



Public Works & Transportation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft

Committee Chair: MaryJane Shimsky

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

Monday, May 2, 2022

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Budget & Appropriations committee

This meeting was held pursuant to Chapter 56 of the New York State Laws of 2022, which authorize any public body to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public-in-person access to meetings and authorize such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. To access the meeting, please visit: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>.

With a quorum present, Chair Shimsky called the meeting to order at 11:21 a.m.

Others in attendance: BOL: Legislators: Damon Maher, Erika Pierce, and Jewel Williams Johnson; Legislators (Remote): Jose Alvarado, Chris Johnson, and James Nolan; Committee Coordinators: Jill Axelrod and James Silverberg; DEF: Vincent Kopicki, Nat Federici, and Chris Gelardo; Planning Dept.: David Kvinge

Present: Committee Chair Shimsky

Absent: Legislator Parker and Legislator Smith

Remote: Legislator Barr, Legislator Tubiolo and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

MINUTES APPROVAL

Friday, April 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Shimsky, Legislator Barr, Legislator Tubiolo and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Parker and Legislator Smith

Monday, April 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Barr, the minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Shimsky, Legislator Barr, Legislator Tubiolo and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Parker and Legislator Smith

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Shimsky, Legislator Barr, Legislator Tubiolo and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Parker and Legislator Smith

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [2022-203](#) **BOND ACT(Amended)-SY009-Yonkers Joint TP Odor Control & HVAC Upgrades**

Dept. of Environmental Facilities: Commissioner Vincent Kopicki, Deputy Commissioner Nat Federici, and Christopher Gelardo

Commissioner Kopicki, Deputy Commissioner Nat Federici, and Associate Construction Engineer Chris Gelardo discussed the item. They said the main focus is adding a high efficiency flare to burn off any gas produced at the plant. They will have turbo blowers which will provide more operational flexibility, and add secondary screening to take out solids from the flow and prevent outages of tanks downstream and protect the pumps that carry the extra solids. Commissioner Kopicki said they are constantly evaluating the plant to see if there is anything else they can do to make a difference.

Legislator Shimsky asked if there is enough to warrant checking the Energy Efficiencies box in the Overall Project Description on the Capital Project Fact Sheet. Commissioner Kopicki said yes, noting that the new blowers are much more efficient than the ones we are using now. He said he will check to see if the committee coordinator can make the change or if he has to do that.

Legislator Shimsky said that the most effective way to deal with the odors is to cover the aeration tanks, but there is a high cost and operational complications if it's not done right. Since 2011, we have done projects as progressive steps that should help and seem to be a good idea for other reasons, as a way to avoid the more expensive projects. We get some benefit, but significant problems remain. She questioned how effective this work is likely to be. Commissioner Kopicki said he thinks it will be highly effective. He does not believe that the aeration tanks are the main source of the odor. He said that sludge handling and dewatering cause most of the bad odors at the plant. Deputy Commissioner Federici agreed that one of the best ways to control odors at a treatment plant is to have it operate effectively, and these steps will do that.

Legislator Alvarado said that his constituents in Yonkers complain that they don't get answers when they call the odor complaint hotline, and said the system needs to be improved. He asked how much the burning of gas will be reduced by the new engines. Commissioner Kopicki said that once they are in place, we will be flaring off substantially less gas than we are right now. We will be burning less gas and the burners are more efficient. You can't totally get rid of the flares because there will always be some gas that needs to be burned off. Deputy Commissioner Federici said the new flares will be enclosed flames so you won't be able to see them.

Legislator Alvarado asked if they were planning to cover the entire plant like what was done in New York City. Commissioner Kopicki said there was never any intent or discussion to entirely cover this plant. There was only discussion about covering aeration tanks. Deputy Commissioner Federici said the North River Plant in New York City, which is south of the Hudson River, put a park on its rooftop but a lot of the tanks are not covered. Legislator Alvarado said they are building a park in Yonkers next to the plant, and wants to ensure the air will be breathable and people can use the park.

Legislator Maher asked how many responsible bidders respond to RFPs for this kind of job, and whether there is a large array of vendors. Commissioner Kopicki said a lot of this is mechanical work, so the general contractor needs to have subcontractors that specialize in that. This type of work is usually done by large contractors. He said that they can't bid for a specific piece of equipment unless they purchase it directly and have the contractor install it, but the specs are written to ensure that the vendors will meet certain requirements for performance and efficiency. They typically get about five or six bidders or more. It depends on time of year and how many other projects are going on.

Legislator Pierce asked for a cost breakdown. Commissioner Kopicki said he didn't provide it because it was very high level because they didn't start design yet.

Legislator Shimsky said she like to schedule a committee field trip to a wastewater treatment plant this summer. Commissioner Kopicki said they can do it at any plant she chooses.

Legislator Shimsky noted that this is a very large sum of money for something that is essentially at 0% design. She asked if committee members would feel comfortable voting on this today and scheduling a follow-up meeting with DEF once they reach 60% design. Commissioner Kopicki said they told the consultant they want this fast tracked, and should be able to provide that in about four months. Legislator Shimsky asked that DEF provide cost breakdowns at that time, and if committee members have any questions at that point, we can discuss them. Commissioner Kopicki said he will ask them to prepare whatever level estimate they can provide based on what percentage of design we are at in four months.

Legislator Maher said he would defer to the Yonkers legislators. Although Legislator Alvarado had left the meeting, Legislators Johnson, Tubiolo, and Nolan agreed to vote it out conditioned on getting the cost estimates.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Shimsky, Legislator Barr, Legislator Tubiolo and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Parker and Legislator Smith

2. [2022-204](#) **BOND ACT(Amended)-SM018, SM019, SM021, SM030, SM075, SM095**

Dept. of Environmental Facilities: Commissioner Vincent Kopicki, Deputy Commissioner Nat Federici, and Christopher Gelardo

Commissioner Kopicki discussed the item. Deputy Commissioner Federici said the Mamaroneck plant is the treatment plant that most relies on emergency power because it has more frequent outages because of where it is located.

Legislator Barr asked what they have done to make sure the equipment is flood proof. Commissioner Kopicki said they constantly test all of the emergency standby equipment to make sure it's operational. Deputy Commissioner Federici said that all of the electrical equipment conforms to FEMA recommended elevations.

Legislator Pierce asked for a prioritized list of projects. Assistant Commissioner Federici said the five-year plan reflects that and is part of the budget book.

Commissioner Kopicki said they always look to incorporate flood mitigation in every project. Legislator Shimsky asked for a copy of the flood mitigation study. Commissioner Kopicki said he will provide it.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Shimsky, Legislator Barr, Legislator Tubiolo and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Parker and Legislator Smith

3. [2022-221](#) **BOND ACT-BPL26-1899-Flood Mitigation**

Planning Dept.: Assistant Commissioner David Kvinge; Dept: of Environmental Facilities: Commissioner Vincent Kopicki, Deputy Commissioner Nat Federici, and Christopher Gelardo

Assistant Commissioner Kvinge discussed the item. Legislator Shimsky asked when you fix a dam versus decommissioning it. He said decommissioning is appropriate if the dam is not functioning for a purpose any longer and would provide additional flood storage capacity if flooding events occur. The city uses the water behind this dam as a part of their drinking water supply system, so eliminating it would cause problems for the city. He said that they look for ways to improve the resiliency of the dams they repair. Here, they will be dredging behind it to increase or restore the storage capacity. The dam will be strengthened as part of the rehabilitation. They will also be clearing and constructing an access road which will facilitate regular maintenance of the dam and the impoundment behind it.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Shimsky, Legislator Barr, Legislator Tubiolo and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Parker and Legislator Smith

4. [2022-222](#) **IMA-Flood Mitigation-BPL26-1899-Peekskill**

Planning Dept.: Assistant Commissioner David Kvinge; Deputy Commissioner Nat Federici, and Christopher Gelardo

See discussion of Item #3 above.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Shimsky, Legislator Barr, Legislator Tubiolo and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Parker and Legislator Smith

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Barr, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, the Committee adjourned at 12:50 p.m. by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Shimsky, Legislator Barr, Legislator Tubiolo and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Parker and Legislator Smith

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