

Environment, Energy & Climate

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft



Committee Chair: David Imamura

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

Monday, October 2, 2023

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

Joint w/ B&A and PWT

With a quorum present, Chair Imamura called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM

Others in Attendance:

GUESTS: Suzette Lopane (Remote), Blanca Lopez (Remote), David Kvinge (Remote), Susan Darling (Remote)

BOL: Legislator Symra Brandon, Legislator Colin Smith, Gregory Cassicato, Lisa Hochman, James Silverberg, Jill Axelrod

Present: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[ACT-2023-196](#) [BOND ACT-BPL26-2235-Flood Mitigation](#)

Guest: Department of Planning
Assistant Commissioner Dave Kvinge

Mr. Kvinge provided a presentation providing background on BPL26 which is a storm water management program that provides for County funding assistance up to 50 percent that are proposed and managed by local municipalities and included in regional storm water reconnaissance plans. The project for North Salem has suffered increasingly significant flooding and lake drains to the north into Putnam County. The drainage outlet from the lake has become clogged. This project will help study it and clean it out.

Legislator Barr asked if there are any guarantees that the local municipalities will not build more in flood plane areas or previously flooded areas? Mr. Kvinge explained that one of the things done in conjunction with the ordinance review, is to look at their standards and make recommendations. He said they all have a model ordinance which is recommended to be adopted by FEMA and NYS DEC however the County is unable to mandate where they can or can't build. They are encouraged to work collaboratively and build within the watershed. Legislator Barr stated she would like these large amounts of money tied to some sort of agreement to not build where we just helped remedy.

Legislator Pierce asked if there is any guidance from our Planning Department to our wetlands commissions on how to change their attitudes about touching and maintaining wetlands? Mr. Kvinge said the Planning Department can provide that guidance and examples to follow, but there is a pre-requisite during engineering plans that include an operations and maintenance plans to promote nature based solutions and vegetative practices that also require maintenance.

If you would like a copy of the presentation please reach out to Shatika Parker at slpc@westchestercountyny.gov

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Gashi, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

[ACT-2023-197](#) IMA-Flood Mitigation-BPL26-2235-North Salem

Guest: Department of Planning
Assistant Commissioner Dave Kvinge

See previous item 2023-363.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Gashi, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

[RES-2023-119 ENV RES-BPL26-2236-Flood Mitigation](#)

Guest: Department of Planning
Assistant Commissioner Dave Kvinge

Mr. Kvinge described the project in Rye Brook as one of the first implementation projects in a number of years. It will protect a large apartment development called Avon Circle. The area has been identified as a storm water problem area which floods regularly and significantly.

The proposal is to create an underground storage detention area that will retain the flood waters. The ball fields which also flood, will be moved on top of it.

Legislator asked when the apartments were built. Mr. Kvinge said it was around 1940-1950. She asked some additional questions about the structures in the area and around the buildings but ultimately praised the project and looks forward to its completion.

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

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

[ACT-2023-198 BOND ACT\(Amended\)-BPL26-2236-Flood Mitigation](#)

Guest: Department of Planning
Assistant Commissioner Dave Kvinge

See above. Item 2023-375

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

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

[ACT-2023-199 IMA-BPL26-2236-Flood Mitigation-Rye Brook](#)

Guest: Department of Planning
Assistant Commissioner Dave Kvinge

See above. Item 2023-375

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

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

[ACT-2023-206 BOND ACT-BPL26-2324-Flood Mitigation](#)

Guest: Department of Planning
Principal Environmental Planner Susan Darling

Ms. Darling presented on the areas of Yonkers that will be worked on which include Harrison Avenue and Clunie Avenue who have histories of frequent and significant flooding.

Legislator Brandon praised the project commented on her experience in knowing how badly areas like Clunie Avenue floods. She is happy to see this project come to fruition.

Legislator Pierce asked about the homeowners in that area and their experience with flooding that includes sewage. Mr. Kvinge explained that homeowners in these areas do deal with sewage and a variety of other issues. He said these areas have a long history of issues and the County along with the City of Yonkers, are hopeful that they have finally found a solution.

Legislator Pierce also asked about timeline for the project. Mr. Kvinge said they are hoping to complete engineering by Spring/Summer of 2024 to be in time for CFA grants in late July. If not, they will be back to the table under BPL26 to ask for more funding. The County will do its best to avoid that by searching for grants while Yonkers works on the engineering.

On motion of Legislator Gashi, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

[ACT-2023-207](#) IMA-BPL26-2324-Flood Mitigation-Yonkers

Guest: Department of Planning
Principal Environmental Planner Susan Darling

See above item 2023-413.

On motion of Legislator Gashi, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

[ACT-2023-208](#) BOND ACT-BPL26-2326-Flood Mitigation

Guest: Department of Planning
Principal Environmental Planner Susan Darling

See above item 2023-413.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Williams Johnson, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

[ACT-2023-209 IMA-BPL26-2326-Flood Mitigation-Yonkers](#)

Guest: Department of Planning
Principal Environmental Planner Susan Darling

See above item 2023-413.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Williams Johnson, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Parker, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, the Committee adjourned at 11:45 AM by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Barr

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo