANKER:**

2 But on the motion, because I was hoping to get a little bit more
3 information as you guys were, you know, discussing this, but same
4 question with all these resolutions, is this going to be a problem
5 if we don't vote on this today?

6
7 **LEG. FLEMING:**

8 I know the state grant program is requesting a 10%; identification
9 of a 10% matching contribution.

03:53PM

10
11 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

12 Seeing as the Commissioner has spoken directly with the Chair, I
13 don't believe there is an issue with tabling at this time.

14
15 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

16 I couldn't understand that, Michelle, I'm sorry.

17
18 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

19 Seeing as the Commissioner spoke with you directly, I don't believe
20 there's an issue with tabling at this time.

03:53PM

21
22 **LEG. FLEMING:**

23 I would just renew my request because there's been so much
24 information given. I really understand the concerns about not
25 getting enough information, but we even had a presentation on this.
26 If we could move it and I'll work hard to try to get the
27 Commissioner to get you your answers, Mr. Chair. That's the basis
28 of my motion to discharge without recommendation.

29
30 **MICHELLE ZARIFIS:**

31 Chair, if I may, I'm sure the Commissioner would be able to supply
32 the information needed in a timely manner if that works.

33
34 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

35 I don't know why it has to come down to this every single time,
36 that I have to compromise. Simple request for information.

37
38 **LEG. ANKER:**

39 On the motion.

40
41 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

42 My patience is going to run out. Simple request for simple
43 information. I will remove my motion to table for the last time.

44
45 **LEG. FLEMING:**

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

49 We have a motion to discharge without --

03:54PM

50
51 **LEG. ANKER:**

52 -- without recommendation.

53
54 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

55 Recommendation.

1 **LEG. ANKER:**
2 On the motion.

3
4 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
5 On the motion, Legislator Anker.

6
7 **LEG. ANKER:**
8 Just a suggestion, perhaps prior to the committee meetings there
9 could be a semi-formal discussion time to really go through some of
10 these resolutions because I feel your frustration and I know, you
11 know, better communication would really solve all these complicated
12 questions.

03:54PM

13
14 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
15 I do not disagree with that, Legislator Anker. Thank you. With
16 that we have a motion to proceed with -- Rob, you want to sit on
17 this vote -- discharge without recommendation. All in favor?
18 Opposed? Abstentions?

19
20 **CLERK TASSONE:**
21 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT PRESENT)

22
23 **LEG. FLEMING:**
24 Thank you.

25
26 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
27 IR 1571 is discharged without recommendation. IR 1580, Authorizing
28 execution of an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Islip for
29 the connection of Town of Islip Sewer District No. 1 to Suffolk
30 County Sewer District No. 3 – Southwest pursuant to §119-0 of the
31 General Municipal Law and the appropriating of American Rescue Plan
32 funds for such purpose. (Co. Exec.). Is there a motion?

33
34 **LEG. ANKER:**
35 Motion to approve.

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
38 Motion to approve Legislator Anker. Is there a second?

39
40 **LEG. TROTTA:**
41 Second.

42
43 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
44 Second from Legislator Trotta. All in favor? Opposed?
45 Abstentions?

46
47 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
48 Abstention.

49
50 **CLERK TASSONE:**
51 Five. (VOTE: 5-0-1-1/LEG. PICCIRILLO ABSTAINED/LEG. KRUPSKI NOT
52 PRESENT)

53
54 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
55 IR 1580 is approved. All right, seeing no further business ahead
56 of us, we stand adjourned. Thank you so much everybody.

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**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:56 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**