

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

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

10:00 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.

The Hon. Legislator Symra Brandon will be participating remotely from the Yonkers Public Library - 1 Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY 10701.

With a quorum present, Chair Williams Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM.

Others in Attendance: GUESTS: Sergeant James Dress, Patricia Tomassi, Richard Wishnie, Susan Spear, Neil Caputo, Peter Tartaglia, Robert Lopane, Karin Hablow, Cesar Vargas, Mario Arena; BOL: FLora White, James Silverberg, Jill Axelrod, Beth LoBello

Present: Legislator Williams Johnson, Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Barr, Legislator Brandon, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

Absent: Legislator Maher and Legislator Smith

Remote: Legislator Pierce

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [ACT-2023-161](#) IMA(Amend)-School Resource Officer-North Salem Central School District

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to further amend an intermunicipal agreement with the North Salem Central School District in order to extend the term of a second School Resource Officer from September 6, 2023 through June 23, 2024.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

B&A Only.

Guest: Department of Public Safety

Sergeant James Dress

Legislator Pierce expressed her gratitude for Sgt. Dress working with the District to obtain the SRO and emphasized the value of having the SRO in the District with limited police coverage otherwise.

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

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Barr, Legislator Brandon, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

Absent: Legislator Maher and Legislator Smith

2. [ACT-2023-169](#) **IMA-School Resource Officers-Hendrick Hudson School District**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Hendrick Hudson School District whereby the County will assign two (2) uniformed County police officers to act as School Resource Officers for the District with one to be assigned to the Hendrick Hudson High School, with additional support, as needed, to the Frank G. Lindsey Elementary School and the Buchanan-Verplanck Elementary School, and the other to be assigned to the Blue Mountain Middle School, with additional support, as needed, to the Furnace Woods Elementary School.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

B&A Only.

Guest: Department of Public Safety

Sergeant James Dress

Similar to North Salem the additional SRO's help to cover more ground and are requested by the District.

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

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Barr, Legislator Brandon, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

Absent: Legislator Maher and Legislator Smith

3. [ACT-2023-162](#) **IMA(Amend)-STOP-DWI Patrol Datamaster Project**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to amend an intermunicipal agreement with the Village of Port Chester under the Westchester County STOP-DWI Patrol/Datamaster Project, in order to increase the annual payment cap under the IMA from EIGHT THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED (\$8,400) DOLLARS TO TWENTY THOUSAND (\$20,000) DOLLARS,

effective retroactive to January 1, 2023 and for the remainder of the IMA term.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

B&A Only.

Guest: Department of Public Safety

Director Pat Tomassi

Mrs. Tomassi explained the program and stated it is self funded through fines collected from DWI drivers. This item is to increase the cap for Port Chester as that is one of the most active locations for DWI's in the program.

Legislator Clements asked if there is any specific reason why Port Chester has such high DWI's. Mrs. Tomassi responded that there could be a number of reasons including the robust work being done by the police officers, the amount of bars in the area or even the culture. She said that while Port Chester is more actively utilizing the program, there are municipalities who don't utilize the program at all.

Legislator Cunzio also explained that because Port Chester borders Connecticut where the bars close early, people mistake their ability to drive safely over the border from one bar to the next.

Legislator Barr asked for Mrs. Tomassi to explain the victim impact panel that Stop-DWI runs. She explained that STOP-DWI provides funds to the Probation Department in order for people arrested for the DWI and victims to speak to one another. There is 200-300 people who come and the courts mandate that they come there. The County courthouse is where the panel is held.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Barr, Legislator Brandon, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

Absent: Legislator Maher and Legislator Smith

4. [ACT-2023-170](#) **CBA-DES Backup Generator**

AN ACT amending the 2023 County Capital Budget Appropriations for Capital Project BES20 - DES (Department of Emergency Services) Emergency Generator.

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

Joint with PWT.

Guest: Department of Emergency Services

Commissioner Richard Wishnie

Deputy Commissioner Susan Spear

Chief Neil Caputo

Chief Caputo explained this is for replacement of the original generator. It will be replaced by two bigger generators that will support the entire building. They are purchasing 2 for cases of redundancy.

Legislator Clements asked for clarification as it relates to a similar bill on the agenda, a Bond Act ask for funds for a backup generator. Chief Caputo explained that the original bond was not enough money to purchase the replacements so item 2023-249 accounts for that.

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

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Barr, Legislator Brandon, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

Absent: Legislator Maher and Legislator Smith

5. [ACT-2023-171](#) **BOND ACT-BES20-DES Backup Generator**

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of ONE MILLION (\$1,000,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project BES20 - DES (Department of Emergency Services) Backup Emergency Generator.

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

Joint with PWT.

Guest: Department of Emergency Services

Commissioner Richard Wishnie

Deputy Commissioner Susan Spear

Chief Neil Caputo

Please refer to item #4.

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

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Barr, Legislator Brandon, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

Absent: Legislator Maher and Legislator Smith

6. [ACT-2023-172](#) **BOND ACT-BES24-2237-Replacement of Smoke House Building**

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of EIGHT HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND (\$810,000)

DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project BES24 (2237) Replacement of Smoke House Building.

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

Joint with PWT.

Guest: Department of Emergency Services

Commissioner Richard Wishnie

Deputy Commissioner Susan Spear

Chief Neil Caputo

Legislator Clements and Legislator Cunzio expressed their familiarity with the project and why it is a necessary project.

Legislator Barr inquired about the height of the building relative to capacity of fire services and trained personnel as it has been a concern in her district and other areas.

Commissioner Wishnie and Chief Caputo explained that height doesn't play a major role in how the training is setup and executed therefore capacity of fire services and training of personnel isn't any different than in a smaller building.

Legislator Pierce inquired about the timeline and completion of the project.

Chief Caputo explained each part of the process which entails a design portion that he is expecting to move along quicker than noted, having already been working with the company. He also noted training currently is still able to take place in the propane building on their campus.

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

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Barr, Legislator Brandon, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

Absent: Legislator Maher and Legislator Smith

7. **[ACT-2023-168](#) BOND ACT-RGP07-Park-Wide Tree Planting & Site Work**

A BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of TWO MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$2,700,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project RGP07 - Park-Wide Tree Planting and Site Work.

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

Joint with PR and PWT.

Guests: Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia

Program Coordinator (Capital Planning) Rob Lopane

First Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia presented a slide show, "Parks Capital Project RGP07 Park-Wide Tree Planting and Site Work." The Bond Act, in the amount of \$2,700,000, would finance study, design, purchase and planting of trees and other plant materials and associated site work throughout the County's park system. This study would include a tree canopy assessment for the entire County, a tree inventory for the County park system, reforestation and landscape restoration projects and the establishment of a native plant nursery at two locations with the County Park System.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Barr, Legislator Brandon, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

Absent: Legislator Maher and Legislator Smith

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2022

B&A Only.

Guests: Finance Department

Commissioner Karin Hablow

Deputy Commissioner Cesar Vargas

Deputy Commissioner Mario Arena

PKF O'Connor Davies

Nicholas DeSantis, Partner

Scott Oling, Partner

Catherine Rapfogel, Senior Manager

Commissioner Karin Hablow of the Department of Finance and her team presented the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The video can be viewed at:

https://westchestercountyny.granicus.com/player/clip/2158?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=6d189c9555811b9362941e7ac3996972

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Committee Chair Imamura, the Committee adjourned at 12:26 PM. by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Committee Chair Imamura, Legislator Barr, Legislator Brandon, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Excused: Legislator Tubiolo

Absent: Legislator Maher and Legislator Smith

Note

Note