

**BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held via video conference in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on July 18, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Steve Flotteron, Chairman  
Leg. Leslie Kennedy, Vice Chair  
Leg. Nicholas Caracappa  
Leg. Samuel Gonzalez  
Leg. Jason Richberg  
Leg. Dominick Thorne

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature  
Hope Clark, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
William Duffy, Counsel to the Legislature  
TJ Corcoran, Budget Review Office  
Ali Nazir, Aide to the Presiding Officer  
Chris DeLuca, Aide to the Presiding Officer  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Gabrielle Severs, Court Stenographer

(The committee was called to order at 9:39 a.m.)

**CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

I'd like to call the Budget and Finance committee to order. Please all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Kennedy.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

Please all remain standing for a moment of silence. Please have in our prayers our first responders, our military home and abroad.

(Moment of silence observed.)

Please be seated. Clerk, roll call.

(The roll was called by Chief Deputy Clerk Clark.)

**CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

Here.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Here.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Here.

**LEG. GONZALEZ:**

Here.

**LEG. RICHBERG:**

(Excused.)

**LEG. THORNE:**

Present.

**CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

Five.

**CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

Any correspondence?

**CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

All correspondence have been distributed accordingly.

**CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

Thank you. Is there any anybody for public portion?

**MR. DELUCA:**

There are no speakers, Mr. Chairman. Okay. Thank you. Appointment resolutions, none. Presentation. BRO, Lance, if you could please maybe go over -- we got an e-mail late yesterday about our sales tax, the second quarter to explain how good or bad of shape we are or whatever.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

In a word, we're in good shape. I have to commend the legislature

1 and the county executive as you put your budgets together. You've  
2 been very conservative in your projections for sales tax, and  
3 that's a good thing because generally we've been ending each year  
4 with a surplus in sales tax, that is, and this year is no  
5 different; however, the consumer spending is slowing down,  
6 inflation is slowing down, but we still anticipate that sales tax  
7 will be coming in higher than budgeted and that's a good thing. So  
8 we received our last check for the second quarter just recently,  
9 and sales tax revenue for the second quarter was \$488 million.  
10 That's an increase of \$4.3 million above the second quarter of  
11 2022, and that equates to almost a one percent increase over 2022.

12  
13 As far as our model that we did the first quarter, we kind of  
14 thought sales tax would be flat in the second quarter, so this  
15 actually is a good number even though it's a slowing down as far as  
16 the increase. It's something that we anticipated.

17  
18 And the reason for that is last year in the second quarter, as you  
19 remember, energy prices went up, fuel for automobiles went up, and  
20 that drove up the sales tax in the second quarter of last year. Of  
21 course, this year motor fuels have somewhat levelled off, and they  
22 are about where they were in previous years. Obviously, there was  
23 a reduction in sales tax compared to 2022 in motor fuels. For  
24 non-motor fuels in the second quarter of '23, which make up about  
25 95 of our sales tax revenue, the non-motor fuel portion of sales  
26 tax grew by 1.33 percent, and again this is better than we  
27 anticipated due to the pandemic recovery where the second quarters  
28 in '21 and '22. In '22, there were still stimulus funds in the  
29 economy still winding their way through, and so we anticipated no  
30 increase in the non-motor fuel portions, either, so we were  
31 pleasantly surprised by the returns in the second quarter of 2023.

32  
33 You know, going forward we still feel the economy especially on  
34 Long Island is doing well, and we expect sales tax growth to be  
35 around three percent, 3.12 percent, which for the year, that would  
36 bring in about \$36 million over what we budgeted for sales tax, and  
37 then a portion of that as far as the general fund goes, that would  
38 be an increase of \$33 million, almost \$34 million over what we  
39 budgeted in 2023 for sales tax in the general fund.

40  
41 So our projection for the second quarter, we expect, taking that  
42 into consideration, we anticipate sales tax growth in 2023 to be  
43 about 2.61 percent, which would bring in about \$9.6 billion  
44 dollars --

45  
46 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:**  
47 (Inaudible).

48  
49 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

50 Thank you. A billion here, a billion there. 1.96 billion, which  
51 is an increase of \$50 million over the 2022 actual sales tax, so in  
52 2022, we had growth of about five percent so we do see a slowing  
53 down of sales tax increases, which reflects the economy.

54  
55 I'd be happy to answer any questions you have on this.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

2 Okay. Any questions?

3  
4 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

5 And if anyone wants, I also brought extra copies of the memo if  
6 anyone wants. I'll give those to the clerk if anyone wants them,  
7 we have copies of the memo for you to refer to.

8  
9 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

10 I know after a while we hear a lot of numbers, we get a little  
11 glazed over.

12  
13 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

14 Yes.

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

17 As the second quarter, I know we came in more than last year, but  
18 is this above what we projected in the budget so far?

19  
20 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

21 Yeah. This is -- we do a model when we adopt the budget. We  
22 update our model each quarter, so in a word, based on the first  
23 quarter results and the actual results for 2022, and we use Moody  
24 Analytics which wraps in the economic factors, this is better than  
25 we anticipated. So the model that we had that we constructed at  
26 the end of the first quarter of 2023 really expected this quarter  
27 to be flat, so one percent increase is positive, and that's -- it's  
28 ahead of what we expected, and the budget compared to budget, we  
29 expect that we'll come in, you know, \$35 million over budget for  
30 sales tax for all funds.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

33 Okay. Terrific. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Legislator Gonzalez.

34  
35 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just one question based on world news and  
37 eventually it definitely will hit here in Suffolk County, but the  
38 stoppage of weed coming in from Ukraine, will that have any future  
39 fiscal problems here that you foresee in Suffolk County that may  
40 just bring what we're hoping in the third and the fourth, will we  
41 even be able to see this this third or fourth or maybe the  
42 beginning of the first quarter of 2024?

43  
44 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

45 You know, being that that embargo was just enacted the other day,  
46 and I'm not an economist and we do depend on Moody's Analytics to  
47 do the economic projections and factor those events in, I would say  
48 on a personal level that it could, but the way these things usually  
49 wind through the economy, there's a lag. Whether it hits -- my  
50 feeling would be it's probably too soon to -- you know, we're  
51 already in the third quarter. If it hits, it would be, like you  
52 say, possibly the fourth quarter or the first quarter, but as far  
53 as the impact and how it impacts us, I'm not qualified to answer  
54 that question.

55  
56 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

1 All right. Thank you.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

4 Anyone else? Okay. Well, thank you very much for the update, and  
5 I'm glad to see we're doing okay so far this year.

6

7 Back to the agenda, we are up to tabled resolutions.

8

9 **TR 1436, Adopting Local Law No. -2023, A Charter Law allotting  
10 proceeds from the County portion of taxes levied upon cannabis  
11 sales. (Piccirillo)**

12

13 Do we have a motion?

14

15 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

16 Motion to table.

17

18 **LEG. THORNE:**

19 Second.

20

21 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

22 Motion to table for public hearing by Legislator Caracappa. Second  
23 by Legislator Thorne. Anybody on the motion? All in favor?  
24 Opposed? Abstentions?

25

26 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

27 Five.

28

29 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

30 1436 is tabled for a public hearing.

31

32 **TR 1573, Adopting Local Law No. -2023, To Adopt a Charter Law  
33 pursuant to the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act  
34 (Chapter 58 of the New York State Laws of 2023) to amend Article  
35 XII of the Suffolk County Charter to extend the Suffolk County  
36 Drinking Water Protection Program and to establish a new Water  
37 Quality Restoration Fund supported by an additional one eighth  
38 percent (1/8%) sales and use tax. (Co. Exec.)**

39

40 Do I have a motion?

41

42 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

43 Motion to table.

44

45 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

46 Motion to table for public hearing by Legislator Caracappa.

47

48 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

49 Second.

50

51 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

52 Second by Legislator Kennedy.

53

54 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

55 Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

56

1 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

2 Five.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

5 1573 is tabled for public hearing.

6  
7 Now on to Introductory Resolutions.

8  
9 **IR 1588, Approving County funding for a contract agency (Ministry**  
10 **for Hope). (Co. Exec.) Do I have a motion?**

11  
12 **LEG. THORNE:**

13 Motion to approve and put on the consent calendar and cosponsor.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

16 Okay. Motion to approve and put on consent calendar by Legislator  
17 Thorne. Second by Legislator Kennedy. Any discussion? All in  
18 favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

19  
20 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

21 Five.

22  
23 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

24 IR 1588 is approved and put on the consent calendar.

25  
26 **IR 1604, Approving 2023 funding for a contract agency (Long House**  
27 **Reserve) (Fleming) Do I have a motion?**

28  
29 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

30 Motion.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

33 Motion to approve by Legislator Gonzalez.

34  
35 **LEG. THORNE:**

36 Second.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

39 Second by Legislator Thorne. Any discussion? All in favor?  
40 Opposed? Abstentions?

41  
42 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

43 Five.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

46 IR 1604 is approved.

47  
48 That is all on the introductory resolutions. There's no procedural  
49 motion, no home rules, no subject to calls. With that said, this  
50 meeting is finished. Thank you.

51  
52 (The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.)  
53  
54  
55  
56

## DATE

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**your** [2] - 3:1, 3:2