



# Public Safety

## BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Colin Smith

800 Michaelan Office Bldg.  
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor  
White Plains, NY 10601  
[www.westchesterlegislators.com](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com)

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Monday, October 18, 2021

10:00 AM

Committee Room

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### CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Budget & Appropriations, Public Works & Transportation, and Parks & Recreation committees.

*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, Legislator Covill called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.*

*Others in attendance: BOL: Legislators: Catherine Borgia and Damon Maher; Legislators (remote): Alfreda Williams, Ruth Walter, David Tubiolo, and Catherine Parker; Committee Coordinators: Jill Axelrod, Alie Restiano, Anand Singh, Beth LoBello, and Yolanda Valencia, PARKS DEPT.: Peter Tartaglia; PUBLIC WORKS DEPT: Robert Abbamont*

**Present:** Legislator Boykin and Legislator Covill

**Absent:** Committee Chair Smith

**Remote:** Legislator Barr, Committee Vice-Chair Cunzio, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

### MINUTES APPROVAL

#### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guests: Dept. of Parks & Recreation: Commissioner Kathy O'Connor, First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia, and Ken Uhle, Program Coordinator - Capital Planning.

1. [ACT-2021-187](#) **CBA-RWPR5-Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower**

AN ACT amending the 2021 County Capital Budget Appropriations for Capital Project RWPR5 - Ward Pound Ridge Fire Tower.

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

*First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia discussed the background and history of the project. He explained that this fire tower will be a replica of the original fire tower which was built in 1926 and taken down in the '70's. It will be constructed on the original site in the Cross River mountain area, and will offer incredible views of the Long Island Sound across New York City to the Hudson River. It will be used by local visitors, as a tourist attraction/point of*

*interest, and for educational purposes. It was and will be the only fire tower in the state located in Westchester County. It will replace a historical piece of the park, and will not be used as a fire watch.*

*Robert Abbamont, Director of Operations (Capital Planning Program) for the Department of Public Works and Transportation, shared photos of a similar fire tower located in Bloomingdale, New York. Legislator Cunzio asked if that fire tower is similar to the one in Mount Beacon Park. Mr. Abbamont noted that the new tower is different because it will have programmed events and tours, and will have a security fence around it. Legislator Barr asked about the cost of having staff to monitor it. Mr. Tartaglia said monitoring will be done by existing Parks staff, Friends of Trailside staff or other groups, depending on what the patterns of visitation require. Legislator Covill noted that there should be a video feed, and Mr. Tartaglia said he will make note of that, and they will talk about that during the design phase. She also asked if there will be a First Responder repeater there, and Mr. Tartaglia said they will talk to Emergency Services about that.*

*Legislator Covill asked how long it will take for design and build. Mr. Tartaglia said it will be a one-year process - six months for the design phase and six months to build.*

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

**Aye:** Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Covill, Committee Vice-Chair Cunzio, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Absent:** Committee Chair Smith

**Away:** Legislator Johnson

2. **[ACT-2021-188](#) BOND ACT-RWPR5-Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower**

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$300,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project RWPR5 - Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower.

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

*See discussion of Item #1 above.*

On motion of Legislator Covill, seconded by Legislator Boykin, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Covill, Committee Vice-Chair Cunzio, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Absent:** Committee Chair Smith

**Away:** Legislator Johnson

**II. OTHER BUSINESS**

**III. RECEIVE & FILE**

## ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Committee Vice-Chair Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Covill, the Committee adjourned at 11:58 a.m. by the following vote:

**Aye:** Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Covill, Committee Vice-Chair Cunzio, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Absent:** Committee Chair Smith

**Away:** Legislator Johnson