

The Legislature of Rockland County



JAY HOOD, JR.

Legislator – District 3

Chair, Public Safety Committee

Members Present:

Leg. J. Hood, Jr., Chair
Leg. T. Earl, Vice Chair
Leg. C. Carey
Leg. E. Day
Leg. A. Wieder
Leg. A. Paul (left early)

Members Absent:

Leg. A. Wolfe

Others Present:

Chairwoman Cornell
Leg. F. Sparaco
S. Mathews
B. Saetre
L. Toole
P. Withers
J. Sullivan
J. Epstein
Sgt. J. Wanamaker
D. Habas
S. Everingham
K. Quinn
Supervisor St. Lawrence
J. Small

Leg. I. Schoenberger
Leg. P. Soskin
Leg. Meyers
B. Atkins
R. Levine
Chief Sullivan
S. Hausner
D. Kraushaar
A. Ovchinnikoff
R. Corpus
M. Sayre
J. Peraligia
Media

Leg. P. Moroney
Leg. D. Jobson
Supervisor Gromack
E. Yeger, Esq.
D. Friedman
Capt. Mahon
J. Simoes
Lt. R. Donaldson
N. Miller
B. Wallenstone
B. Sayre
F. Atienza
J. Cohen

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2012
5:00 PM

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF JULY 31, 2012

**MOTION TO ADOPT:
DAY/EARL**

UNAN

1. REF. #6704 - APPROVING AN INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000 BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE VILLAGE OF HAVERSTRAW FOR THE DRUG MARKET INTERVENTION CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2012 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY) (\$5,000) (THOMAS ZUGIBE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
DAY/CAREY**

**UNAN
TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/28/12**

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, WIEDER, JOBSON, SOSKIN

2. REF. #6704 - APPROVING INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$61,630, BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR FORFEITURE DISBURSEMENT FOR SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1, 2012 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY) (\$61,630)
(THOMAS ZUGIBE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
DAY/CAREY**

**UNAN
TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/28/12**

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, WIEDER, JOBSON, SOSKIN

3. REF. #6704 - APPROVING INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$62,669, BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE VILLAGE OF PIERMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR FORFEITURE DISBURSEMENT FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1, 2012 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY) (\$62,669)
(THOMAS ZUGIBE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
EARL/CAREY**

**UNAN
TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/28/12**

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, WIEDER, JOBSON, SOSKIN

4. REF. #6704 - APPROVING INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$47,750 BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE SOUTH NYACK-GRANDVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR FORFEITURE DISBURSEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF LIVESCAN LICENSE PLATE READER FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1, 2012 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY) (\$47,750)
(THOMAS ZUGIBE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
DAY/CAREY**

**UNAN
TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/28/12**

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, WIEDER, JOBSON, SOSKIN

5. REF. #9361 - ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 (NCTD) FROM THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (GRANT #WM11839819) FOR THE SHERIFF'S EXPLOSIVE DETECTION CANINE TEAM FOR THE PERIOD JULY 6, 2012 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY GRANT DOCUMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF) (\$50,000)
(LOUIS FALCO III, SHERIFF)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
EARL/CAREY & DAY**

**UNAN
TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/28/12**

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, WIEDER, JOBSON, SOSKIN

6. REF. #5327 - APPROVING INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE VILLAGE OF SPRING VALLEY IN CONNECTION WITH A 2012 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM AWARD THAT WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE VILLAGE OF SPRING VALLEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,615 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF) (\$14,615)
(LOUIS FALCO III, SHERIFF)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
EARL/DAY & CAREY**

**UNAN
TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/28/12**

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, WIEDER, JOBSON, SOSKIN

7. REF. #8896 - APPROVING ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,450 (NCTD) FROM CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT CONSULTING GROUP, LLC TO REIMBURSE THE COUNTY FOR 2012 TRAINING OF SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS IN CONNECTION WITH EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS (OFFICE OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES) (\$3,450)
(GORDON W. WREN, DIRECTOR, FIRE AND EMERGENCY)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
WIEDER/EARL & CAREY**

**UNAN
TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/28/12**

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, WIEDER, JOBSON, SOSKIN

8. REF. #7633 - ADOPTING THE ROCKLAND COUNTY FIRE MUTUAL AID PLAN (REVISED JULY 13, 2012) AND SUPERSEDING ALL PRIOR PLANS (OFFICE OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES)
(GORDON W. WREN, DIRECTOR, FIRE AND EMERGENCY)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
DAY/CAREY**

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, WIEDER, JOBSON, SOSKIN

9. REF. #6394 - **DISCUSSION ITEM: SAMUEL ROAD CLOSURE (TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN)**
(HON. CHRISTOPHER J. CAREY, LEGISLATURE)

Leg. Carey explained his purpose in asking to bring this discussion to the Public Safety Committee was to get the Town and County people together and get the facts. His two concerns were the picture of the barricade and the public safety side of it.

Leg. Schoenberger stated that he believed that barricading the road was the wrong decision, whether it was done by a temporary barricade of plastic and plow vehicles or a metal breakaway gate. It undermines the whole theory of public safety. If there is one life lost on either side or a building burns down because minutes are delayed, it is not the right way to go. He wished there was another resolve.

Leg. Moroney also spoke strongly against the barricade. He was very concerned that it was a safety hazard and was taken aback because of the way the blockade was done. In reading the resolution he felt that the Town did not carry out what they voted on. He stated he had never in his 23 years as a Legislator brought a resolution before the Legislature without first going through Committee but thought that time was of the essence with this particular issue. After meeting with Clarkstown officials and Chief Sullivan stating he was not happy with the conditions of the barricade, he felt the barricade needed to be removed immediately.

Supervisor Gromack agreed with Leg. Moroney that the barricade originally installed was not what they wanted and had probably made a mistake not putting up the gate from Day 1. Supervisor Gromack stated this process has been ongoing for 2 years and they have tried a number of things to reduce speed including increased patrols, put solar signs ups that flash the speed and decoy cars but that did not diminish the volume of cars which is just as important. He did not discuss this with the Legislature because he felt this was strictly a town issue and did not need to get county government involved. This action was not taken lightly and it is not such an unusual occurrence. Supervisor Gromack brought up a similar breakaway gate in the Town of Ramapo as an example.

Joe Simoes, Clarkstown Principal Town Planner, noted the main concern of the Planning Board was emergency access and they believe this is being addressed. Joel Epstein, Code and Zoning Enforcement Officer, explained that there was never any restricted access. The temporary barrier didn't look good but there were no concrete barriers. In between the two trucks were empty plastic barriers and a chain.

Clarkstown Police Chief Michael Sullivan apologized to the Legislature for any inarticulateness on his part at the meeting that caused a misunderstanding. He stated that the police dept. did three traffic counts on Newport Drive: July 2011, April 2012, and May 2012 averaging 2000 vehicles. The traffic count on Samuel Road showed 1500 cars. The police dept. felt the volume was too intense for a residential neighborhood. What they were looking for was a long-term solution. Chief Sullivan stressed that the main problem was volume and asked for everyone's patience in allowing the barrier to stay up for a little while and see what the effect is there for both Newport Drive and Samuel Drive.

Several of the residents of Newport Drive gave their accounts of how bad the speeding and volume of cars was prior to closing the street; since the barricade Newport Drive has become a much safer place to live.

Leg. Schoenberger noted that the barricade still doesn't fix the speeding, it just redirects it; it doesn't mean it's wrong to give these residents safety, but it is not right to pass the danger off to somebody else.

Several of the residents from Duryea Lane said that those 2000 vehicles from the traffic count have not disappeared but rather are using different streets, one of which is Duryea. They felt a survey should be done on the whole area as a community solution not one street.

Ramapo Town Councilman Patrick Withers spoke up against the gate saying all this does is pass the buck and pits neighbor against neighbor, town against town. He also felt as a former police officer this barricade could threaten public safety as seconds do matter in emergencies.

Chairwoman Cornell echoed what Leg. Schoenberger said that the legislators were not pleased with the photos of the temporary barricade and that is why this meeting was held to get all the background information and try to solve the problem.

Supervisor Gromack stated he was adamant about keeping the barricade up and didn't believe there was another solution. After speaking with members of the ambulance corps and fire departments, those members did not see the gate as a threat to anyone's security or timeliness.

Leg. Day made a motion, seconded by Leg. Carey to rescind in its entirety Referral No. 3694 that passed the full Legislature meeting on August 7, 2012. The committee clerk took a roll call vote.

2 AYES: Legs. Day, Carey
3 NAYS: Legs. Hood, Jr., Earl, Wieder
2 ABSENT: Legs. Paul, Wolfe

Members of the Rockland County Citizens Against the Blockade submitted a petition supporting the lawsuit to remove the barrier.

MOTION FAILS

10. REF. #5327 - APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000 (NCTD)
Addendum FROM THE UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE FOR FEDERAL FISCAL
YEAR 2011/12 (OCTOBER 1, 2011 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2012) TO BE
USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ROCKLAND
COUNTY SHERIFF'S COMPUTER CRIME UNIT IN THE NEW YORK/NEW
JERSEY ELECTRONIC CRIMES TASK FORCE (SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT)
(\$5,000)
(LOUIS FALCO, SHERIFF)

MOTION TO APPROVE:
CAREY/EARL

UNAN
TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/28/12

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, WIEDER, JOBSON, SOSKIN

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 7:15 PM
DAY/CAREY

UNAN

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