



Budget & Appropriations

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Catherine Borgia

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

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting jointly with the Committees on Public Works & Transportation & Public Safety.

The County Board will meet pursuant to Chapter 417 of New York State Laws of 2021, allowing public bodies to meet and take action without permitting in-person public access to meetings and authorizes such meetings and public hearings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided the public has the ability to view or listen and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. To access the meeting, please visit: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>

With a quorum present, Chair Borgia called the meeting to order at 10:13 AM.

Others in Attendance: BOL: Alessandra Restiano, Anand Singh, Yolanda Valencia BOL Remote: Mary Jane Shimsky, Colin Smith, James Silverberg, Melanie Montalto BOL Elect: James Nolan, Jewel Williams Johnson (Remote), Erika Pierce (Remote) CE Remote: Andrew Ferris, Bridget Gibbons, Peter McCartt, Robin Schlaff, DaMia Harris Madden, Bernie Dean, Evan Latainer, Natasha Caputo DOIT: Remote: Marguerite Beirne, Lennox Harris, Donna Montera, Bob Novak BUDGET Remote: Larry Soule, Gideon Grande, Pat Haggarty, Nicole Filder, William Olli, Deb Ogden, Mark Medwid

Present: Committee Chair Borgia, Legislator Boykin, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Maher and Legislator Walter

Remote: Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Parker, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10:00 AM - Westchester County Clerk

Guests: County Clerk Idoni, Carol Arcuri, Assistant to the County Clerk & Larenna Robertson

10:30 AM- Office of the County Executive Guest: Andrew Ferris, Chief of Staff

Office of Economic Development- Bridget Gibbons, Director

Office of Energy Conservation- Peter McCartt, Director

Office for People with Disabilities- Evan Latainer, Director

Youth Bureau- Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden, Executive Director

Office for Women- Robin Schlaff, Director

Office of Tourism- Natasha Caputo - Director

11:30 - Department of Information Technology

Guests: Marguerite Beirne, CIO, Lennox Harris Deputy CIO, Donna Montera, Director of Administrative Services & Bob Novak, Budget Specialist III

Westchester County Clerk

County Clerk Idoni appeared before the Committee with his team from the Westchester County Clerks Office to present their 2022 Executive Proposed Budget. Chair Borgia asked if there are only two vacancies? County Clerk Idoni responded that there is one additional position unfilled. He noted that these two vacancies are grade 4 positions being promoted to grade 6. The two individuals are taking their civil service exams and we wanted to keep their old positions vacant in case they fail the exam because they are good employees, and we would like to keep them. There will be no expenditure for the vacant positions. Chair Borgia asked about pistol licensing? County Clerk Idoni responded that the numbers are where they should be. The Clerks office gets their part of the work done in a few days and it takes the judges about two weeks to sign off. It is the background checks from DPS that take about a year, sometimes longer. County Clerk Idoni remarked that user fees could be raised. He noted that the fee is still \$10, which it has been since the late 1980s. Legislator Maher asked if all of the County Clerks employees are wearing masks? County Clerk Idoni responded yes, the only time they are allowed to take their masks off is when they are sitting at their cubicles. Legislator Barr asked about the large increase in pistol permits? County Clerk Idoni responded that last year's 499 applications were the lowest number they have had in the past 15 years, 850 is an average year. Legislator Walter asked for clarification between local and County mortgage tax? County Clerk Idoni responded that Yonkers has individual mortgage tax, Westchester still gets its full amount of the mortgage tax and other municipalities get a piece of the county mortgage tax. Yonkers has its own mortgage tax.

Office of the County Executive

Chief of Staff Ferris appeared before the Committee with his team from the County Executives Office to present their 2022 Executive Proposed Budget. Chair Borgia asked about vacancies? Chief of Staff Ferris responded that nothing has changed significantly, they moved one position out of a trust position, who was previously in the affordable housing division and shifted them back in an operating position, the salary will be covered by DPW&T. The other

rust position is a County Coordinator who handles issues at Indian Point.

Office of Economic Development

Chair Borgia asked about the work they spoke about last year, focusing on people mid-career and keeping recent college grads in Westchester? Director Gibbons responded that this is sort of baked into various initiatives and recommendations they have been working on including market campaigns that have younger people as the target demographic. We are working towards making Westchester known as a tech hub. Legislator Maher asked where these people are going to live? Director Gibbons responded that those sectors are well-paying, in-demand jobs that can earn 60-70 thousand per year to start, and affordable housing is another aspect of it. Legislator Maher asked if our current educational system within the County matches up with the needs of the County? Director Gibbons responded that they have scoured the county to find programs that train for various sectors, and we have found some were missing so we are working to fill those educational gaps that can give people the basic skills they need to succeed in those sectors. Chair Boykin asked if there are any programs to help businesses that have failed to reopen? Director Gibbons responded that they do not once a business closes. She agreed that they could create some services to help these businesses evaluate finances and create mentoring programs to help them get through bankruptcy.

Office of Energy Conservation and Sustainability

Legislator Barr asked if the County is considering doing anything where they are buying plants at cost? Director McCartt responded that they have partnered with WCC and their Native Plant Center where you can go and buy plants at cost. They are also talking with the people from Healthy Yards about possibly expanding this program. Chair Boykin asked if his office has thought about working with White Plains Beautification? Director McCartt responded that our Parks Department has a great program for planting and does a great job in our county parks.

Office for Women

Chair Borgia asked about the slight decrease in State/Federal aid? Director Schlaff responded that this is what we budgeted for, not what we received. Chair Borgia asked if all the Office's positions are filled? Director Schlaff responded yes; they are. Legislator Maher asked about landlord-tenant issues and who comes in to discuss these issues? Director Schlaff responded that domestic violence is just the tip of the iceberg, they help address other issues as well, but, they are careful about who comes in the door and they are careful about who knows about the client. Legislator Maher asked how they envision this getting done? Director Schlaff responded that they have been speaking with the CE's office about this and are excited about utilizing the space at family court, not a criminal court, but it has the ability to meet the needs of many people in the community.

Youth Bureau

Executive Director Dr. Harris-Madden appeared before the Committee to present the Youth Bureau's 2022 Executive Proposed Budget. Legislator Maher asked that they work to ensure that the operator of Playland continues to employ disadvantaged Westchester youth? Executive Director Dr. Harris-Madden responded that Playland always has been and always

will continue to be important to the County Youth Bureau. She stated that there is a pipeline of talent that is untapped and our job at the Youth Bureau to make sure kids have the skills to get these jobs.

Office for People with Disabilities

Director Latainer appeared before the Committee to present the Office for People with Disabilities 2022 Executive Proposed budget. Director Latainer highlighted that during COVID they coordinated with other county departments to ensure effective communication and resources were made available, including people who know sign language for people getting the COVID vaccination. Chair Borgia asked if all positions are currently filled. Director Latainer responded that they recently filled the last unfilled position this week.

Tourism & Film

Director Caputo appeared before the Committee to present the Tourism & Film 2022 Executive Proposed Budget. Legislator Barr asked if they have a list of how many hotels have closed? Director Caputo responded that the ones that have closed are our largest hotels. They spent a lot of time booking and bringing business into those which help drive up business for other hotels as well. She discussed that small and mid-sized hotels don't have the capacity to handle large events and most of their bookings are transient who are only staying one or two nights. She stated that there is a fundamental structural shift of what we can sell/offer in the county.

Department of Information Technology

Chief Information Officer Beirne appeared before the Committee with her team from the Department of Information Technology to present their 2022 Executive Proposed Budget. Legislator Shimsky stated that she has heard that it is increasingly difficult to hire talent because we are not able to compete with private companies. CIO Beirne responded that the most difficult part has been to hire software developers. They have had a bunch of people who were close to accepting a position but got a better offer from somewhere else. The department has been working with the CE's office to address this issue and they plan on making various efforts to try and attract IT talent. Legislator Shimsky noted that we use outside contractors for physical engineering. She asked if we can do the same for software engineers? CIO Beirne responded that they currently make use of around 20 consultants, with 2/3s of them being software developers. Legislator Shimsky asked if our IT infrastructure is up to the task? Deputy CIO Harris responded that they are continually evaluating our infrastructure and putting together capital projects to address those needs.

1. [ACT-2021-209](#) **ACT-Tourist Promotion Agency-2022**

AN ACT designating the Westchester County Office of Tourism and Film as the Tourist Promotion Agency for Westchester County for the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Submitted by COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

Budget Only

Director Caputo discussed item #2021-574-ACT-Tourist Promotion Agency-2022 and item #2021-575-RES-Tourist Promotion Agency-2022, which is an act and a resolution to designate the Westchester County Office of Tourism and Film as the County's official Tourist Promotion Agency for the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. This TPA designation will allow the Office of Tourism and Film to receive a matching funds grant from New York State which will be used to market Westchester County as a tourism destination.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, seconded by Legislator Walter, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Borgia, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Cunzio, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Parker, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Walter and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Away: Legislator Maher and Legislator Williams

2. [RES-2021-193](#) **RES-Tourist Promotion Agency-2022**

A RESOLUTION designating the Westchester County Office of Tourism and Film as the Tourist Promotion Agency for Westchester County, as such an agency is defined in the New York State Tourist Promotion Act, for the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Submitted by COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

Budget Only

Please refer to item #1.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, seconded by Legislator Walter, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Borgia, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Cunzio, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Parker, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Walter and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Away: Legislator Maher and Legislator Williams

3. [ACT-2021-207](#) **BOND ACT-DoIT**

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of SEVEN MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND (\$7,865,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance the following eight (8) Capital Projects for 2022: BDA02 - Information Technology (2020-2024), BIT6D - Purchase of Computer Equipment (2021-2025), BIT3C - Desk Systems (2017-2021), BIT45 - Building Access Control and Video Surveillance Systems Upgrade, BIT47 - Network and Security Infrastructure Upgrades (2020-2024), BIT49 - Police Record Management System Upgrade, BIT53 - Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery and BIT54 - Critical Communication Logging System Replacement (2021-2025).

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Joint with PWT & PS

Deputy CIO Harris discussed item #2021-565-BOND ACT-DoIT which is for \$7,865,000 to finance 8 Capital Projects for 2022:

- BDA02 - Information Technology (2020-2024),
- BIT6D - Purchase of Computer Equipment (2021-2025),
- BIT3C-Desk Systems (2017-2021),
- BIT45 - Building Access Control and Video Surveillance Systems Upgrade,
- BIT47 - Network and Security Infrastructure Upgrades (2020-2024),
- BIT49 - Police Record Management System Upgrade,
- BIT53 - Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery,
- BIT54- Critical Communication Logging System Replacement 2021-2025.

These bonds will finance the acquisition of equipment and furnishings for various departments for the above-referenced capital projects.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Borgia, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Parker, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Walter and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Away: Legislator Boykin, Legislator Maher and Legislator Williams

4. [ACT-2021-208](#) **BOND ACT(/Amended)-BIT32-Radio System Replacement**

A BOND ACT (Amended) authorizing the issuance of additional bonds in the amount of ONE MILLION, ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND (1,180,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project BIT32 - Radio System Replacement.

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

Joint with PWT & PS

Deputy CIO Harris discussed item # 2021-566-BOND ACT(Amended)-BIT32-Radio System Replacement. This amended bond act in the amount of \$1,180,00 will finance the continued acquisition and installation of equipment and systems necessary for the replacement of the County's emergency communications system. He advised that these systems, which include the Trunked Systems, the F1 and F3 Systems, and the radio component of the Computer-Aided Dispatch / Automatic Vehicle Location Systems, are used by first responders and other government personnel to ensure the safety of life and property and enable the delivery of vital services to the citizens of Westchester County.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, seconded by Legislator Williams, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Borgia, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Parker, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Walter and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Away: Legislator Boykin, Legislator Maher and Legislator Williams

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, seconded by Legislator Walter, the Committee adjourned at 2:13 PM.