


June 2, 2023

TO: Hon. Vedat Gashi, Chair
Hon. Nancy Barr, Vice Chair
Hon. Christopher Johnson, Majority Leader
Hon. Margaret Cunzio, Minority Leader

FROM: George Latimer
Westchester County Executive  Kenneth Jenkins
Acting County Executive

RE: Message Requesting Immediate Consideration: **IMA - Valhalla Fire District - Fire Suppression Services.**

This will confirm my request that the Board of Legislators allow submission of the referenced communication to be submitted to the Board of Legislators June 5, 2023 Agenda.

Attached for your consideration is an Act which, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services ("DES") to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Valhalla Fire District.

Therefore, since this communication is of the utmost importance, it is respectfully submitted that the County Board of Legislators accepts this submission for June 5, 2023 "blue sheet" calendar.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



George Latimer
County Executive

June 1, 2023

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators:

Attached for your consideration is an Act which, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services ("DES") to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Valhalla Fire District ("District") for a term of two (2) years commencing retroactively on January 1, 2023 and expiring on December 31, 2024. For the services to be provided, the District will be paid the aggregate amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars, subject to appropriation. The County's agreement with the District for these same services expired on December 31, 2022.

In order to respond to the unique environments existing on the Grasslands Reservation, the District will participate in specialized training and activities with the Grasslands Fire Brigade and furnish, at its sole cost and expense, equipment appropriate to prepare for fire suppression activities and rescue operations on the Grasslands Reservation. The proposed agreement is essential for the enhancement of fire protection on the Grasslands Reservation. More particularly, the District will be required to perform the following services:

(a) The District agrees to train with DES staff and develop a plan whereby the District may be called upon to operate District vehicles (if available) or DES vehicles to transport the Mass Decontamination Unit ("MDU") trailer, Rough Terrain Vehicle ("RTV") transport trailers, Mass Casualty Incident ("MCI") trailers or other types of equipment trailers owned by the County to emergency scenes in and around Westchester County. Said training shall be conducted with County staff and designees at a time and location to be determined by the County in consultation with the District. Said training shall include, but not be limited to, trailer/vehicle attachment and detachment, trailer tow vehicle safety instruction and familiarization with County driver policies and procedures.

The District shall supply and maintain a minimum of six (6) firefighters who have completed said training. Each identified firefighter must be capable of being pre-cleared by the County Office of Risk Management as a qualified motor vehicle operator.

The District agrees to supply a qualified firefighter/driver within 30 minutes of the initial request to transport the trailer(s) to the scene upon request from the County Emergency Communications Center (ECC-60 Control), provided it has the trained personnel available to do so. The District will not be responsible, if after a good faith effort to locate a trained operator(s), it is unable to respond to a request for a driver. Should the District fail to respond to three (3) such requests during any calendar year of this Agreement, the County reserves the right to deem such failure to perform as a material breach and cancel the Agreement immediately. In the event the Agreement is so terminated, to the extent there are any unpaid fees, said fees shall be prorated to the date of termination.

(b) Participate in annual, joint training; site “walkthroughs”; preparation of pre-plans; participation in tabletops and drills with the Grasslands Fire Brigade, County employees and designees. Such training shall be conducted at a time and location to be determined by the County in consultation w/ the District. Documentation of participation in said activities (including attendance rolls) shall be reported in writing to the DES Director of Fire Services within thirty (30) days of occurrence.

(c) Maintain a minimum of twenty four (24) firefighters trained in the NYS Decontamination curriculum for the Fire District firefighters to operate upon request, the decontamination equipment at the Westchester Medical Center and the DES MDU. Training of the Fire District's firefighters will include familiarization with the process of erecting and operating decontamination equipment during emergencies in order to maintain a standard of fitness to competently operate said decontamination equipment.

(d) Requests for decontamination response will be placed by the Department of Emergency Services, Emergency Communications Center (ECC-60 Control) or the Westchester Medical Center, through the Department of Emergency Services, Emergency Communications Center (ECC-60 Control).

(e) Conduct at least one drill to demonstrate the capability to establish and operate the decontamination equipment in conjunction with Westchester Medical Center staff and the Grasslands Fire Brigade, County employees and designees. Said drill shall be scheduled jointly by the District and DES.

(f) Maintain an ongoing professional standard of communication with the Grasslands Fire Brigade.

(g) Issue a quarterly report to the DES Commissioner by the last Friday of the month following the end of the previous quarter, i.e., the last Friday in the months of April, July, October and January, itemizing and providing a summary for the previous quarter's activities. Said report shall contain information on all activities involving the Grasslands Reservation and report on the success of any special initiatives or projects.

The Planning Department has advised that the proposed Agreement does not meet the definition of an “action” under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 6 NYCRR part 617.5(c)(26). Type II actions are those actions determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and therefore do not require further environmental review. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 12, 2023, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board

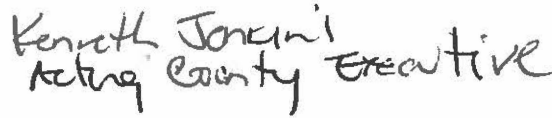
of Legislators. As such, no environmental review is required. As you know, your Honorable Board may use such expert advice to make its own conclusion.

I believe this Agreement to be in the best interest of the County and, therefore, recommend your favorable action on the annexed proposed Act.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Latimer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

George Latimer
County Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Jonkin', with the words 'Acting County Executive' written below it.

GL/RGW/CMC
Attachments

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Your Committee is in receipt of a communication from the County Executive forwarding for your Honorable Board's consideration an Act which, if approved, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services ("DES") to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Valhalla Fire District ("District") for a term of two (2) years commencing retroactively on January 1, 2023 and expiring on December 31, 2024. For the services to be provided, the District will be paid the aggregate amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) Dollars, subject to appropriation. The County's agreement with the District for these same services expired on December 31, 2022.

In order to respond to the unique environments existing on the Grasslands Reservation, the District will participate in specialized training and activities with the Grasslands Fire Brigade and furnish, at its sole cost and expense, equipment appropriate to prepare for fire suppression activities and rescue operations on the Grasslands Reservation. The proposed agreement is essential for the enhancement of fire protection on the Grasslands Reservation. More particularly, the District will be required to perform the following services:

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cleared by the County Office of Risk Management as a qualified motor vehicle operator.

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(b) Participate in annual, joint training; site “walkthroughs”; preparation of pre-plans; participation in tabletops and drills with the Grasslands Fire Brigade, County employees and designees. Such training shall be conducted at a time and location to be determined by the County in consultation w/ the District. Documentation of participation in said activities (including attendance rolls) shall be reported in writing to the DES Director of Fire Services within thirty (30) days of occurrence.

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(f) Maintain an ongoing professional standard of communication with the Grasslands Fire Brigade.

(g) Issue a quarterly report to the DES Commissioner by the last Friday of the month following the end of the previous quarter, i.e., the last Friday in the months of April, July, October and January, itemizing and providing a summary for the previous quarter's activities. Said report shall contain information on all activities involving the Grasslands Reservation and report on the success of any special initiatives or projects.

The Planning Department has advised that the proposed Agreement does not meet the definition of an “action” under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 6 NYCRR part 617.5(c)(26). As such, no environmental review is required. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 12, 2023, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Your Committee concurs with this conclusion.

An affirmative vote of a majority of the voting strength of your Honorable Board is required for approval of the attached Act.

Your Committee has carefully considered the proposed Act and believes it to be in the best interest of the County and, therefore, recommends your Honorable Board’s favorable action on the annexed proposed Act.

Dated: _____, 2023
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Valhalla Fire District

NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

GENERAL FUND

AIRPORT FUND

SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense \$ 50,000

Total Current Year Revenue \$ -

Source of Funds (check one): Current Appropriations Transfer of Existing Appropriations

Additional Appropriations

Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: 101 20 1000 4420

2023: \$50,000 and 2024: \$50,000

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount \$50,000

Describe: IMA with Valhalla Fire District for fire suppression services for the term of two (2) years commencing on January 1, 2023 and expiring on December 31, 2024

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount N/A

Describe: _____

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: N/A

Next Four Years: N/A

Prepared by: Julia Criscitelli

Title: Budget Specialist III

Department: Emergency Services


Date: May 18, 2023

Reviewed By: PH

[Signature]
Budget Director

Date: 6/1/23

TO: George Latimer, County Executive
Kenneth Jenkins, Deputy County Executive
John Nonna, County Attorney

FROM: David Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM 
Assistant Commissioner

DATE: January 12, 2023

SUBJECT: **ACTIVITIES NOT SUBJECT TO STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
REVIEW**

As required by the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617 (“SEQR”), the Board of Legislators (“BOL”) is the body that must assess the environmental significance of all actions that the BOL has discretion to approve, fund or directly undertake. The Planning Department has historically conducted the necessary environmental review for the BOL to undertake its responsibility under SEQR. Additionally, contracts going before the Board of Acquisition and Contracts (“BAC”) must be reviewed for conformance with SEQR.

Pursuant to Section 617.2(b) of SEQR, “Actions” are defined as:

- (1) projects or physical activities, such as construction or other activities that may affect the environment by changing the use, appearance or condition of any natural resource or structure, that:
 - (i) are directly undertaken by an agency; or
 - (ii) involve funding by an agency; or
 - (iii) require one or more new or modified approvals from an agency or agencies;
- (2) agency planning and policy making activities that may affect the environment and commit the agency to a definite course of future decisions;
- (3) adoption of agency rules, regulations and procedures, including local laws, codes, ordinances, executive orders and resolutions that may affect the environment; and
- (4) any combinations of the above.

As part of the Planning Department’s ongoing review of its processes, we are streamlining the process for SEQR review and related document preparation for the BOL and BAC. The most effective method to achieve a more timely SEQR review is to create a list of categories of activities that do not meet the definition of an “action” as defined in SEQR. This list (attached) references activities that are routine and which do not change the use, appearance or condition of any natural resource or structure, nor do they involve policies or regulations that may affect the environment. The creation of this list in no way eliminates the BOL’s or BAC’s

responsibilities under SEQ. Rather, it establishes a workflow for items that are routine and do not, under the law, require environmental review.

Accordingly, the Planning Department advises that no environmental review is required and no SEQ documentation is necessary for submission with BOL legislation or with resolutions or contracts requiring BAC approval regarding activities on the attached list.

County departments and agencies may reference this memorandum in the legislation in order to document compliance with SEQ for actions listed herein. As such, this memorandum should be kept on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Legislation should include a statement similar to the following: "The proposed project does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 12, 2022, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators."

This memorandum will be distributed to all Commissioners as part of County operations.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Att.

cc: Malika Vanderberg, Clerk and Chief Administrative Officer to the Board of Legislators
Joan McDonald, Director of Operations
Andrew Ferris, Chief of Staff
Steve Bass, Director of Intergovernmental Relations
Paula Friedman, Assistant to the County Executive
Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Chief Deputy County Attorney
Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney
Norma Drummond, Commissioner of Planning

**ACTIVITIES THAT DO NOT MEET THE DEFINITION OF AN “ACTION”
PURSUANT TO SEQR AND ARE, CONSEQUENTLY, NOT SUBJECT TO SEQR**

1. BUDGETS AND AMENDMENTS

- Municipal budgets and amendments to them – The budgeting process merely sets aside funds without a commitment to their expenditure. Operating expenditures are typically for government-related activities that would also not meet the definition of an action. Even the establishment of the Capital Budget is not subject to SEQR because many of the capital projects are usually not definitive enough with respect to potential impacts to be reviewable at the time the budget is adopted. However, any subsequent authorization, such as bonding, to undertake a particular capital project is an action that requires SEQR compliance before it may be approved.
- The transfer of funds within the County operating and capital budgets for the purpose of balancing accounts – It is understood that these actions are purely budgetary, where accounts with excess funds are moved to accounts with existing or anticipated deficits. It is further understood that the activities covered by these accounts have either already occurred or been reviewed in accordance with SEQR, are Type II actions or actions that are not subject to SEQR, or are actions that will require future approval prior to being undertaken, at which time further SEQR review may be appropriate.
- Rescissions or reduction of bond acts to cancel unspent funds.

2. SERVICES

- Consultant services – Contracts or agreements that provide for administrative services, training, reports for Boards and Commissions, but not including studies or design of physical improvements, which has been listed under SEQR as Type II.
- Social Services – Actions or agreements that provide services to persons in need, such as employment assistance, family/domestic intervention and respite care.
- Youth services – Actions or agreements that provide for youth services, such as a Resource Allocation Plan, Invest-in-Kids Program, after-school programs, camp programs and head-start programs.
- Senior programs & services – Actions or agreements that provide for services to seniors, such as provision of information/education, home care, nutrition & transportation assistance, caregiver support, and acceptance of federal and state grants providing for such services (e.g., OAA Title III grants and NYSOFA grants, including CSE, CSI, CRC, EISEP, NYSTP, WIN & NSIP).
- Public Safety services – programs that promote public safety, such as STOP-DWI, Police Night Out, and intermunicipal agreements (IMAs) for shared training, equipment and response to emergencies, including E-911.
- Fire services – Fire district IMAs for shared training, equipment and response to emergencies.
- Legal services – Contracts for outside counsel, litigation or associated monetary settlements.

- Medical Services – Contracts with medical providers for medical examinations, testing, vaccinations or medical treatment of County employees or the public.
- Mental Health Services – Contracts with agencies to provide treatment, services or education related to mental health.

3. PERSONNEL MATTERS

- Actions related to employment or employees.
- Contracts for temporary staff assistance.
- Legislation pertaining to establishment and membership of boards and commissions.

4. FINANCES

- Tax Anticipation Notes.
- Bond acts to finance tax certiorari payments.
- Banking contracts/agreements for money management services.
- Mortgage tax receipts disbursements (County Clerk).
- Refinancing of affordable housing mortgages.
- Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements.

5. LAWS

- New laws or amendments of existing laws that regulate the sale or use of products for the protection of public health.
- New laws or amendments of existing laws that regulate businesses for the protection of consumers.
- Pertaining to consumer protection, not including professional licensing, which have been classified as Type II.
- Pertaining to animal welfare, excluding regulations involving habitat management.
- Pertaining to public safety.
- Pertaining to taxation, such as establishment of new taxes or tax exemptions.
- Pertaining to establishment or modification of fees.
- Pertaining to notices, publications and record keeping.
- Pertaining to hiring or contracting procedures.
- Pertaining to the functioning of County government, such as term limits, board appointments, etc. that do not impact the environment.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

- Amendments to existing agreements for changes in name or consultants.
- Education/training programs, contracts for clinical instruction.
- Prisoner Transport IMAs.
- Tourism Promotion Agency designation.
- Software licenses.

- IMAs for temporary housing in existing facilities (homeless, inmate, troubled youths, domestic violence victims).
- Naming or renaming of streets, buildings, parks or other public facilities.

WCDP
JAN 2023

ACT NO. 2023-_____

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Valhalla Fire District to provide specialized training and fire suppression services for a two (2) year term commencing retroactively on January 1, 2023 and expiring on December 31, 2024 in an aggregate amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars.

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Valhalla Fire District ("District") for a term of two (2) years commencing retroactively on January 1, 2023 and expiring on December 31, 2024.

§2. The District will participate in specialized training and activities with the Grasslands Fire Brigade and furnish, at its sole cost and expense, equipment appropriate to prepare for fire suppression activities and rescue operations on the Grasslands Reservation. For the services to be provided, the District will be paid the aggregate amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) Dollars, subject to appropriation.

§3. The County Executive or his authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute instruments and take all action necessary and appropriate to accomplish the purposes hereof.

§4. This Act shall take effect immediately.