



Budget & Appropriations

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Catherine Borgia

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

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

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 BOL Remote: Mary Jane Shimsky, JColin Smith, Kitley Covill, James Silverberg, Melanie Montalto, Greg Casciato BOL Elect Remote: Jewel Williams Johnson, Erika Pierce, James Nolan BUDGET Remote: Larry Soule, Gideon Grande, Michael Dunn, William Olli, Dianne Vanadia, Deb Ogden, Mark Medwid CONSUMER PROTECTION Remote: James Maisano, John Gaccione HUMAN RESOURCES Remote: Mary Mahon, Helen May, Kara Merrill, Frank Karintholil, Mary Castiglione HRC Remote: Tejash Sanchala, Valerie Daniele

Absent: Legislator Johnson and Legislator Maher

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10:00 AM- Consumer Protection

Guests: Jim Maisano, Director and John Gaccione, Deputy Director

10:30 AM - Department of Human Resources

Guests: Commissioner Mary Mahon, Deputy Commissioner Helen May, Kara Merrill, Frank Karintholil and Mary Castiglione.

11:00 AM - Human Rights Commission

Guests: Tejash Sanchala, Executive Director and Valerie Daniele, Deputy Director

Department of Consumer Protection

Director Maisano appeared before the Committee with his team from the Department of

Consumer Protection to present their 2022 Executive Proposed Budget. Legislator Tubiolo asked if the Department could use more inspectors than they are currently requesting? Director Maisano responded that he would not argue against additional staff but getting to 23 they think they will be in a good position, but there are other things they would like to do. He discussed one difficult area is the plumbers board/electrical board of examiners, we do good with licensing, but it is difficult to manage every construction site. He noted that they only have 1 inspector for both of those boards and would like to have one person dedicated to each board, individually. Legislator Barr mentioned that they had heard from the Solid Waste Commission about the collaboration with the Department of Consumer Protection. Director Maisano discussed that this is a brand new initiative that is only one month old and they are sharing eyes and ears, and learning what each other department's responsibilities are so that they can have two sets of eyes and ears at sites to catch illegal activity. Legislator Barr asked about wage theft? Director Maisano responded that it comes up when a contractor is coming up for renewal, inspectors are always looking for this, they have denied contractors licenses because they found records of some of them who committed this, it doesn't happen all the time, but it does happen. Legislator Parker asked about leaf blowers and the changes to the laws? Director Maisano responded that this issue they have had discussions with community organizations who said they would send out fact sheets. It is something they are still working on and should happen in 2022. It might be two sheets – one on leaf blower law changes, and one on more sustainable changes.

Department of Human Resources

Commissioner Mahon appeared before the Committee with her team from the Department of Human Resources to present their 2022 Executive Proposed Budget. Chair Borgia asked how many people are vaccinated in their department? Commissioner Mahon responded that out of 46 employees, only 3 are unvaccinated. Legislator Barr asked about the ethics law that went to a referendum? Commissioner Mahon responded that she received an email about the one provision of the law that transfers back to HR from law that they have been handling since 2010. They will be sitting down with Stacey from law to ensure a smooth transition. She continued that they haven't spoken about the training component yet but realize it will entail more oversight and training to comply with the law. She noted that it will take significant effort, but they are up to the task. Legislator Barr asked if they keep stats on the number of complaints concerning sexual harassment and how many are founded? Commissioner Mahon responded yes, they do keep records. Legislator Barr asked how County job applicants are kept in the loop about their status? Commissioner Mahon responded that there are two categories of candidates, one that takes an exam and the other who saw an ad online. Each department has its own appointing authority.

Human Rights Commission

Executive Director Sanchala appeared before the Committee with his team from the Human Rights Commission to present their 2022 Executive Proposed Budget. He highlighted that staff has remained the same and the tax levy is similar to 2021. He noted that there was an increase in hate crimes reported (9,000) over a 20 month period, which is roughly 15 per day. He also discussed an online reporting tool and the mechanics of it where they do not ask about a victim's legal status, which goes further than State law. They continue to investigate discrimination and use technology to their advantage to be able to conduct virtual interviews

and have moved to virtual mediation. He also discussed the discriminatory harassment law that will expand jurisdiction to support street harassment, backyard harassment, and this goes beyond State and Federal statutes. They are preparing info sheets and believe the workload will increase as the law goes into effect and people continue returning to work. Chair Borgia asked if boards have been reaching out to be more compliant. Executive Director Sanchala responded that he hasn't gotten pushback from any boards, just requests for more information.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Walter, the Committee adjourned at 11:37 AM.