



# Public Safety

## BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Terry Clements

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.  
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor  
White Plains, NY 10601  
[www.westchesterlegislators.com](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com)

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Tuesday, September 20, 2022

4:15 PM

Committee Room

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### CALL TO ORDER

*Please note: This meeting was held in person at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York 10601 in the McPoland Conference Room # 824 and also remotely via WebEx. Legislators may participate in person or via video conferencing through WebEx. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting in person at any of its locations or view it online at the Westchester Legislators website:  
<https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>*

*With a quorum present, Chair Terry Clements called the meeting to order at 4:27 P.M.*

**Present:** Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Pierce and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith

### MINUTES APPROVAL

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

**Aye:** Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Pierce and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith

September 12th, 2022 9:30 AM Minutes Approval

### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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**ACT-2022-129 ACT-2022 Operating Budget Amendment-Woodfield Cottage**

*Guests: Probation Dept.: Commissioner Rocco Pozzi; Budget Dept: Budget Director Larry Soule; CE's Office: Director of Operations Joan McDonald*

*Ms. McDonald explained that in 2018, it was decided that there was a need for a new facility in Valhalla because what we have today does not meet the state's legal requirements for housing and programming. The state legislation allows for the Dormitory Authority to finance, design, and construct projects. This will be a new facility, and we believe it makes sense to use the Dormitory Authority because they have the ability to do design/build and the County does not. Doing this will shave 18 months to 2 years off the total project timeline and will save costs. We avoid having designers and contractors arguing over design elements because they are one team. We are in negotiations with the Dormitory Authority to determine what the scope and size of the project will be. The Dormitory Authority will retain a bridge consultant to look at concepts and best practices for facilities of this nature. To start that work, we need to front \$5 million to the Dormitory Authority, so we can get to a point that the work can go to pre-qualified design teams.*

*Legislator Cunzio asked, if DASNY will reimburse up to 5 million dollars, what happens if the project goes over 5 million?*

*Joan McDonald explained the project will go over 5 million dollars, but this is for preliminary engineering. The total project will cost between 80 and 100 million. When DASNY does their debt issuance, this will get rolled into and the county will get reimbursed for that. The state will reimburse the cost of the facility.*

*Legislator Cunzio asked if the other counties that are also involved in the project are contributing any funds toward the project?*

*Joan McDonald explained there are two components for the project. The design and construction of the facility will be reimbursed by the state. There's 100 percent for raise the age beds and another percentage for non-raise the age beds. The on-going maintenance is also reimbursed from the state is currently convoluted. We are figuring out if counties will reimburse first and then let states reimburse them.*

*Legislator Cunzio asked, does this effect the masterplan for Grasslands or the fire departments that are responsible for Grasslands?*

*Joan McDonald said no, it would not.*

*Legislator Woodson-Samuels asked if there will be solar and green energy in the development?*

*Joan McDonald said it is too soon to know specifics but because DASNY will be in charge of the development, they will confirm to all of the state energy efficient guidelines.*

*Legislator Woodson-Samuels asked about the reimbursement timeline.*

*Joan McDonald said that they are paid up to date thus far, so they are confident that will continue.*

*Legislator Alvarado asked if its fair to say that this will become another unfunded mandate once everything is up and running?*

*Joan McDonald said that she believes the state will continue to refund us 100%. Larry Soule said that by way of the current law, they are obligated to fund the projects due to raise the age.*

*Legislator Williams-Johnson asked if Joan can reiterate what was told to the Budget and Appropriations Committee which relates to awarding the best design team.*

*Joan McDonald explained one of the benefits of design build means the contract doesn't have to go to the low bidder and instead to the best contract.*

*Legislator Woodson-Samuels stated for the record, no one can anticipate what the state will do, especially New York State. In the event that there are any changes that can effect the 100% reimbursement rate, the County Attorney can follow up with the Public Safety Committee to discuss those changes.*

*Legislator Clements asked, is this considered a regional facility since it encompasses the 9 counties?*

*Larry Soule answered its a Westchester facility that serves the region. He also added, for Westchester its a benefit that includes ease of access and priority?*

*Legislator Clements asked what is the capacity of the new facility?*

*Joan McDonald said right now there are talks about 80 but they are still in negotiations with the state.*

*Legislator Clements stated she asked because coming out of the pandemic there has been a lot of active problems with gangs.*

*Legislator Cunzio asked who from the county will be overseeing the project to make sure there are no issues with design build.*

*Joan McDonald answered that there is a working team headed by Gayle Katzman, First Deputy Commissioner of Public Works and Transportation, who comes from DASNY previously.*

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

**Aye:** Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Pierce and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith

**[RES-2022-171](#) RES-Declaring County's Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from County's Operating Funds with Proceeds of DASNY Bonds**

*Guests: Probation Dept.: Commissioner Rocco Pozzi; Budget Dept: Budget Director Larry Soule; CE's Office: Director of Operations Joan McDonald*

*As discussed in item 1.*

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

**Aye:** Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Pierce and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith

**II. OTHER BUSINESS**

**III. RECEIVE & FILE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Johnson, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the Committee adjourned at 4:58 P.M.