

Budget & Appropriations

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: Jewel Williams Johnson

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

Monday, March 10, 2025

10:45 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.

Legislator Colin Smith will be participating remotely from 1132 Main St., Suite 1, Peekskill, NY 10566

With a quorum present, Chair Williams Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:56 AM.

Others in Attendance: GUESTS: Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Tami Altschiller, Joan McDonald, Larry Soule, Carla Chaves, Michael Orth, Emily Saltzman; BOL: Ben Boykin, David Imamura, Catherine Parker, Emiljana Ulaj, Jill Axelrod, James Silverberg, Shatika Parker, Dayana Gomez, Lisa Hochman, Greg Casciato, Santiago Caceres

Present: Legislator Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Holstein, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams, Legislator Woodson-Samuels and Legislator Gashi

Absent: Legislator Smith and Legislator Tubiolo

MINUTES APPROVAL

Monday, January 6, 2025 at 10:00 AM Minutes

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

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Holstein, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Smith and Legislator Tubiolo

Away: Legislator Gashi

Monday, February 3, 2025 at 10:00 AM Minutes

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

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Holstein, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Smith and Legislator Tubiolo

Away: Legislator Gashi

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [ACT-2025-55](#) **IMA-Mental Health Services-Certain Westchester & Putnam County Municipal Corporations**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into inter-municipal agreements with one or more Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations, as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law; and with Putnam County, through which the County would provide preventive, rehabilitative and treatment services under Article 25 (Funding For Substances Abuse Services) and Article 41 (Local and Unified Services) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND HUMAN SERVICES

Joint with HS.

Guest: Law Department

Senior Assistant County Attorney Carla Chaves

This request would authorize Westchester County to enter in an inter-municipal agreement (IMA) with Westchester and Putnam Counties municipal corporations for the provision of preventative, rehabilitative and treatment services for up to five years via the Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH). Under the Mental Hygiene Law, the County receives funding from State and local municipalities for these services. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) allows municipalities to request services on an as-needed basis from DCMH for municipality employees and in turn the municipalities compensate the County. EAP allows DCMH staff to go wherever the municipalities would like to hold the services and can also arrange on-site trainings. Once the IMA expires, they can renew for, up to, another five-year term. The total operating budget for the EAP is \$747,000, which includes \$276,000 from municipalities, and \$470,000 from the operating budget – no federal dollars are included: there is a \$45 cost per employee per municipality.

On motion of Legislator Pierce, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Holstein, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams, Legislator Woodson-Samuels and Legislator Gashi

Absent: Legislator Smith and Legislator Tubiolo

2. [ACT-2025-58](#) **ACT - Charter Revision Commission Legal Counsel - Jones**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to retain, at County expense, Mondaire Jones, Esq., to provide legal counsel and advice to the Westchester County Charter Revision Commission for a term commencing February 25, 2025 and continuing through February 24, 2026.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND LAW & MAJOR CONTRACTS

Joint with LMC.

Guests: Law Department

Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz

Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney Tami Altschiller

This item authorizes the retention of Mondaire Jones, Esq., to provide legal counsel and advice to the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) for a one-year term from February 25, 2025 through February 24, 2026. Under the laws of Westchester County there is only one County Attorney and since Mr. Jones is being hired as outside counsel the Law Department appeared before the Board for this request. In this role, Mr. Jones may make recommendations and possibly draft revisions for consideration to update the County Charter. In the past, outside counsel made recommendations and drafts, and the Board of Legislators took over a year to review and decide which they wanted to implement. The CRC is mandated under local law an independent non-partisan review of the County's charter and laws, and this act would authorize the attorney as indicated for the commission.

On motion of Legislator Pierce, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Holstein, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams, Legislator Woodson-Samuels and Legislator Gashi

Absent: Legislator Smith and Legislator Tubiolo

3. Discussion on the Liberty Lines Contract

Joint with LMC and PWT.

Guest: County Executive's Office

Director of Operations Joan McDonald

Ms. McDonald provided an overview on the new bus contract with Liberty Lines. This is a five-year contract detailing that it is the County's sole decision to renew for an additional five years at the end. Within the year that it took to develop the Request for Proposal (RFP), the County took into consideration feedback from rider surveys and best practices from municipalities across the country, leading them to set goals for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) applicants: a federal requirement since the County receives federal funds. Originally, an RFP deadline was set for August 17, 2023 and later moved to February 5, 2024, likely due to the short turnaround time from the DBE workshop that was held on August 13, 2023. Both Liberty Lines and Transdev Services submitted proposals and were each interviewed on March 12, 2024, by a review panel that consisted of County employees in the Departments of Public Works and Transportation, Budget, Planning and the County Executive's office. Additionally, input was sought for from a professional panel from non-County participants. Some of the performance metrics included in the RFP were on-time performance, cleanliness of the buses, cleanliness of the uniforms, driver accidents and work slow-downs; if non-compliant, the selected company could be assessed liquid damages. The review panel had a two-step process entailing a technical evaluation and a cost proposal evaluation. Liberty Lines scored 57.95 in the technical evaluation with a cost proposal of \$842 Million and Transdev scored 60.75 in the technical evaluation with a cost proposal of \$933 Million. Since the evaluations were close to one another, the decision to go with Liberty Lines was ultimately based on a cost-saving of \$246 Million. Within this agreement the bus company takes on the full risk of labor contracts as well as the full risk on premium insurance. If they do

not meet the performance criteria agreed upon, they will have to make payments to the County which would be aside from this current contract. With respect to public safety, the County's Department of Public Safety developed a task force with Yonkers law enforcement and the Yonkers Board of Education to discuss actionable steps for safety improvements on and off the bus: Westchester County has jurisdiction on buses and local municipalities have jurisdiction off the buses. There are separate contracts surrounding transportation that are not covered in this contract, such as bus stop signage, technology and others.

On a motion by Legislator Holstein and seconded by Legislator Barr, the Committee went into Executive Session to get legal advice from the Law Department at 11:37 a.m. On a motion by Majority Leader Woodson-Samuels and seconded by Legislator Barr, the Committee came out of Executive Session at 12:15 p.m.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the Committee adjourned at 12:26 PM. by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Holstein, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Smith and Legislator Tubiolo

Away: Legislator Gashi

Note

Note