

The Legislature of Rockland County



NANCY LOW-HOGAN

Legislator, District 17

Chairwoman, Government Operations Committee

Members Present:

Leg. N. Low-Hogan, Chair
Leg. M. Grant, Vice Chair
Leg. J. Meyers.
Leg. P. Moroney
Lg. P. Soskin

Members Absent:

Leg. J. Murphy
Leg. A. Wieder

Others Present:

E. Yeger, Esq.
Leg. C. Carey
Leg. A. Paul
K. Sincerbox

Leg. D. Jobson
Chairwoman Cornell
Leg. E. Day

MINUTES

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2012

6:15 PM

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2012

**MOTION TO ADOPT:
GRANT/SOSKIN**

UNAN

1. REF. #9481 - **DISCUSSION ITEM:** REQUEST THAT THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE VOLUNTARILY DELIVER THE 2013 BUDGET TO THE LEGISLATURE BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2012
(HON. CHRISTOPHER J. CAREY, LEGISLATURE)

DISCUSSED

2. REF. #9481 - **DISCUSSION ITEM:** COUNTY CHARTER CHANGE AS TO DELIVERY DATE OF THE ANNUAL COUNTY BUDGET TO THE LEGISLATURE (REFERENDUM) – NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15TH EACH YEAR
(HON. CHRISTOPHER J. CAREY, LEGISLATURE)

DISCUSSED

3. REF. #7070 - **DISCUSSION ITEM:** REQUESTING THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE IMMEDIATELY PUT IN PLACE ALL FISCAL MONITORING AND CONTROL MECHANISMS AS OUTLINED IF THE STATE APPROVED THE HOME RULE FOR DEFICIT FINANCING (BONDING)
(HON. CHRISTOPHER J. CAREY, LEGISLATURE)

DISCUSSED

Leg. Carey explained his logic for bringing these discussions to the Committee came about when he witnessed how horrible the budget process was last year working within the present timeframe. His feeling is that it is not realistic to accomplish this in a 6 week time period. Leg. Carey said he would draft a letter to the County Executive requesting he voluntarily deliver the 2012 budget by September 15, 2012 and would welcome any of the members of the Legislature to sign on.

Leg. Carey also spoke about the need for a change to the Charter. Legislative counsel explained this would require a mandatory referendum. He realizes this cannot be accomplished this year but would like to explore this possibility and what it would entail in order to be in place for next year's budget review.

Chairwoman Cornell stated that at a previous Rules meeting, she had requested the Rules Committee look into the possibility of creating a Charter Review Committee to define some of the issues in order to make a charter change. Legal counsel explained that a change to the Charter required a mandatory referendum.

Leg. Carey said he felt there should be a quarterly review of the public ledgers; half a year is a long time and this should be done quarterly. Chairwoman Cornell stated that a lot of this information was included in the Multi-Year Financial Plan (Local Law No. 5 of 2011).

Chair Low-Hogan thanked everyone for their input and would like to have further discussion on these items at a future meeting.

ACTION:

- **STAFF TO SEND A COPY OF LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF 2011 (ROCKLAND COUNTY MULTI-YEAR FINANCE PLAN LAW) TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE RULES AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEES FOR THEIR REVIEW**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:40 PM
GRANT/MORONEY**

UNAN

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