



Legislation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Colin Smith

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

Friday, February 10, 2023

3:00 PM

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.

Chairwoman Catherine Borgia will be participating remotely from Clear View School and Day Treatment Center, 480 Albany Post Road, Briarcliff, NY, 10510

Legislator Colin Smith will be participating remotely from the Law Office of Colin D. Smith, 1132 Main Street, Suite 1, Peekskill, NY 10566

Legislator Margaret Cunzio will be participating remotely from 720 Commerce Street, Thornwood, NY, 10594

With a quorum present, Vice-Chair Gashi called the meeting to order at 3:12 PM.

Others in Attendance: BOL - Legislator Jose Alvarado, Legislator Terry Clements, Legislator Catherine Parker, Legislator Erika Pierce, Legislator David Tubiolo, Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Melanie Montalto, Marcello Figueroa, Anand Singh, Karen Vele, Decnis Pimentel; Office of the County Executive - County Executive George Latimer, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, Director of Operations Joan McDonald, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Steve Bass, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Copernicus Crane; NYS Senate - Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Nathalia Fernandez, Senator Pete Harckham, Victoria Doody (Harckham), Martin Ascher (Stewart-Cousins), Joshua Marcil (Stewart-Cousins), Senator Shelley Mayer, Rachel Estroff (Mayer); NYS Assembly - Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow, Joan MacAffer (Otis), Pascal Jean-Gilles (Shimsky), Heather Mieko-Lackey (Burdick), Iris Weintraub Lachaud (Burdick), Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Assemblyman Matt Slater, Alyssa Jacobs (Shimsky)

Present: Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Maher and Legislator Nolan

Absent: Legislator Boykin and Legislator Cunzio

Remote: Committee Chair Smith

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting with State Delegation to discuss the 2023 Joint State Legislative Package

The 2023 Joint State Legislative Package can be viewed in its entirety by visiting
<https://westchesterlegislators.com/images/PDF/2023-joint-state-legislative-package.pdf>

Vice-Chair Gashi spoke on the 2023 Joint State Legislative Package and thanked everyone for attending, before asking County Executive Latimer to give his introductory remarks. County Executive Latimer spoke about 2 significant financial issues in the 2023 proposed Executive Budget not included in the package. The first was regarding 18B assigned counsel, which would result in an annualized \$11 million budget hit and the second, regarding E-FMAP payments, being a \$20 million budget hit – which would result in the County needing to use more than 25% of its reserves. He moved onto items in the package, and discussed the reauthorization of the County's Sales Tax, allowing the County to set its own gun permit fees, and the MTA payroll tax – stressing that the County isn't seeking special treatment, only being granted the same authority as other jurisdictions, and asked that the state trust that the County would use funds responsibly. Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins said that they would be happy to try and push through what they can, and that the package being submitted earlier over the past few years has helped. She noted that there is wide array of talent at the table, in both county and state government. Delegation Leader Pretlow concurred and said that they have a great, cohesive delegation.

Vice-Chair Gashi went through the package and gave a brief overview of each of the items, allowing for questions after each item. Regarding Design-Build, Senator Mayer asked if specific language existed for design-build and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins asked if labor has been consulted or if they were going to be. Ms. McDonald said that the County has spoken to labor, but not in-depth on the matter. On the funding request for two additional Opportunity Centers in Westchester, Senator Mayer asked if specific sites had been identified and what the cost for these would be, and Ms. McDonald said specific sites have not been identified but there would likely be one in the north and south of the County, and that they would get back to her on the cost. Assemblyman Slater asked if the proposal regarding the Development of a Pilot concerning Shelter Cost Reimbursement and Client Trust Accounts would rectify the issue of clients providing nearly all of their income to the county and Mr. Crane confirmed it would. Regarding the funding proposal for County Patrols of NYS Parkways in Westchester, Delegation Leader Pretlow asked if any other County collects fines, to which Mr. Crane noted they didn't, however none of them operate at a deficit either. A discussion ensued on the Guardians ad Litem proposal and Mr. Crane noted that because of the lack of indemnification the County has had to suspend the program, which Deputy County Executive confirmed and spoke more in-depth about the program. County Executive Latimer added that while NYC was indemnified by the state, Westchester was not and discussions have been ongoing with Senator Mayer's office concerning this issue. Vice-Chair Gashi moved onto the legislative items, with committee members voicing individual support for specific items, before closing out with the State Delegation Support List items.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Nolan, seconded by Legislator Johnson, the Committee adjourned at 4:07 PM.