



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

Monday, November 15, 2021

1:00 PM

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 1:45 PM.

*Others in Attendance: BOL: Anand Singh, Yolanda Valencia, Alessandra Restiano
Remote: MaryJane Shimsky, Colin Smith, Kitley Covill, Melanie Montalto, James Silverberg
BUDGET Remote: Deb Ogden
PRC Remote: Kathy O'Connor, Peter Tartaglia, Neil Squillante,
Ken Uhle
DPW/T Remote: Robert Abbamont*

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

Absent: Committee Vice-Chair Gashi and Legislator Johnson

Remote: Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Parker, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1:00 PM - Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation- Presentation on the 2022 Operating Budget

*Guests: Commissioner Kathy O'Connor & First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia
Commissioner O'Connor and First Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia appeared before the Committee to present the 2022 Executive Proposed Budget. Commissioner O'Connor gave a departmental overview of their core programs and functions, spoke about conservation efforts. Staff/staff training and investment, funding assistance from the Parks Foundation, a budget summary, COVID response, and new initiatives. Chair Borgia stated that she has received a number of compliments about the quality of the staff at the parks. Commissioner O'Connor responded that they spend a lot of time developing staff and fixing issues that need to be addressed. Chair Borgia asked about the number of unfilled positions? FDC Tartaglia responded that there are around 17-19 unfilled positions, mostly at the County Center. He added that they plan on keeping those unfilled until the future of the County Center is decided. Chair Borgia asked how staffing was affected by COVID? Commissioner O'Connor responded that a number of staff got COVID or had to quarantine, but that the department managed to*

make it through. She noted that only two lifeguards this summer got it, which is one of the hardest positions to fill. Chair Bordia asked about vaccination stats? Commissioner O'Connor responded that as of six weeks ago, roughly 80 out of 220 staff were unvaccinated. She noted that they will be reassessing who has been vaccinated shortly. Chair Borgia asked about the number of people using the parks? Commissioner O'Connor responded that it is interesting to note that this summer relative to last summer, the golf numbers have remained roughly the same, inclement weather impacted this but overall, it was encouraging. She continued that pool numbers were roughly the same as well, there were no big drop-offs. People continued to use County facilities.

Chair Borgia asked for a brief summary of what is going on at playland? Commissioner O'Connor mentioned that FDC Tartaglia and her met with staff to discuss working as a county employee versus working for Standard Amusements and 11 young men chose to leave Playland and come work for the Parks Department as County employees including electricians, carpenters, and one person going to the County Center. FDC Tartaglia discussed that the Switchgear building is moving along nicely and that they are waiting on final approvals from Con Ed. Several of the older buildings that needed demo have been taken down. The pool area is the most impressive area for construction since you can now see what the new one will look like. This is the most construction-intensive area since the 1920s for the park. The carousel and derby racer ran the entire season and will need some small work. The entire fountain plaza area is closed off for restoration. Legislator Maher asked about the migration of 11 craftsmen to general maintenance and asked don't we want to see the opposite of this? FDC Tartaglia responded that every employee was offered a job from Standard Amusements and the decision was up to the employee. He also noted that four people not factored in are four County employees who work at the park but do a lot of the same stuff these craftsmen did. Commissioner O'Connor added that there are roughly 12 or so people with the institutional knowledge of caring for the parks and their rides and that they are working as county employees under Standard Amusements. Legislator Walter asked if they stayed as a county employee don't they come off the county payroll? FDC Tartaglia stated that they stay on the county payroll, but that Standard Amusements reimburses the County. Legislator Covill asked where we are on the farmhouse design? FDC Tartaglia responded that it has to go out to bid. They are currently working on shoring up the farmhouse so they can get closer to design and remediation. Legislator Covill asked if they have gone through any of the Wrightman Estate and do they have any idea how much that will cost? FDC Tartaglia responded that they recently went through the bid and are just starting the construction process now, which will mostly be enveloping the exterior. He noted that they put up fencing last week. Legislator Barr asked if anyone has come forward to donate their property over the past year? Commissioner O'Conner responded that the new laws concerning the donation of property require money in perpetuity, which was not there, which is why they were left to disintegrate. Going forward, if someone wants to leave the property, there must be enough money to keep it going over the years.

ACT-2021-205 BOND ACT-Equipment Acquisition

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of ONE MILLION (\$1,000,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project B035E - Equipment Acquisition Program (2021-2025) and Capital Project RGP13 - General Infrastructure - Equipment Acquisition (2021-2025).

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS &

TRANSPORTATION

Joint with PWT

Guests: Commissioner Kathy O'Connor and First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia-PRC; Robert Abbamont, Director of Capital Projects- DPW/T

Commissioner O'Connor, First Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia, and Program Coordinator (Capital Planning) Abbamont appeared before the Committee to discuss item #2021-560-BOND ACT-Equipment Acquisition. This bond act in the total amount of \$1,000,000 to finance the following two capital projects for 2022: B035E-Equipment Acquisition Program (2021-2025); and RGP13-General Infrastructure-Equipment Acquisition (2021-2025). This would finance the replacement of equipment associated with the maintenance of the County roadway system and County facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works & Transportation. It would also fund the acquisition of heavy equipment and vehicles for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

DPW&T anticipates that the following equipment will be replaced:

- *2000 International six-wheel plow truck with interchangeable bodies & accessories (#5775)*
- *1994 International rack body truck equipped with cones, barricades and barrels (#4553)*

PRC anticipates that the following equipment will be replaced:

- *2008 GMC Dump Truck (#137742)*
- *2008 Chevrolet Dump Truck (#149142)*
- *2009 Toro Sidewinder 35000 (#190642)*
- *2012 Toro Reelmaster 5210 (#546542)*
- *2008 John Deer Rough Mower (#126542)*
- *2010 John Deere Tractor (#208242)*
- *2001 Toro Triplex Mower (#5978)*
- *2008 John Deere Turbo Mower 1600 (#137442)*

Chair Borgia asked if there are more specialized equipment that is needed? FDC Tartaglia responded that these are replacement equipment that provide the same function but are newer technology. Legislator Maher asked are there any environmental considerations? Mr. Abbamont responded that they do not currently make hybrid dump trucks, however, the emissions from these newer truck is far less than the trucks that they are replacing. Legislator Walter asked where this equipment be located? FDC Tartaglia responded that the equipment will be properly housed at the locations they are assigned. Two for PW&T at their road maintenance facility and eight for PRC will be located at the specific parks they will be assigned to.

On motion of Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Borgia, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Maher, Legislator Parker, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Walter, Legislator Williams and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Committee Vice-Chair Gashi and Legislator Johnson

II. OTHER BUSINESS**III. RECEIVE & FILE****ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Walter, the Committee adjourned at 2:51 PM.