



Public Safety

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Terry Clements

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

Monday, September 12, 2022

9:30 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Budget and Appropriations and Public Works and Transportation committees.

*This meeting will be held pursuant to Chapter 1 of the New York State Laws of 2022 and Executive Order 11, as extended, which authorize any public body to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public-in-person access to meetings and authorize such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. To access the meeting, please visit:
<https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>*

With a quorum present, Vice Chair Colin Smith called the meeting to order at 10:28 AM.

Present: Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado and Legislator Johnson

Remote: Legislator Borgia

MINUTES APPROVAL

July 25th, 2022 at 10:00 AM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Cunzio, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

ACT-2022-122 ACT-Amend IMA-Hawthorne Fire District

Guests: DES: Commissioner Richard Wishnie and Deputy Commissioner Susan Spear
Commissioner Wishnie discussed the Legislation and what it would do for the Hawthorne Fire district .

Cunzio pointed out that Hawthorne has a small piece of grasslands and that Hawthorne is a volunteer fire department.

Legislator Barr asked about the increased in calls on the grassland reservations. The increased activity including the homeless shelter the jail and the medical center, the calls to the grasslands has increased.

She also asked about the temporary facility not working on (see 10:37 am for more)

Wishnie responded they couldn't speak to it but these tax payers have been recieveing the same amount of money for 19 years and it's a desperate need and once a decision is made by CE about going forward, there will be contracts in place (See 10:39 am)

Is there any chargebacks going to medical center when theres false alarms? – Ericka Wishnie – They don't have authority to charge back but they have appealed to hospital to pay attention

HSRHE

Commissioner Wishnie discussed the legislation and what it would do for the Hawthorne Fire District . He explained, there has been an agreement with two districts to cover the Grasslands area which are Hawthorne and Valhalla. The contracts with both districts are 19 years old. During that period of time there has been tremendous changes and growth to Grasslands including the number of calls coming in. It is a burden to the tax payers of that district to provide the necessary resources. The County has done a survey to review all of the emergency services on the reservation and a report has been filed and is being reviewed. The Commissioner hopes there will be some changes that will make it easier for the districts to provide the appropriate services to emergencies on the day to day basis.

Legislator Cunzio pointed out that Hawthorne has a small piece of Grasslands and most of it is in Valhalla so there may be a larger ask from Valhalla in the future. Hawthorne is a volunteer fire department that assists neighboring communities like Thornwood and would therefore benefit from these funds. She emphasized the recognition of maintenance such as the building, the uniforms and the equipment that all have life spans that need to be replaced when no longer functioning at its fullest capacity.

Legislator Barr asked why there has been an increase in calls on the Grassland Reservations. Commissioner Wishnie and Deputy Commissioner Susan Spear discussed the fact that there has been an increase of calls coming from the homeless shelter, the jail and the medical center. The addition of Woodfield Cottage has also added to the calls. Susan Spear pointed out there has also been efforts made by the Medical Center to be vigilant about reducing the numbers of false alarms.

Legislator Barr asked about whether or not the Woodfield Cottage facilities concerns are related to this matter. Commissioner Wishnie responded that they can't speak to that.

Commissioner Wishnie emphasized that Hawthorne has been receiving the same amount of money for 19 years and is in desperate need. He also added that once a decision is made by the County Executive about going forward, he is hoping there will be contracts in place to address the ongoing needs.

Legislator Pierce asked if there are any charge backs going to medical center when there are false alarms.

Commissioner Wishnie said they don't have authority to charge back but they worked to make an adjustment to the number of calls especially at the medical center, who used to have a lot more calls but have since upgraded their systems and appealed to the staff to reduce the number of false alarms.

On motion of Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the above item was signed by committeeBoard of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado and Legislator Johnson

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Cunzio, the Committee adjourned at 11:05 AM.