



George Latimer  
County Executive

September 24, 2021

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

Dear Members of the Board of Legislators:

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is an Act to amend the current-year capital budget ("Capital Budget Amendment"), as well as a related bond act ("Bond Act,"), which, if adopted, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County") to issue up to \$300,000 in bonds of the County to finance the following capital project:

RWPR5 – Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower ("RWPR5").

The proposed Capital Budget Amendment will amend the County's current-year capital budget to increase the total 2021 appropriation for RWPR5 by \$300,000, comprised of a \$200,000 increase in bond appropriation and a \$100,000 increase to the non-County share appropriation. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation ("Department") has advised that the Capital Budget Amendment is necessary to fund construction of the fire tower at the County's Ward Pound Ridge Reservation ("Reservation"). The Department has further advised that the \$100,000 non-County share represents anticipated receipt of grant funds from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York via a Municipal Facilities program grant.

The Bond Act, in the amount of \$300,000 would finance the cost of installation of a fire tower and all associated site work at the Reservation.

The Department has advised that RWPR5 is necessary to replace an iconic feature at the Reservation. The new fire tower will be installed at the site of the former fire tower, located on the highest point in the Reservation, which is 860 feet above sea level. The site is accessible via the Reservation's blue trail from the Kimberly Bridge picnic area and, once constructed, will be a fantastic destination point with spectacular views across the entire Reservation.

Following bond authorization, design will be scheduled and is anticipated to take six months to complete. It is anticipated that design will be completed using consultants. It is estimated that construction will take six months to complete and will begin after award and execution of the construction contracts, subject to approval of construction financing by your Honorable Board.

The Planning Department has advised that based on its review, the above-referenced capital project has been classified as a "Type II" action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQR") and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617. Therefore, no further environmental review is required. As you know, your Honorable Board may use such expert advice to reach its own conclusion.

The Planning Department has advised that the Planning Board has previously reviewed this project and issued a report, and that since there is no change in the scope of the work and this is simply a change in the financing plan, no further action by the Planning Board is necessary at this time.

Based on the importance of this capital project to the County, favorable action on the annexed proposed Acts is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Latimer".

George Latimer  
County Executive

Attachments

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK**

Your Committee is in receipt of a transmittal from the County Executive recommending approval by the County of Westchester (“County”) of an act, which, if adopted, will amend the County’s current-year capital budget (“Capital Budget Amendment”), as well as adoption of a related bond act (“Bond Act”) in the amount of \$300,000 prepared by the law firm Hawkins, Delafield & Wood to finance capital project RWPR5 – Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower (“RWPR5”).

Your Committee is advised that the Capital Budget Amendment will amend the County’s current-year capital budget to increase the total 2021 appropriation for RWPR5 by \$300,000, comprised of a \$200,000 increase in bond appropriation and a \$100,000 increase to the non-County share appropriation. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (“Department”) has advised that the Capital Budget Amendment is necessary to fund construction of the fire tower at the County’s Ward Pound Ridge Reservation (“Reservation”). The Department has further advised that the \$100,000 non-County share represents anticipated receipt of grant funds from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York via a Municipal Facilities program grant.

Your Committee is further advised that the Bond Act, in the amount of \$300,000 would finance the cost of installation of a fire tower and all associated site work at the Reservation.

The Department has advised that RWPR5 is necessary to replace an iconic feature at the Reservation. The new fire tower will be installed at the site of the former fire tower, located on the highest point in the Reservation, which is 860 feet above sea level. The site is accessible via the Reservation’s blue trail from the Kimberly Bridge picnic area and, once constructed, will be a fantastic destination point with spectacular views across the entire Reservation.

Following bond authorization, design will be scheduled and is anticipated to take six months to complete. It is anticipated that design will be completed using consultants. It is estimated that construction will take six months to complete and will begin after award and execution of the construction contracts, subject to approval of construction financing by your Honorable Board.

The Planning Department has advised your Committee that based on its review, the above-referenced capital project has been classified as a Type "II" action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQR") and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617. Therefore, no further environmental review is required. Your Committee has reviewed the annexed SEQR documentation and concurs with this conclusion.

The Planning Department has advised your Committee that the Planning Board has previously reviewed RWPR5 and issued a report, and that since there is no change in the scope of the work and this is simply a change in the financing plan, no further action by the Planning Board is necessary at this time.

Your Committee has carefully considered the proposed Capital Budget Amendment, as well as the related Bond Act, and recommends approval of both of the proposed Acts, noting that the Bond Act may only be enacted following adoption of the Capital Budget Amendment. It should also be noted that an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of your Honorable Board is required in order to amend the County's Capital Budget and to adopt the Bond Act.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
White Plains, New York

**COMMITTEE ON**

# FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

CAPITAL PROJECT #: RWPRS

NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

## SECTION A - CAPITAL BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Budget

GENERAL FUND

AIRPORT FUND

SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

Source of County Funds (check one):

Current Appropriations

Capital Budget Amendment

## SECTION B - BONDING AUTHORIZATIONS

To Be Completed by Finance

Total Principal \$ 300,000 PPU 10 Anticipated Interest Rate

Anticipated Annual Cost (Principal and Interest):

Total Debt Service (Annual Cost x Term): \$ -

Finance Department:

## SECTION C - IMPACT ON OPERATING BUDGET (exclusive of debt service)

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

Potential Related Expenses (Annual): \$ -

Potential Related Revenues (Annual): \$ -

Anticipated savings to County and/or impact of department operations

(describe in detail for current and next four years):

## SECTION D - EMPLOYMENT

As per federal guidelines, each \$92,000 of appropriation funds one FTE Job

Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs Funded: 3

## SECTION E - EXPECTED DESIGN WORK PROVIDER

County Staff

Consultant

Not Applicable

Prepared by: Ken Uhle

Title: Program Coord. Capital Planning PRC

Department: DPW&T


Date: 9/23/21

Reviewed By: 

Budget Director

Date: 9/23/21

TO: Michelle Greenbaum, Senior Assistant County Attorney  
Jeffrey Goldman, Senior Assistant County Attorney

FROM: David S. Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM   
Director of Environmental Planning

DATE: September 10, 2021

SUBJECT: **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW FOR CAPITAL PROJECT:  
RWPR5 WARD POUND RIDGE RESERVATION FIRE TOWER**

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**PROJECT/ACTION:** Per Capital Project Fact Sheet as approved by the Planning Department on 08-26-2021 (Unique ID: 1723)

With respect to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Planning Department recommends that no further environmental review is required for the proposed action, because the project or component of the project for which funding is requested may be classified as a **TYPE II action** pursuant to section(s):

- **617.5(c)(9):** construction or expansion of a primary or accessory/appurtenant, nonresidential structure or facility involving less than 4,000 square feet of gross floor area and not involving a change in zoning or a use variance and consistent with local land use controls, but not radio communication or microwave transmission facilities.
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**COMMENTS:** The new fire tower will be located in the same location as and similar in height to the original fire tower that was constructed in the 1920s, but removed in the 1970s.

DSK/cnm

cc: Andrew Ferris, Chief of Staff  
Paula Friedman, Assistant to the County Executive  
Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney  
Kathleen O'Connor, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation  
Peter Tartaglia, First Deputy Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation  
Gideon Grande, Deputy Budget Director  
Lorraine Yazzetta, Associate Budget Analyst  
Anthony Zaino, Assistant Commissioner  
William Brady, Chief Planner  
Michael Lipkin, Associate Planner  
Claudia Maxwell, Associate Environmental Planner

**Department of Planning**

432 Michaelian Office Building  
White Plains, NY 10601

To: The Westchester County Planning Board

From: Anthony Zaino, Assistant Commissioner



Date: August 26, 2021

RE: **Capital Budget Amendment –  
RWPR5 Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower**

The County Executive is requesting an amendment to the 2021 Capital Budget to modify the funding of the above project. This project provides funding for the installation of a fire tower at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation and all associated site work.

A Capital Budget Amendment is requested to add a 2021 appropriation of \$300,000. \$100,000 of the additional funding will be state aid via the DASNY SAM Grant.

The Planning Board adopted a report on this project (rated PL2) at its meeting on February 4, 2020.

There are no changes to the physical planning aspects of this project as reviewed by the Board; therefore, no further action by your Board is necessary.

cc: Norma V. Drummond, Commissioner  
David Kvinge, Director, Environmental Planning  
William Brady, Chief Planner  
Michael Lipkin, Associate Planner



ACT No. 2021

An Act amending the 2021 County  
Capital Budget Appropriations for  
Capital Project RWPR5 - Ward Pound  
Ridge Fire Tower

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

Section 1. The Capital section of the 2021 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

|                  | Previous 2021<br>Appropriation | Change    | Revised 2021<br>Appropriation |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| I. Appropriation | \$100,000                      | \$300,000 | \$400,000                     |

Section 2. The estimated method of financing in the Capital Section of the 2021 Westchester County Capital Budget is amended as follows:

II. METHOD OF FINANCING

|                    |                  |                  |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Bonds and/or Notes | \$100,000        | \$200,000        | \$300,000        |
| Non County Shares  | \$0              | \$100,000        | \$100,000        |
| Cash               | \$0              |                  | \$0              |
| Total              | <u>\$100,000</u> | <u>\$300,000</u> | <u>\$400,000</u> |

Section 3. The ACT shall take effect immediately.