

The Legislature of Rockland County



MICHAEL M. GRANT
LEGISLATOR – DISTRICT 2
CHAIR, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members Present:

Leg. M. Grant, Chair (late)
Leg. A. Wolfe, Vice Chair
Leg. H. Cornell
Leg. J. Hood, Jr.
Leg. N. Low-Hogan
Leg. P. Soskin
Leg. F. Sparaco
Leg. T. Earl

Members Absent:

Leg. I. Schoenberger, 2nd VC
Leg. J. Murphy

Others Present:

Leg. B. Kantrowitz
Leg. D. Jobson
N. Doliner
S. Powers
S. Grogan
J. Ramos
D. Philipps
K. Zebrowski-Stavisky
B. Gruffi
R. Bergman, Jr.
S. Lee
Leg. C. Carey
Leg. A. Paul
R. McKay, Esq
S. DeGroat
A. Connors
D. Flanagan
M. Pessin
D. Fried
R. Brega
A. Dalton
C. Williams

MINUTES
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014
7:15 PM

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF MAY 13, 2014

MOTION TO ADOPT:
WOLFE/CORNELL

UNAN

1. BONDS/PUBLIC WORKS MATTER:

1PPW) REF. #5906 -APPROVING AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE ROCKLAND COUNTY DRAINAGE AGENCY FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PASCACK BROOK BYPASS CULVERT CONSTRUCTION - SANITARY SEWER UPGRADE FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$734,726.20 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (ROCKLAND COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1) (\$734,726.20)
(DIANNE T. PHILIPPS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SEWER DISTRICT)
DL#2014-01891

(TRANSFERRED FROM PPW)
ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. WOLFE, JOBSON, PAUL

MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/LOW-HOGAN

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN, SPARACO

2PPW) REF. #5906 -APPROVING AUTHORIZATION OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO ROCKLAND COUNTY DRAINAGE AGENCY FOR PASCACK BROOK BYPASS CULVERT SANITARY SEWER UPGRADE COSTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$734,726.20 (ROCKLAND COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1) (\$734,726.20)
(DIANNE T. PHILIPPS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SEWER DISTRICT)
DL#2014-01783 REV. 5/20/14

(TRANSFERRED FROM PPW)
ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. WOLFE, JOBSON, PAUL

MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/LOW-HOGAN

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN, SPARACO

3PPW) REF. #6803 -AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO THE LEGISLATURE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE 2014 RESURFACING PROGRAM FOR COUNTY ROADS NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONSOLIDATED LOCAL STREET AND HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(CHIPS) NO COUNTY TAX DOLLARS (\$2,600,000) (DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS)
(CHARLES VEZZETTI, SUPERINTENDENT HIGHWAY)
DL#2014-01866

(TRANSFERRED FROM PPW)
ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. WOLFE, JOBSON, PAUL

MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/CORNELL & SOSKIN

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN, SPARACO

4PPW) REF.#9252 -BOND RESOLUTION DATED _____, 2014
BOND RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND, NEW YORK, AUTHORIZING FINANCING FOR COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION OF A REDUNDANT BACKUP PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY TO BE LOCATED ON THE NEW CITY GOVERNMENT CENTER CAMPUS (CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 1479), STATING THE ESTIMATED TOTAL MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$6,000,000, APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$6,000,000 BONDS OF THE COUNTY TO PAY THE COST THEREOF
(GERALD C. WALSH, COMMISSIONER - DGS FACILITIES)
LM#2014-01791

TRANSFERRED FROM PPW

MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/HOOD, JR.

UNAN

2. GRANTS/DONATIONS:

NONE

3. BUDGET ITEMS:

- 3A) REF. #9481 - YEAR-END ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2013 BUDGET TO CORRECT NEGATIVE DEPARTMENTS (DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET & FINANCE)
(STEPHEN DEGROAT, COMMISSIONER FINANCE)
DL#2014-01888

MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/HOOD, JR.

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN, SPARACO, JOBSON

- 3B) REF. #9495 - AMENDING BOND RESOLUTION DATED _____, 2014
BOND RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND, NEW YORK, AMENDING
THE BOND RESOLUTION ADOPTED FEBRUARY 4, 2014 IN RELATION TO
FINANCING THE COST OF LIQUIDATING CURRENT DEFICITS IN THE COUNTY'S
GENERAL FUND AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010, DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND
DECEMBER 31, 2012, AT THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST OF \$125,607,865.
(STEPHEN DEGROAT, COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE)
LM#2014-01298
(DEFERRED AT THE APRIL 29TH AND MAY 13TH B&F MEETINGS)

Chairman of the Legislature Alden Wolfe said he had read in the media that the County Executive had likened the Legislature's decision to defer the bond as "kicking the can" down the road. Chairman Wolfe said the decision to defer this bond resolution was due to the fact that the County Executive has not submitted a plan to deal with the additional \$6 million interest cost in 2015 and \$5 million in 2016 if the \$11 million premium is used to pay down the deficit. In his view, this would be "kicking the can" down the road if there is no plan to deal with these interest payments. Leg. Wolfe again requested from the Administration a detailed plan for how future budgets will provide for these payments.

Stephen DeGroat stated that as Commissioner of Finance, his recommendation is to use the premium to pay down deficit. There is a need to address both the debt service and the deficit, but at this time it is his opinion that applying the \$11 million towards the deficit would provide added cash flow to pay bills and the quicker the County can reduce the deficit the better position the County will be in. Mr. DeGroat said if this is not passed shortly, there would be a need to submit a resolution for approximately \$20 million of RAN's to cover the cash flow issue.

Leg. Kantrowitz said it was distasteful that the County Executive insinuate that the Legislature was "kicking the can" down the road when in reality his lack of submitting a plan is "kicking the can" down the road another year without making a plan.

Leg. Kantrowitz explained that he is not against changing the use of the premium funds. If the premium is used for the deficit, does the County Executive plan to raise taxes to increase revenues in order to pay the additional interest payments? Will he cut expenses? If so, in what departments or what services? Plans to reduce the work force? These are the questions that need answers before an informed decision can be made.

Leg. Hood, Jr. said he is not sold on amending the bond at this time. This could force tax increases if we go forward with this. Leg. Hood, Jr. is leaning toward interest payments unless the County Executive comes up with a better plan.

The committee requested the Finance Department submit the following information:

ACTIONS:

FINANCE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. CURRENT CASH FLOW PROJECTION COMPARED TO CASH FLOW PROJECTION PROVIDED IN MARCH FOR DEFICIT BOND.**
- 2. UPDATED MULTI-YEAR PLAN THAT INCLUDES ADDITIONAL REVENUE FROM THE DEFICIT BOND AND PREMIUM RECEIVED FROM THE SALE OF THE DEFICIT BOND.**
- 3. A DETAILED PLAN FOR HOW FUTURE BUDGETS WILL PROVIDE FOR PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST PAYMENTS (DEBT SERVICE) FOR THE LIFE OF THE DEFICIT FINANCING BOND.**
- 4. DETAILS FOR ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS (I.E, USING THE PREMIUM FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION, USING THE PREMIUM FOR INTEREST PAYMENTS).**

DEFERRED

4. AUTHORIZATIONS:

NONE

5. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS:

- 5A) REF. #4249 - APPROVING AMENDMENT TO OCTOBER 1, 2013 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2014 LEASE AGREEMENT COSTING \$82,000 (NCTD) BETWEEN DEPAULIS ENTERPRISES III, LTD AND THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND FOR LEASING OF OLD LOCATION CONNECTED TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S DRUG TASK FORCE BY EXTENDING LEASE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2013 TO APRIL 30, 2014 AT AN ADDITIONAL COST OF \$17,800 (NCTD) MAKING TOTAL OCTOBER 1, 2013 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2014 LEASE COST \$99,800 (NCTD) AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THIS AMENDED AGREEMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE0 (\$99,800)
(THOMAS ZUGIBE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY)
DL#2014-01355

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
CORNELL/HOOD, JR.**

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN, SPARACO, JOBSON

5B) REF. #9209 - APPROVING A SECOND AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION TO AN AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH NTS DATA SERVICES, LLC TO PURCHASE A SCANFLOW SOFTWARE MODULE IN THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$45,000.00 AND EXTENDING THE TERM FROM DECEMBER 31, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018 FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$539,126.66 TO PROVIDE CONTINUED SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE TEAM VOTER REGISTRATION, SIGN-IT! SIGNATURE DIGITIZATION, IMAGE-IT FULL DOCUMENT IMAGING, THE ELECTION MANAGEMENT COMPONENTS OF E-SUITE (PETITION, CANDIDATE AND ELECTED OFFICIAL MANAGEMENT) AND IMS INTERFACE MESSAGING SYSTEMS FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (BOARD OF ELECTIONS) (\$539,126.66)
(KRISTEN ZEBROWSKI/LOUIS BABCOCK, COMMISSIONERS, BOARD OF ELECTIONS)
DL#2014-01807 REV. 5/20/14

(TRANSFERRED FROM MULTI-SERVICES)
ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, KANTROWITZ, JOBSON, MORONEY

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNAN
WOLFE/LOW-HOGAN & SOSKIN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, HOOD, JR., SPARACO

5C) REF. #1591 - APPROVING AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH HARRIS BEACH, PLLC IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 FOR BOND COUNSEL SERVICES UNDER RFP-RC-2012-030 FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$170,000 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$340,000 FROM JANUARY 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014 WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW FOR THREE (3) ADDITIONAL ONE YEAR TERMS AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE) (\$340,000)
(STEPHEN DEGROAT, COMMISSIONER FINANCE)
DL#2014-01746

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNAN
WOLFE/LOW-HOGAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN, SPARACO, JOBSON

6. ALLOCATION/RECLASSIFICATION OF POSITIONS:

6A) REF. #7994 - CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT E. BERGMAN, JR. OF PEARL RIVER, NY AS COUNTY AUDITOR
(EDWIN J. DAY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE)
DL#2014-02031

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNAN
HOOD, JR./SOSKIN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN, SPARACO, JOBSON

6B) REF. #7311 - **MOTION TO RECONSIDER:**
CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF KAREN ANN CASSA, HAVERSTRAW,
NEW YORK AS THE ROCKLAND COUNTY DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE AND
RISK MANAGEMENT
(HON. EDWIN J. DAY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE)
DL#2014- 01341

MOTION TO RECONSIDER: UNAN
SOSKIN/HOOD, JR.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNAN
WOLFE/HOOD, JR. & SOSKIN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN, SPARACO, JOBSON

7. **BIDS:** NONE

8. **TRANSFER OF FUNDS/OTHERS:** NONE

9. **TAX ITEMS:** NONE

10. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** NONE

11. **LOCAL LAWS/HOME RULES:** NONE

12. **PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:**

12A) REF. #8148 - ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS UPDATE ON GRANTS SECURED
(JULIE RAMOS AND DALY FLANAGAN)
(HON. HARRIET D. CORNELL, LEGISLATURE)

Leg. Harriet Cornell gave background information on the Rockland Center for the Arts (RoCA) and introduced Julie Ramos, Executive Director of RoCA.

Ms. Ramos explained that RoCA is a multi-arts center dedicated to creating and promoting art through exhibitions, workshops, literary and performing arts events, Summer Day camp and outreach programs. Two of the areas they are concentrating on are Economic Development and educational services for Rockland County, especially in East Ramapo and Haverstraw. In East Ramapo they are building upon an outreach program without being competitive as far as replacing art teachers in the schools.

Ms. Daly Flanigan spoke on grants and outreach programs RoCA is pursuing. Mr. Ken Lisner, Co-Chair of Arts in Public Places (AIPP), said it was a great pleasure to work with RoCA in bringing artists work to the County.

12B) REF. #7650 - "BAN THE BOX" (QUESTION) ON EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS
(HON. FRANK SPARACO, JAY HOOD, JR., LEGISLATURE)

The "Box" refers to the questions on a job application which ask about a criminal record. Those applications where the "box" is checked are often put aside never to be looked at again. "Ban the Box" is a movement to pass legislation to prevent this from happening by restricting questions about criminal history on job applications.

Leg. Jay Hood, Jr. stated he supported this because people make mistakes; you need to check the box even for non-serious offenders. This legislation would give individuals a second chance and keep them out of the system.

Leg. Frank Sparaco agreed stating that the trend in this country is to incarcerate; we live in a police state and it creates a vicious cycle. There is some law that everyone has broken. We are talking about giving people a fair shot. When people are employed, they contribute to the tax base and are better able to support their families.

Leg. Toney Earl said he would sponsor this legislation and thanked Legs. Hood, Jr. and Sparaco for bringing this to the attention of the Legislators.

David Fried stated as a former Criminal Court Judge, he has seen good people make bad decisions and they should have a second chance. According to New York State and Federal law it is illegal to discriminate against people who have a criminal record.

Mark Pesson of the Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow has said they have arranged for several meetings over the next month to discuss this legislation. He said 62 counties across the United States have passed legislation "Banning the Box" and the momentum in support of this reform continues to grow.

Leg. Harriet Cornell said she strongly agreed with this legislation and would support it.

ACTIONS:

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL TO RESEARCH STATE LEGISLATION ON THIS ISSUE AND TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION.

COMMITTEE CLERK TO ADVISE COUNTY PERSONNEL COMMISSIONER AND COUNTY ATTORNEY WHEN THIS RESOLUTION IS BROUGHT TO COMMITTEE.

13. MISCELLANEOUS:

13A) REF. #9126 - AMENDING THE INVESTMENT POLICY FOR THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND FOR THE YEAR 2014 TO INCLUDE THE ADDITION OF GREATER HUDSON BANK AND ADOPTING DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE GUIDELINES (DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE)
(STEPHEN DEGROAT, COMMISSIONER FINANCE)
DL#2014-01997 REV. 5/21/14

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SPARACO/CORNELL**

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN, SPARACO, JOBSON

14. RECEIVE & FILE:

NONE

15. CORRESPONDENCE – REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

NONE

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 9:25 PM
HOOD, JR./SOSKIN**

UNAN

“The Rockland County Legislature is committed to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To that end, the Legislature is committed to creating an accessible environment for all. To request accommodations that you may require, please call Damaris Alvarez at 845-638-5248 (845-708-7899 for TTY/TDD). Please request these accommodations three (3) days in advance so that we can seek to meet your needs.”