



Budget & Appropriations

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Catherine Borgia

800 Michaelan Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Friday, November 12, 2021

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

The County Board will meet pursuant to Chapter 417 of New York State Laws of 2021, allowing public bodies to meet and take action without permitting in-person public access to meetings and authorizes such meetings and public hearings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided the public has the ability to view or listen and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. To access the meeting, please visit: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>

With a quorum present, Chair Borgia called the meeting to order at 10:17 AM.

Others in attendance: BOL: Colin Smith, Anand Singh, Yolanda Valencia, Alessandra Restiano BOL Remote: MaryJane Shimsky, Terry Clements, Kitley Covil, Melanie Montalto, James Silverberg BOL Elect: James Nolan

PUBLIC SAFETY Remote: Thomas Gleason, John Hodges, Christopher Calabrese, William McGuinness, Siva Gopalkrishna BUDGET Remote: Gideon Grande, William Olli, Mark Medwid, Jaevon Boxhill

Present: Committee Chair Borgia, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Tubiolo and Legislator Walter

Absent: Committee Vice-Chair Gashi and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Remote: Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Maher, Legislator Parker and Legislator Williams

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Department of Public Safety - Presentation on the 2022 Operating Budget

Guests: Commissioner Thomas Gleason, Chief John Hodges, Chief Christopher Calabrese, Captain William McGuinness and Siva Gopalkrishna

Commissioner-Sheriff Gleason appeared before the Committee with his team from the Department of Public Safety to present their 2022 Executive Proposed Budget. They presented their Core Programs and Functions, a Budget Summary, COVID-19 Response, and New Initiatives and Highlights. Commissioner Gleason highlighted that they are looking to enhance implicit bias and de-escalation training and have requested overtime budget as such.

Chair Borgia asked how many vacancies do they have? The Commissioner responded that on

the 23rd of this month it will be 15 sworn officer positions vacant, and 4 non-sworn civilian positions. The Commissioner noted that they are currently interviewing people and that there had been delays because of covid with administering and getting the results from the most recent police exam. Chair Borgia asked if there is another position being requested for the STOP-DWI program? The Commissioner responded that there have always been three positions in STOP-DWI and that they are trust-funded. Chair Borgia asked if following police reform throughout the County, will more in-service training be requested by the local municipalities, and will they need more funding to be able to provide that training? Commissioner Gleason responded that there has already been an increase in unified in-service training. We went from 15 municipalities participating to now 30. He noted that they have been able to keep up with the demand and that they are constantly evaluating if they will need more staff at the academy and will ask for the funding if necessary. Chair Borgia asked how the Department did with COVID? Commissioner Gleason responded that as many as 50-60 people out at some point. He added that the interesting part is that they contracted COVID from outside of work, not while on the job. This also led to many people being out of work while they were on quarantine.

Legislator Tubiolo asked if the Department feels that they have enough officers in the patrol services division? Chief Calabrese responded that summer is always the most challenging with the numbers in the parks. He discussed that presence in the County parks is an issue because it is hard to maintain the posts at all time and that they don't have a major presence in the northern parks in the County. Their focus is mainly on the parks in the southern portion of the County such as at Playland. Legislator Tubiolo asked how many officers do they need? Chief Calabrese responded that absolutely they could use more officers for the parks, but it depends on the degree of patrol regularity. He noted that more patrols mean more officers and more officers to cover new posts. Commissioner Gleason added that they are working on a more robust camera system to help cover the parks, however, cameras don't replace officers.

Legislator Smith stated that he had heard there were other departments in the County that would like to be part of a joint body camera venture but that the cost of storage is what is hindering widespread adoption. He asked is the County could help shoulder some of those costs? Commissioner Gleason responded that they had put out a survey to the local chiefs on body cameras and that they did not get much interest in a County-wide joint project. Legislator Cunzio asked if there are plans to expand LPR's? The Commissioner responded that the LPR program continues to grow and grant funding has been used to purchase equipment. He noted that technology is a huge portion of fighting crime.

Legislator Maher asked what percentage of personnel have been vaccinated? The Commissioner responded that their last survey about six weeks ago showed that 75% of sworn officers had been vaccinated. Legislator Maher asked what is the job of a college resource officer at WCC? Chief Calabrese responded that WCC asked the County police to hire a full time officer for a WCC posting. There has always been an officer on a rotating schedule posted to WCC as an overtime position. WCC asked that there be more consistency and that there be an officer posted there as straight time opposed to overtime. This will ensure that the same officer is consistently seen on campus and available to the staff and students as needed. Legislator Maher asked what is the status of Project Alliance? Commissioner Gleason responded that the pilot program will roll out soon.

Legislator Walter asked if the COVID overtime will be covered under CARES? Gideon Grande responded that yes, it is eligible for reimbursement, and they will be submitting for it, however, this budget does not assume they will be reimbursed. Legislator Walter asked if the County was involved in the recent bomb threats in Yonkers? Chief Calabrese responded that they were not involved. He added that Yonkers police have its own bomb-sniffing dog and if there had been a device then the County would be called in. Legislator Walter asked if the RTC is involved with the DA regarding cybercrime? Chief Inspector John Hodges responded that the DA's WIC has been assimilated for the most part with the RTC and that there as been a more collective response to cybercrime between the RTC and the DA's office. Legislator Walter asked about noise cameras? Commissioner Gleason responded that it is going forward and that they are getting ready to send out an RFP.

Legislator Shimsky asked what accounted for the extra \$1.5 million allocated for regular salaries? Siva Gopalkrishna responded that the salary increase is all from collective bargaining. Legislator Shimsky asked about stopping racing on the County parkways? Chief Calabrese responded that they are working jointly with local departments but that it is hard to be everywhere at once. He added that officers must see it to be able to enforce it. He mentioned that they are thankful to the citizens who report it because it enables them to narrow down the areas where it is happening. Commissioner Gleason remarked that the reporting will become even easier once they launch their new police application.

Legislator Barr asked if the police exam has been changed to reflect technology? Captain William McGuinness responded that the exam is set by NYS Civil Service, however, there was a new section added recently to reflect best choices in certain situations. Legislator Barr asked why the cost of prisoner transportation has increased? Captain McGuinness responded that the low cost in previous years was due to the courts being closed during COVID.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Tubiolo, seconded by Legislator Walter, the Committee adjourned at 11:56 AM.