



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, May 15, 2023

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting jointly with the Committees on Public Works & Transportation and Parks & Recreation

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, STE 1, Peekskill, NY 10566

With a quorum present, Chair Gashi called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

Others in Attendance: GUESTS: Gayle Katzman, Hernane De Almeida, Robert Abbamont-DPWT; BOL: James Nolan, James Silverberg, Beth Lobello, Marlyn Pena_
Present: Legislator Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Tubiolo, Committee Chair Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels
Absent: Legislator Maher and Legislator Smith

MINUTES APPROVAL

Monday, May 8, 2023 at 10:00 AM Minutes

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Williams Johnson, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [ACT-2023-94](#) ACT-Revised Investment Policy

AN ACT amending the Investment Policy for the County of Westchester, pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law Section 39.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

B&A Only.

Guests: Department of Finance

Commissioner Karin Hablow

Deputy Commissioner Mario Arena

Deputy Commissioner Cesar Vargas

Commissioner Karin Hablow, Deputy Commissioner Cesar Vargas, and Deputy Commissioner Mario Arena appeared before the Committee to discuss the item. Commissioner Hablow explained that the 2023 policy remains mostly unchanged, except for the list of the Counties depository banks, which they are requesting amendment to. She noted that the Counties objectives in order of importance are safety of liquidity and yeild. The County currently has 22 approved depositories and has significant deposits with four of those banks. She explained that right now the limits vary according to the size of the bank, the Counties history with the banking institution, and including their ability and desire to take our deposits and the competitiveness of the rates that they offer to us. An underlying component of safety and liquidity is diversification. It is important to have a number of large banks on this list and a flexibility in the depository maximums, because we do not know which banks, throughout the year will have more competitive rates. Legislator Pierce asked if we had money in an account with Signature Bank and are those funds now with Flagstar? Commissioner Hablow responded that we did have \$190 million dollars in Signature on the Sunday when the bank was closed and we were able to move that money out the next day. All of those funds were moved out to different banks at very competitive rates, so we did not have any funds that transferred directly to Flagstar. She noted that Signature previously had a \$500 million dollar limit so we are starting with a \$200 million dollar limit for Flagstar. Commissioner Hablow continued that M&T Bank acquired People's United Bank, both of which were listed separately, so they suggest removing People's United from the list and also suggested an increase in the deposit limit from \$100 million dollars to \$300 million dollars. Mahopac National Bank, also known as Tompkins Mahopac Bank has been rebranded as just Tompkins Bank. That name change has been included to reflect that change, with the depository limit still maintained at \$25 million dollars. She stated that the final change is that Sussex Bank has been removed from the list, because that bank has been acquired by Provident Bank and the County has had no activity in those banks for several years.

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Tubiolo, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried.

2. [ACT-2023-95](#) **ACT-Mortgage Tax Receipts-10-1-22 through 3-31-23**

AN ACT to authorize the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Finance to pay Mortgage Tax Receipts to Cities, Towns and Villages.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

B&A Only.

Guests: Department of Finance

Commissioner Karin Hablow

Deputy Commissioner Mario Arena

Deputy Commissioner Cesar Vargas

Commissioner Karin Hablow, Deputy Commissioner Cesar Vargas, and Deputy Commissioner Mario Arena appeared before the Committee to discuss the item. Commissioner Hablow discussed that this is an act to authorize the distribution an of mortgage tax to the Cities,

Towns and Villages as mandated by section 261.3 of the NYS Tax Law. This is a pass through payment for monies collected via the County Clerk's Office. The total mortgage tax receipts collected by the County Clerk during the period of October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 is \$16,011,812 dollars and 75 cents. Commissioner Hablow noted that this is a significant decrease for this period of about 47% in mortgage taxes as compared to the prior June period of 2022. It also represents the lowest amount received over the last eleven six month periods.

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Tubiolo, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried.

3. [ACT-2023-92](#) **CBA-BPS35-Emergency Services Unit Truck**

AN ACT amending the 2023 County Capital Budget Appropriations for Capital Project BPS35 Emergency Services Unit Truck.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

Joint with PWT.

Guest: Department of Public Safety

Chief Inspector James Luciano

Captain Frank Donovan

FHR Director Siva Gopalkrishna

Chief Inspector James Luciano and Captain Frank Donovan appeared before the Committee to discuss the item. Chief Luciano discussed that they are seeking to replace an 8 year old ESU truck that was destroyed in an accident in February which injured two officers pretty badly. It is no longer in service and they are currently only working with one ESU truck for the entire County. These officers respond to not only routine calls but with other municipalities as well to help out with a variety of calls. These officers become certified in rescue work, as State emergency medical technicians, hazardous material technicians, they do animal control, accident vehicle extrication, water rescue, and a whole myriad of other task in addition to crisis intervention. As a result of the accident the officers were cleared and the insurance for the other diver, State Farm, who was found to be responsible for causing the accident, will have to pay \$250,000 dollars which is the max on the policy. Chair Gashi asked if DPWT had anything to add. Deputy Commissioner Hernane De Almeida responded that this is a replacement for a vehicle that is inactive because it was totaled and Chief Luciano covered the rest. Legislator Pierce asked if the bond for \$285,000 dollars before or after the \$250,000 dollars that we will recover through the insurance. Chief Luciano responded that it is \$285,000 dollars without the consideration of the \$250,000 dollars from the insurance.

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Tubiolo, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried.

4. [ACT-2023-93](#) **BOND ACT-BPS35-Emergency Services Unit Truck**

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND (\$285,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project BPS35 - Emergency Services Unit Truck.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

Joint with PWT.

Guest: Department of Public Safety
Chief Inspector James Luciano
Captain Frank Donovan
FHR Director Siva Gopalkrishna
Please refer to item #3.

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Tubiolo, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried.

5. [ACT-2023-91](#) **BOND ACT-BIT33-Radio Site Infrastructure**

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (\$650,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project BIT33 - Radio Site Infrastructure.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

Joint with PWT.

Guests: Department of Information Technology
Chief Information Officer Beirne
Manager of Radio Systems Adam Epstein
Chief Information Officer Marguerite Beirne and Manager of Radio Systems Adam Epstein appeared before the Committee to discuss the item.

On motion of Legislator Tubiolo, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Williams Johnson, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried.

6. [ACT-2023-89](#) **CBA-RLEN2-Lenoir Preserve Buildings**

AN ACT amending the 2023 County Capital Budget Appropriations for Capital Project RLEN2 Lenoir Preserve Buildings.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & RECREATION

Joint with PWT and PR.

Guests: Department of Parks & Recreation
Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor
First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia
Program Coordinator (Capital Planning) Robert Lopane

Mr. Tartaglia presented a photo slide presentation of Lenoir Preserve Buildings. He discussed that the Bond Act, in the amount of \$1,200,000, would finance additional costs associated with the reconstruction of the porch substructure, new security system infrastructure and a new stormwater retention system for the roof leader drains. The design has been completed. It is anticipated that construction will take nine months to complete and will begin after award and execution of the construction contracts.

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.

7. [ACT-2023-90](#) **BOND ACT-RLEN2-Lenoir Preserve Buildings**

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of ONE MILLION, TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$1,200,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project RLEN2 - Lenoir Preserve Buildings.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & RECREATION

Joint with PWT and PR.

Guests: Department of Parks & Recreation

Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor

First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia

Program Coordinator (Capital Planning) Robert Lopane

Please refer to item #6.

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.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Tubiolo, seconded by Legislator Barr, the Committee adjourned at 11:11 AM.