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**WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Ways & Means Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Maxine S. Postal Legislative Auditorium at the Evans K. Griffing Building, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York, 11901 on June 15, 2023.

Members Present:

- Leg. Robert Trotta - Chairman**
- Leg. Leslie Kennedy - Vice Chair**
- Leg. Stephanie Bontempi
- Leg. Manuel Esteban, Sr.
- Leg. Bridget Fleming
- Leg. Tom Donnelly

Also In Attendance:

- Legislator Dominick Thorne - District #7**
- Bill Duffy - Counsel to the Legislature
- Frank Tassone - Clerk of the Legislature
- Hope Clark - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
- Craig Freas - Legislative Budget Review Office
- Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Trotta
- Chris DeLuca - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey
- Maria Abbatiello-Farley - Aide to Legislator Thorne
- Michele Zarifis - Director-Intergovernmental Relations/CE's Office
- Chris Gonzalez - Chief Deputy Commissioner/SC Eco Dev & Planning
- David Pennetta - Executive Director/Brokerage Services
- Susan Flynn - Assistant County Attorney/SC Attorney's Office
- All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

- Alison Mahoney, Court Stenographer

(**The meeting was called to order at 12:29 p.m.**)

1
2
3 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

4 Okay, it's 12:30 on the June 15th Ways & Means Committee. Please
5 rise for the pledge led by Legislator Kennedy

6
7 ***Pledge of Allegiance***

8
9 Mr. Clerk, roll call, please.

10
11 (**Roll Called by Frank Tassone - Clerk of the Legislature**)

12
13 **LEG. TROTТА:**

14 Here.

15
16 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

17 Here.

18
19 **LEG. FLEMING:**

20 (*Not Present*).

21
22 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

23 Present.

24
25 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

26 Here.

27
28 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

29 Present.

30
31 **LEG. FLEMING:**

32 (*Not Present*).

33
34 **CLERK TASSONE:**

35 *Five.*

36
37 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

38 Mr. Clerk, do we have any correspondence?

39
40 **CLERK TASSONE:**

41 All correspondence have been distributed accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

44 Okay. Do we have any cards, any public speakers? Does anybody in
45 the audience wish to speak?

46
47 **MR. DeLUCA:**

48 There are no speakers, Mr. Chairman.

49
50 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

51 Seeing none, we'll open and close the **Public Portion**, moving right
52 into the agenda.

Tabled Resolutions

1
2
3 **IR 1314(-23) - Adopting Local Law No. -2023, A Local Law to amend**
4 **Article XXII of the Suffolk County Administrative Code (County**
5 **Executive). Motion to table.**

6
7 **LEG. KENNEDY:**
8 **Second.**

9
10 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**
11 **Second by Legislator Kennedy.**

12
13 *(*Legislator Fleming entered the meeting at 12:30 p.m.*)*

14
15 **All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?**

16
17 **CLERK TASSONE:**
18 **Six.**

19
20 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**
21 **1314 is tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

22
23 **1342(-23) - Appropriating PAYGO funds for Optical Disk Imaging**
24 **System in the County Clerk's Office (CP 1751) (County Executive).**
25 **I'll make a motion to table after a request from the County Clerk.**

26
27 **LEG. KENNEDY:**
28 **Second.**

29
30 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**
31 **Second by Legislator Kennedy. All those in favor? Opposed?**
32 **Abstentions?**

33
34 **CLERK TASSONE:**
35 **Six.**

36
37 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**
38 **1342 is tabled at the request of the Clerk (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

39
40 **1343(-23) - Appropriating PAYGO funds in connection with Upgrading**
41 **Critical Support and Operating Systems for the Clerk's Office**
42 **(CP 1826) (County Executive). Again, at the request of the Clerk,**
43 **we'll make a motion to table. Second by Legislator Donnelly.**
44 **All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions.**

45
46 **CLERK TASSONE:**
47 **Six.**

48
49 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**
50 **1343 is tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

51
52 **1369(-23) - To require the town and district registrars of the**
53 **County of Suffolk to notify the Suffolk County Board of Elections**
54 **of all deaths (Piccirillo). After discussion, we're going to make**
55 **a dis -- there's some confusion with the Clerk's -- some different**
56 **towns, so I'm going to make a motion to discharge without**

1 recommendation, we can get it cleared up by Tuesday.

2

3 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

4 Second.

5

6 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

7 I have a second by Legislator Bontempi.

8

9 **LEG. FLEMING:**

12:31PM 10 On the motion?

11

12 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

13 On the motion.

14

15 **LEG. FLEMING:**

16 I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, I just -- I don't -- I don't hear --

17 I'm having trouble hearing. Is your microphone on?

18

19 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

12:31PM 20 It's on.

21

22 **LEG. FLEMING:**

23 Sorry (*laughter*). So what is the purpose for the discharge; what
24 was the information that --

25

26 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

27 Apparently there might be some kind of impediment that the Clerk
28 cannot get -- we might not have the ability to pass a law that
29 forces the Clerk to tell -- excuse me, forces us to tell, you know,
12:32PM 30 the Medical Examiner to tell the Clerks in the towns.

31

32 **LEG. FLEMING:**

33 Like from a --

34

35 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

36 There are certain criteria.

37

38 **LEG. FLEMING:**

39 Oh.

12:32PM 40

41 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

42 Of who they're allowed to tell someone died, and there's a little
43 bit of a gray area. And I think that, you know, between now and
44 Tuesday we'll clear it up; if not we'll table it.

45

46 **LEG. FLEMING:**

47 So --

48

49 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

12:32PM 50 I mean, it seems to me like commonsense that you would want
51 someone, you know, who passed away taken off the voter rolls, you
52 know, as quickly as possible.

53

54 **LEG. FLEMING:**

55 Yeah, no, absolutely. But I just wonder if it might -- I'm just
56 wondering if that is -- do we expect it Wednesday, or isn't it the

1 normal procedure just to keep it here until then, til we get the
2 answer?

3
4 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

5 Well, I think this has been going on and there's some back and
6 forth and, you know, we can always table it there, it's not an
7 issue. Which, you know, I think if Counsel's researching it and,
8 you know, some towns are saying one thing and some towns are saying
9 another thing. You know, it seems to me that commonsense would
10 prevail and you would want to be, you know, taken off the voter
11 rolls as quickly as a possible.

12:33PM

12
13 **LEG. FLEMING:**

14 Right; no, no, no, I certainly agree with that. I'm just
15 wondering, is there a reasonable expectation that that information
16 is coming in before Wednesday? And if not, it might be more
17 effective to keep it in committee so that we get the --

18
19 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

20 This is government, there's no reasonable expectation of anything
21 (*laughter*). But, you know, look, we can always table it there.
22 It's six of one, half a dozen of another.

12:33PM

23
24 **LEG. FLEMING:**

25 And we can do that with everything, then, not table in committee.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

28 Well, you're right. Look, I think --

29
30 **LEG. FLEMING:**

31 The only thing is that committee functions as an important place
32 where we and a smaller group with Legislative Counsel have --

12:33PM

33
34 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

35 Okay, then you can vote no. You can vote no to the discharge.
36 We have a motion and a second, Mr. Clerk?

37
38 **CLERK TASSONE:**

39 We do, Mr. Chairman.

12:33PM

40
41 **LEG. FLEMING:**

42 I was just asking what the -- I'm fine with it. I'm just asking
43 what the better practice is in terms of getting Mr. Piccirillo's
44 intentions met, that's all.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

47 Okay.

48
49 **LEG. FLEMING:**

50 And it seems to me that here at committee we have the opportunity
51 to ask departments, we have an opportunity to delve into things a
52 little more effectively and a little more deeper. But, I mean,
53 it's just a question I'm putting to you, Mr. Chair, that's all.

12:33PM

54
55 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

56 Okay. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor?

1 Opposed? Abstentions?

2

3 **CLERK TASSONE:**

4 *Six.*

5

6 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

7 *1369 is discharged without recommendation (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).*

8

9 *1409(-23) - Authorizing the amendment for the lease of existing*
10 *office space at 3085 Veterans Memorial Highway, Ronkonkoma by*
11 *Suffolk County Department of Social Services (County Executive).*

12:34PM

12

13 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

14 Motion to approve.

15

16 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

17 Second.

18

19 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

20 Motion to approve by Legislator Donnelly. Second by Legislator
21 Fleming.

12:34PM

22

23 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

24 On the motion.

25

26 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

27 On the motion, Legislator Kennedy.

28

29 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

30 Second by Bontempi.

12:34PM

31

32 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

33 Bontempi, I'm sorry.

34

35 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

36 I just want to place on the record, I will be voting for this
37 solely because I do not want to delay or impede anyone on Social
38 Service from getting their benefits. We are in a housing problem,
39 we are in a food desert, we're in financial issues, so our Social
40 Service clients are increasing at a rapid pace. But the only
41 reason I'm going for this is because the two options are a lawsuit,
42 which we will lose because we signed a contract that we would give
43 some organization a million dollars for renewing a lease. So I
44 look at it as a lawsuit that we'd lose vs armed robbery.

12:35PM

45

46 I really feel that whoever okayed this contract or whoever wrote
47 this contract should really reassess their values and check into
48 this and a contract like this should never again be accepted.
49 This is the last bill under this contract like this, so hopefully
50 this will never happen again, but I want it on the record that if
51 it happens again I'm not voting for anything. Thank you.

12:35PM

52

53 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

54 Anybody else? Okay, we have a motion to approve and a second.

55 All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? I'm opposed.

56

1 CLERK TASSONE:

2 *Five.*

3
4 CHAIRMAN TROTТА:

5 *1409 is approved (VOTE: 5-1-0-0 - Opposed: Chairman Trotta).*

6
7 **Introductory Resolutions**

8
9 *1525(-23) - Adopting Local Law No. -2023, A Local Law to authorize*
10 *conveyance of property previously taken for delinquent taxes (226*
11 *36th Street, Lindenhurst, S.C.T.M. No. 0103-001.00-05.00-140.000)*
12 *(McCaffrey). This has to be tabled for a public hearing. I'll*
13 *make a motion to table.*

14
15 LEG. KENNEDY:

16 *Second.*

17
18 CHAIRMAN TROTТА:

19 *Second by Legislator Kennedy. All those in favor? Opposed?*
20 *Abstentions?*

21
22 CLERK TASSONE:

23 *Six.*

24
25 CHAIRMAN TROTТА:

26 *1525 is approved.*

27
28 *1538(-23) - Approval of auction rules --*

29
30 CLERK TASSONE:

31 *Tabled, Mr. Chairman.*

32
33 LEG. KENNEDY:

34 *Tabled for a public hearing.*

35
36 CHAIRMAN TROTТА:

37 *Tabled for -- I'm sorry, **tabled for a public hearing.***
38 *(VOTE: 6-0-0-0).*

39
40 *1538(-23) - Approval of auction rules for the disposition of*
41 *surplus property acquired under the Suffolk County Tax Act*

42 *(County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve. Second by*
43 *Legislator Bontempi. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?*

44
45 CLERK TASSONE:

46 *Six.*

47
48 CHAIRMAN TROTТА:

49 *1538 is approved.*

50
51 *1572(-23) - Authorizing the use of a portion of County premises*
52 *located at North County Complex (SCTM No.*

53 *0800-154.00-04.00-001.001) for use by Live On NY for tissue*
54 *recovery services (County Executive).*

1 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

2 Motion.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

5 Motion to approve by Legislator Kennedy. Second by Legislator
6 Bontempi. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

7

8 **CLERK TASSONE:**

9 *Six.*

12:37PM 10

11 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

12 *1572 is approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).*

13

14 We have no Procedural Motions, no Home Rule Messages.

15

16 We do have an Executive Session, so if we could clear the
17 auditorium and we will -- I'll make a motion to go into Executive
18 Session.

19

20 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

21 Second.

22

23 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

24 Second by Legislator Kennedy (laughter). All those in favor?
25 Opposed? Abstentions?

26

27 **CLERK TASSONE:**

28 *Six.*

29

12:37PM 30

31 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

32 We are now in Executive Session.

33

34 *(*Executive Session: 12:37 p.m. - 1:03 p.m.*)*

35 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

36 Okay, we are back in session.

37

38 Our first case was settled with Jonathan Anthony Melendez Flores
39 and others for the sum of \$5 million.

01:03PM 40

41 We have Nicholas Musco v. County of Suffolk with a settlement
42 \$325,000.

43

44 And Alecia Broyles v. George Murdock and the County of Suffolk
45 settled for 75,000.

46

47 Seeing nothing further, I adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

48

49 *(*The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.*)*

50

51

52

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56