



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

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting jointly with the Committees on Public Work & Transportation, Public Safety and Environment & Health.

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 10:16 AM.

Others in Attendance: BOL: Colin Smith, Kitley Covill, Anand Singh, Yolanda Valencia, Alessandra Restiano BOL Remote: MaryJane Shimsky, Melanie Montalto, James Silverberg BOL Elect: James Nolan, Jewel Williams-Johnson (Remote) DPW/T Remote: Hugh Greechan, Gayle Katzman, Hernane DeAlmedia, Anthony Finateri, Diane Vanadia, Lee Prakash, Michael Swee, Anthony Finateri, Robert Notargiocamo, Peter Scherrer, Robert Abbamont, Lindsay Jackson BUDGET Remote: Gideon Grande, Mark Medwid

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

Absent: Committee Vice-Chair Gashi

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10:00 AM - Department of Public Works - Presentation on the 2022 Operating Budget

Guests: Commissioner Hugh Greechan, First Deputy Commissioner Gayle Katzman, Deputy Commissioner Hernane DeAlmedia, Anthony Finateri, Director of Administration, Diane Vanadia, Budget Analyst and Lee Prakash, Deputy Director of Administration

11:30 AM - Transportation & Airport - Presentation on the 2022 Operating Budget

Transportation Guests: Commissioner Hugh Greechan, First Deputy Commissioner Gayle Katzman, Michael Swee, Director of Surface Transportation, Anthony Finateri, Director of Administration, Diane Vanadia, Budget Analyst and Robert Notargiocomo, Program Administrator

Airport Guests: Commissioner Hugh Greechan, Diane Vanadia, Budget Analyst, Peter Scherrer, Avports and Jeane Curry, Avports

Commissioner Greechan appeared before the Committee with his team from the Department of Public Works & Transportation to present their 2022 Executive Proposed Budget. Chair Borgia asked how the Department managed during COVID? Commissioner Greechan responded that unfortunately, the majority of staff could not be remote, and throughout the year employees were out due to sickness or family leave. Chair Borgia asked about the Departments' vacancies? Commissioner Greechan responded that there are 26 vacancies. He added that it is difficult to find the right candidate for the positions. Chair Borgia asked if there is an area where there is more need for employees, operationally? Commissioner Greechan responded that they are looking to hire a lot of engineers to fill those vacancies, however, it is hard to compete with the private sector. Vice-Chair Williams stated that some effort should be made to reach out to HBCU's, which would be beneficial to both the schools and the County. She asked if the Department has reached out to any of those? Commissioner Greechan responded no they have not.

Legislator Maher asked about shared services, policy on discretionary allocation of resources, and the need to ensure that municipalities are in compliance with the housing settlement? Commissioner Greechan responded that they would have to hire consultants for them since they do not have enough staff for themselves, but they share services all the time. He noted that it is not codified but that they assist each other daily. Legislator Walter asked about the recent federal infrastructure bill and if the Department preparing a wish list of projects? Commissioner Greechan responded that they need to get everything through the design phase since not all projects are shovel-ready. Mr. Abbamont added that historically, they have applied existing/future capital projects for federal aid and rolled that into the existing projects. Legislator Walter asked about solar panels? DC Katzman responded that solar panels were an NYPA initiative. There were five sites including bus garages and that vendors want to install all of them at the same time, so they are trying to finish up the roof projects before they

can begin the actual installation.

Transportation

Chair Boykin asked about updating the Bee-Line system and how we can better notify people about changes in service? DC Katzman responded that there were some additional service changes due to COVID/staffing related issues. Director Swee added that they did have to cut some services due to a shortage of drivers, which is a nationwide issue. Liberty Lines had exhausted every option including bringing back retirees. They did manage to change all the maps online over the course of a few days which had never been done. He noted that there is no way to update the physical maps at all 3000+ bus stops throughout the County. This was unprecedented and they were not set up to make these kinds of changes, however, they are working with Liberty Lines to try and restore service next month. Legislator Shimsky asked what are we doing in the meantime to keep riders informed about last minute changes? Director Swee responded that there was a period where they went day to day and did not know what service would look like. Since the October 20th change, there have been no changes. There is a Bee-Line hotline number for riders to call and they are doing web blasts/E-news. Commissioner Greechan remarked that they would like to have an app like Metro North as well as add additional screens to bus stops. Chair Borgia asked roughly how many drivers are vaccinated? Commissioner Greechan responded that there is no County list, that this would fall under Liberty Lines purview. Chair Boykin asked is there are plans to upgrade HVAC and air filtration systems on the buses? Director Swee responded no that is a very intensive process, but the new buses they are purchasing will have most of the things they are looking for. Commissioner Greechan added that they have retrofitted the older busses with lower-tech stuff like physical shields.

Airport

Legislator Barr asked about sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)? Mr. Scherrer responded the product that's been in development for the past decade, taking waste products (cooking oil, etc), and turning it into jet fuel (white kerosene) they call normal Jet-A, new stuff they're using is Jet-A1, which is initially mixed part Jet-A1/SAF fuel, have since increased the ratio to include more SAF fuel. This year AA flew a flight on 100% SAF fuel, they've done the engine testing, now know they can run it on 100% SAF. Money we are spending is to implement infrastructure in place to accept SAF fuel, hoping to see SAF fuel facilities on the east coast soon. SAF fuel eliminates 80% of carbon emissions into the environment. SAF fuel is roughly double the price currently, but as production ramps up cost should go to about normal. They collect ½ cent on fuel flow fees to help fuel farms, regulators have said that they have never seen a fuel farm as well maintained as the County's. They will be able to pay back the cost in about 1 year. Legislator Barr asked what else the County can do concerning airport emissions, excluding what we do on the ground, and how can we better utilize the recommendations from the Airport Advisory Board? Mr. Scherrer responded that they have done a lot of work to change over to EV's, hanger door replacements, they replaced a wall with solar panels, changed over the heating system from oil to natural gas. These programs and studies help identify things that they can improve on. Legislator Covill asked about altering flight paths and the Phase II airport noise modeling? Mr. Scherrer responded that they cannot make any changes to flight paths without getting approval from the FAA and a study was conducted to see if flying over 684 would help reduce noise. Legislator Parker asked if adding a third

retention pond is something they are looking into? Mr. Scherrer responded that it is being looked at under the master plan. The next phase is dredging the current ponds, which will add more volume.

1. [2021-564](#) **BOND ACT(Amended)-Buses**

A BOND ACT (Amended) authorizing the issuance of an additional TWENTY FOUR MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (\$24,850,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance three (3) Capital Projects for 2022: T001U - Replacement of Thirty-Foot Buses, T001Y - Replace Orion Forty-Foot Coach Buses and T001Z - Replace 95 NABI 40-Foot Hybrid Buses.

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

Joint with PWT

This ACT - Bond Act was tabled

2. [2021-556](#) **BOND ACT-T0056-Bus Stop Improvements II**

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (\$350,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project T0056 - Bus Stop Improvements II.

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

Joint with PWT

This ACT - Bond Act was tabled

3. [2021-561](#) **BOND ACT-Various Building Systems**

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of SEVENTEEN MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND (\$17,880,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance the following six (6) Capital Projects for 2022: BCR5E - Infrastructure Improvements (2021-2025), BCAR57 - HQ Rooftop Air Handling Unit Replacement, BCR60 - HVAC Improvements and Upgrades, B0114 - Infrastructure Rehab, Valhalla Campus (2021-2025), B0117 - Infrastructure Rehab, 450 Saw Mill River Road (2021-2025) and T0068 - Central Maintenance Facility Infrastructure.

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Joint with PWT & PS

This ACT - Bond Act was tabled

4. [2021-563](#) **BOND ACT-Equipment Systems**

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of THIRTEEN MILLION, NINE HUNDRED TWENTY SIX THOUSAND (\$13,926,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance the following nine (9) Capital Projects for 2022: BES23 - Ladder Truck, BLR2E - Labs and

Research Equipment Acquisition (2021-2025), B077E - Infrastructure Rehabilitation, Mt. Kisco District Office Bldg., (2015-2019), BPF39 - Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and Infrastructure, T009G - Paratransit Vehicles IV, T034A - Maintenance Facility Upgrades (2015-2019), T0046 - Farebox Equipment, T0069 - Cerrato Bus Garage - Infrastructure Improvements, Valhalla (2019-2023) and T0056 - Bus Stop Improvements II.

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

Joint with PWT & EH

This ACT - Bond Act was tabled

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Walter, the Committee adjourned at 1:14 PM.