



Budget & Appropriations

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Vedat Gashi

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

Monday, May 23, 2022

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting jointly with the Committees on Seniors & Youth and Law & Major Contracts

This meeting will be held pursuant to Chapter 1 of the New York State Laws of 2022 and Executive Order 11, as extended, 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 Gashi called the meeting to order at 10:17 AM.

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [ACT-2022-61](#) ACT-Amending Civil Service Exam Fees Waiver for Veterans

AN ACT Amending ACT 2-2004 as amended by ACTS 163-2008 and 211-2014 to provide a waiver of civil service examination application fees for veterans.

Submitted by: COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

Guests:

Commissioner Helen May, Frank Karinthoil, and Kara Merrill-Human Resources Department Budget Director Larry Soule and Deputy Budget Director Gideon Grande-Budget Commissioner Helen May, Assistant Commissioner Frank Karinthoil, and Director of Administration Kara Merrill from the Human Resources Department along with Director Larry Soule and Deputy Director Gideon Grande from the Budget Department appeared before the Committee to discuss item #2022-253-ACT-Amending Civil Service Exam Fees Waiver for Veterans. This would provide a waiver of civil service examination application fees for veterans. Commissioner May discussed that right now on the County workforce there are 74 total employees that have reported that they are veterans and on the local side there are 134, which is a total of 215, including seven at the Westchester Medical Center. She noted that the total number of County employees is around 4,600 employees and local agency employees is about 20,000. Commissioner May discussed that they did a two year look back on the number of veteran hires and in 2020 there were 16 hires; in 2021 there were 20 hires; and, year to date there have been 3 hires. She noted that the individual must report that they are a veteran for that information to be recorded. The other relevant information is current active duty members and we have just under 30 employees on military leave who we categorize them as

active duty. This is relevant because we do collect application fees for individuals that get promoted from one position to another within the County workforce of the local municipalities as well. If the legislation applies to everybody, it could apply to the collection of fees for promotions as well.

On motion of Legislator Smith, seconded by Legislator Williams Johnson, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

2. [ACT-2022-62](#) **IMA(Amend)-Add Community Resource Officer-Cortlandt**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester, to retroactively amend its inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Cortlandt, whereby the County, acting by and through its Department of Public Safety Services, provides police services to the Town for a term commencing February 1, 2020 and expiring January 31, 2025, in order to add the services of a County Police Officer, specially trained as a Community Resource Officer.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Guests: Department of Public Safety
Deputy Commissioner Terrence Raynor
Captain William McGuinness
Lieutenant Edward Reich
Sergeant James Dress

Deputy Commissioner Raynor, Sergeant Dress, Officer Deopaul Mahadeo (CRO in Cortlandt), Officer Eddie Ramirez (CRO in Mt. Kisco), and Siva Golpalkrishna appeared before the Committee to discuss item #2022-255-IMA(Amend)-Add Community Resource Officer-Cortlandt. This would authorize the County to amend its inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Cortlandt, whereby the County, acting through its Department of Public Safety, provides services to the Town for a term commencing February 1, 2020 and expiring January 31, 2025, in order to add the services of a County Police Officer, specially trained as a Community Resource Officer who will be assigned to the Cortlandt Precinct on a 40-hour work week schedule. Sgt. Dress discussed that the CRO model is based off the SRO model. He noted that during the police reform meetings, it was suggested that there be a community liaison and this idea is the response to that suggestion. They worked with the New York State Police and Juvenile Officers Association to develop a 40 hour block of training for community policing. This program was introduced in the fall of 2021 here in Westchester for our officers and for officers throughout the County and throughout the region.

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

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

3. [ACT-2022-63](#) **IMA-Positive Youth Development Programs-Municipalities**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into inter-municipal agreements with various municipalities for the provision of positive youth development programs.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND SENIORS AND YOUTH

Joint with S&Y.

Guests: Youth Bureau

Executive Director Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden

Fiscal-Administrator Bernie Dean

Dr. Harris-Madden stated this Act would authorize the County of Westchester acting through its Youth Bureau, to enter into inter-municipal agreements with 38 programs offered to 26 municipalities to provide positive youth development programs from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 for the total amount not to exceed \$297,489 dollars. This would support a number of items, which would include some administrative costs for the Youth Department, the Parks Department for educational programming at the Muscoot Farm, various police departments for youth officers, recreational opportunities, as well as, volunteer projects. This a historical request and that the New York State Office of Children and Family Services reimburses the Youth Bureau for these programs. Some other important notes is that this funding also supports our Gateway and Homeless Youth Shelter located at the Children's Village, as well as non profits, such as the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester Student Assistance Services, etc. This is a comprehensive program that varies based on jurisdiction, listed before you are the various municipalities that would be entering into the agreement.

Legislator Alvarado stated that the local communities should pay attention to the needs of their youth and adjust their programs accordingly. This is an opportunity that is county-wide.

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

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

4. [ACT-2022-64](#) **ACT - Claim Settlement against PSH Corp.**

AN ACT authorizing the County Attorney to settle the potential claims and causes of action of the County of Westchester against PSH Corp. in connection with flooring furnished and installed by PSH Corp. on the 9th floor of the Mount Vernon District Office of the County's Department of Social Services.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND LAW & MAJOR & CONTRACTS

Joint with LMC.

Guests:

County Attorney John Nonna-LAW

Director of Countywide Administrative Services Chris Steers-CE's Office

Deputy Commissioner Gayle Katzman-DPW&T

First Deputy Commissioner Katzman said that three weeks after the work was completed by the flooring contractor (PSH), portions of the flooring started to warp and separate from the

concrete base due to moisture buildup. DPW hired a flooring inspector, who determined that this happened due to improper installation of the flooring after an earlier chemical asbestos abatement performed by another County contractor. Under the settlement, the County will pay PSH \$90,000 to furnish and install replacement flooring and include a moisture barrier coat for areas that had moisture buildup, which was not included in the original project. PSH will warranty the entire floor for five years. She said they are confident that with the addition of the moisture barrier coat, the flooring will be usable and we won't have problems in the future.

Legislator Maher asked what was the source of the moisture buildup. Mr. Steers said that PSH was unaware that the prior contractor used chemicals to remove the flooring for the asbestos remediation, which would then require sanding and coating to prep the floor to ensure that the adhesive would stick. Ms. Katzman said that the installer is supposed to check for moisture, but we are not sure if this was done. DPW will take steps to avoid this from happening in the future. Mr. Steers said they will provide more specificity in future contracts.

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

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

II. OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion with the Law Department on Pending Litigation

Guests: LAW

County Attorney John Nonna

Deputy County Attorney David Chen

Senior Assistant County Attorney Shawna MacLeod

County Attorney John Nonna, Deputy County Attorney David Chen, and Senior Assistant County Attorney Shawna MacLeod appeared before the Committee and requested that we move into executive session.

With a motion by Legislator Woodson-Samuels and seconded by Legislator Smith, the committee went into executive session at 11:22 a.m. With a motion by Legislator Woodson-Samuels and seconded by Legislator Smith, the committee came out of executive session at 11:53 a.m.

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Williams Johnson, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the Committee adjourned at 11:55 AM.