

The Legislature of Rockland County



MICHAEL M. GRANT
Legislator - District 2

Chair, Budget & Finance Committee
Vice-Chair, Government Operations Committee
2nd Vice Chair - Planning & Public Works Committee

Members Present:

Leg. M. Grant, Chair
Leg. H. Cornell
Leg. T. Earl
Leg. J. Hood, Jr.
Leg. N. Low-Hogan
Leg. J. Murphy
Leg. P. Soskin

Members Absent:

Leg. A. Wolfe, Vice Chair
Leg. I. Schoenberger, 2nd VC
Leg. F. Sparaco

Others Present:

Leg. Carey
Leg. Paul
E. Yeger, Esq.
G. Rosa
J. Silvestri
S. DeGroat
R. Bergmann
B. Gruffi
L. Incalcaterra
Leg. Jobson
Leg. P. Moroney
N. Doliner
S. Powers
A. Connors
B. Riccaldo
M. Leitzes
A. Pinzow

MINUTES
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2014
7:15 PM

1. BONDS/PUBLIC WORKS MATTER:

1PPW) REF. #6394 - AUTHORIZING THE ADVANCE OF GENERAL FUND MONIES
IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000 FOR THE REPLACEMENT
OF ORANGEBURG ROAD BRIDGE, CAPITAL PROJECT 3280
(DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS) (\$250,000)
(CHARLES VEZZETTI, SUPERINTENDENT HIGHWAY)
DL#2014-02932

TRANSFERRED FROM PPW
ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, JOBSON, PAUL, MORONEY

MOTION TO APPROVE:
LOW-HOGAN/SOSKIN

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., LOW-HOGAN, SOSKIN

2PPW) REF. #6394 - BOND RESOLUTION DATED _____, 2014
BOND RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND, NEW YORK
REAUTHORIZING FINANCING FOR THE COST OF REPLACEMENT OF
THE ORANGEBURG ROAD BRIDGE IN THE TOWN OF ORANGETOWN
(CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 3280), STATING THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM
COST THEREOF IS \$3,497,000; STATING THAT THE PLAN OF FINANCING
SAID COST INCLUDES THE ISSUANCE OF \$750,000 BONDS HEREIN
AUTHORIZED; AND AUTHORIZING \$2,797,600 EXPECTED TO BE
RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND \$174,850
EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO BE
EXPENDED TOWARD THE COST OF SAID OBJECTS OR PURPOSES OR
REDEMPTION OF THE COUNTY'S OBLIGATIONS ISSUED THEREFOR,
OR TO BE BUDGETED AS AN OFFSET TO THE TAXES FOR THE PAYMENT
OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS
(**CHARLES VEZZETTI, SUPERINTENDENT HIGHWAY**)
DL#2014-02933

TRANSFERRED FROM PPW

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
LOW-HOGAN/MURPHY**

UNAN

3PPW) REF. #6803 - ACCEPTING THE BID OF THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER
AND APPROVING CONTRACT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH
TILCON, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500,000 FOR
RESURFACING OF COUNTY ROADS AND APPROVING EXECUTION
OF THE CONTRACT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (DEPARTMENT
OF HIGHWAYS) (\$2,500,000)
(**CHARLES VEZZETTI, SUPERINTENDENT HIGHWAY**)
DL#2014-03218

TRANSFERRED FROM PPW

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, PAUL, JOBSON, MORONEY

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
CORNELL/LOW-HOGAN**

UNAN

2. GRANTS/DONATIONS:

- 2A) REF. #2784 - APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION FROM BARNES AND NOBLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000, TO BE USED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ROCKLAND COUNTY BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION & SUPPORT PROGRAM (DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH) (\$10,000)
(PATRICIA SCHNABEL RUPPERT, COMMISSIONER, HEALTH)
DL#2014-03102

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

MOTION TO APPROVE: **UNAN**
SOSKIN/HOOD, JR.

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

- 2B) REF. #9361 - RETURN OF THE PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED DONATION FROM THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW 2002 FORD AMBULANCE TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY REACT TEAM (SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT)
(LOUIS FALCO, SHERIFF)
DL#2014-03406

MOTION TO APPROVE: **UNAN**
HOOD, JR./SOSKIN

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

3. BUDGET ITEMS:

- 3A) REF. #9495 - APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,250 TO KOREAN WAR VETERANS, ROCKLAND COUNTY EAGLE CHAPTER, NEW CITY, NEW YORK FOR PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCES IN 2014
(HONS. CHRISTOPHER J. CAREY, BARRY S. KANTROWITZ, LEGISLATURE)
LG#3357

MOTION TO APPROVE: **UNAN**
SOSKIN/LOW-HOGAN

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., LOW-HOGAN, SOSKIN, JOBSON

- 3B) REF. #5327 - APPROPRIATION OF FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUNDS REQUESTED BY THE SHERIFF TO COVER THE COST OF VARIOUS SUPPLIES, TRAINING AND A GUN BUY BACK PROGRAM, AS WELL AS COVERING THE COST OF REPLACING A TRAY WASHING MACHINE IN THE JAIL (SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT) (\$175,000)
(LOUIS FALCO, SHERIFF)
DL#2014-03103

MOTION TO APPROVE:
HOOD, JR./EARL

UNAN

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

4. AUTHORIZATIONS:

- 4A) REF. #7910 - CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN F. DEGROAT SOUTH NYACK, NEW YORK AS COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE AND BUDGET DIRECTOR
(HON. EDWIN J. DAY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE)
DL#2014-03316

MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/EARL, CORNELL, HOOD, JR.

UNAN

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

5. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS:

- 5A) REF. #9173 - APPROVING AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE TOWN OF RAMAPO TO IMPLEMENT POLICY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS TO REACH THE GOALS OF A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CREATING HEALTHY PLACES TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY INITIATIVE WHICH IS FUNDED BY THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$19,200 FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 2014 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2015 AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE THE INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT (DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH) (\$19,200)
(PATRICIA SCHNABEL RUPPERT, COMMISSIONER, HEALTH)
DL#2014-02813

TRANSFERRED FROM MULTI-SERVICES

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, KANTROWITZ, WIEDER, JOBSON, MORONEY

MOTION TO APPROVE:
EARL/SOSKIN

UNAN

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

6. ALLOCATION/RECLASSIFICATION OF POSITIONS:

6A) REF. #2784 - ESTABLISHING ONE POSITION AND ABOLISHING ONE POSITION
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(JOAN M. SILVESTRI, COMMISSIONER PERSONNEL)
DL#2014-00770

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
LOW-HOGAN/HOOD, JR.**

UNAN

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

6B) REF. #9162 - ABOLISHING POSITIONS IN THE LAUNDRY DIVISION IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS (DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS)
(DONNA PAULINE, COMMISSIONER HOSPITALS)
DL#2014-03101
(NO MOVER MEETING OF JULY 29, 2014)

Chair Grant stated that two items he read in a Journal News article regarding these abolishments had caught his attention. The first one being that County Executive Day stated that the workers would remain on the payroll until December 31, 2014. It was his understanding the workers would only be on the payroll through October, and abolished effective November 1, 2014. Chair Grant also wanted the Administration to clarify the comment from County Executive Day in which he stated if we do nothing and leave it to another to decide, i.e., the purchaser, every one of these people will lose their jobs. If we take these steps now, we hold the cards.

Steve Powers stated that the effective date on this resolution was November 1st but most employees had accrued sick and vacation time that would take them through the end of the year. Mr. Powers also said it was not true that the County Executive was eliminating only working class positions. He noted that many administrative and higher paying positions have been abolished.

Mr. Robert Bergman, County Auditor, handed out a Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance for Mental Health, Hospital and Nursing Home (copy on file with clerk). Mr. Berger said they would probably achieve no savings in 2014 but the figure would rise for 2015 because there would be no payouts for owed vacation/sick time.

Deputy County Executive Rosa told the legislators the cuts would help with the ongoing losses at Summit Park (\$38,000 per day) and put the County in a better position for 2015. He spoke of initiatives that the Administration has been putting in place including: a freeze on hiring, monitoring of overtime, legal work being managed in-house rather than hiring outside counsel, hiring of relief workers (no benefits required), among others. The administration is also contracting with an advertising firm to pitch the Nursing home and the Hospital. Deputy CE Rosa agreed with the legislators that no one including himself wants to abolish positions or fire people but something must be done in order to move forward and deal with the loss of the \$1.2 million a month. Deputy CE Rosa said he was looking forward to working with the Legislators but the bottom line is the County cannot go forward with these losses. Deputy CE Rosa had submitted a report to the committee "Executive Summary of Operations Assessment Report Prepared for: Department of Hospitals Radiology Function, Department of Hospitals Laundry Function, Department of General Services Security Function, Division of Environmental Resources Security Function (copy on file with clerk). These reports identify performance improvement and expense reduction opportunities in the operation of the Department of Hospitals' Radiology and Laundry Functions and the Department of General Services and Environmental Resources Security Functions.

Legs. Cornell thanked Deputy CE Rosa for arranging meetings with the members of the committee to discuss these issues prior to tonight's meeting. She also felt the amount of savings did not merit loss of jobs.

Leg. Paul said that she appreciates all of these employees and this is their bread and butter. She does not support the abolishments.

Leg. Moroney stated instead of putting these workers out to pasture is anybody negotiating on their behalf? Deputy CE Rosa said he has had conversations with union leadership trying to set them up with the prospective buyer.

Leg. Murphy stated the best time for an elected official is when they can "hire" and the worst time is when they have to "fire". He has been watching the erosion of what he has helped build up over 1/2 his life and intellectually knows it cannot continue down that road. Everyone needs to make some ugly decisions.

Leg. Hood, Jr. thanked Deputy CE Rosa for the hard work he has put in but reiterated his stand that the resolutions did not warrant the layoff and would release the workers earlier than necessary. This would add insult to injury and did not have significant budget savings for him to support it.

Leg. Carey expressed support for the resolutions noting that the County had to make tough choices so we do not slip back into a deficit.

Leg. Grant said he was also looking forward to working with Deputy CE Rosa. Leg. Grant's problem with these abolishments is that the savings for this year didn't measure up to the level to make such a difficult and serious decision. He noted the issues of job cuts will most likely return when the County Executive submits the 2015 proposed County budget.

ACTION:

Committee requested the Administration to provide a written list of the previously abolished positions that were listed in Mr. Power's introductory remarks.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
MURPHY/LOW-HOGAN & CORNELL**

**FAILED
1 AYE/6 NAYS**

1 AYE: LEG. MURPHY

6 NAYS: LEGS. GRANT, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., LOW-HOGAN, SOSKIN

6C) REF. #9007 - ABOLISHING POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES (DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES)
(ROBERT GRUFFI, DIRECTOR GS/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT)
DL#2014-03098
(NO MOVER MEETING OF JULY 29, 2014)

ACTION:

Committee requests the Administration to provide an explanation as to how salaries for security personnel will be addressed in the Request for Bid (RFB)

MOTION TO APPROVE: MURPHY/LOW-HOGAN **FAILED**
1 AYE/6 NAYS

1 AYE: LEG. MURPHY
6 NAYS: LEGS. GRANT, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., LOW-HOGAN, SOSKIN

6D) REF. #9162- ABOLISHING POSITIONS IN THE RADIOLOGY DIVISION IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS (DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS)
(DONNA PAULDINE, ACTING COMMISSIONER HOSPITAL)
DL#2014-03099
(NO MOVER MEETING OF JULY 29, 2014)

MOTION TO APPROVE: MURPHY/CORNELL **FAILED**
1 AYE/6 NAYS

1 AYE: LEG. MURPHY
6 NAYS: LEGS. GRANT, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., LOW-HOGAN, SOSKIN

6E) REF. #9097 - ABOLISHING AND RECLASSIFYING POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF MENTAL HEALTH (DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH)
(MICHAEL LEITZES, ACTING COMMISSIONER MENTAL HEALTH)
DL#2014-03100
(NO MOVER MEETING OF JULY 29, 2014)

MOTION TO APPROVE: MURPHY/HOOD, JR. **PASSED**
6 AYES/1 NAY

6 AYES: LEG. GRANT, CORNELL, HOOD, JR., LOW-HOGAN, MURPHY, SOSKIN
1 NAY: LEG. EARL

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

7. BIDS: **NONE**

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

9. TAX ITEM:

9A) REF. #5614- AMENDING RESOLUTION 527 OF 2011 TO EXTEND THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE ESTATE OF NORMAL CHICHETTI TO RECAPTURE TITLE TO THE FORMER RESIDENCE KNOWN AS PARCEL NO. I.D. S-20.07-1-38 (IDENTIFIED AS 37 ROUTE 210, STONY POINT, NEW YORK) AUCTIONED BY THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND ON JUNE 13, 2011, AND CONTINUE ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION 527 OF 2011
(HON. DOUGLAS JOBSON, LEGISLATURE)

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNAN
HOOD, JR./EARL

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

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

11. LOCAL LAWS/HOME RULES: NONE

12. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:

12A) REF. #9500 - DISCUSSION ITEM: LOGISTICS OF PAYMENT TO ROCKLAND COUNTY EMPLOYEES OF THE DEFERRED PAYMENT (2012-2013 DEFERRALS)
(HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

Commissioner DeGroat explained deductions and other issues cause problems for the County in issuing a double paycheck. The computer software does not know how to handle these configurations. It is early enough that the payroll department to test run which would be of one payroll but two separate checks. The alternative would be a separate handwritten check.

13. MISCELLANEOUS: NONE

14. RECEIVE & FILE:

14A) REF. #4124 - RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT PREPARED BY O'CONNOR DAVIES LLP, ROCKLAND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (A COMPONENT UNIT OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND, NEW YORK) YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013
(HON.MICHAEL M. GRANT, LEGISLATURE)
DL#3356

ACTION:

B&F Chair Grant requested the auditors (O'Connor Davies) to provide a written explanation for the comments made on Page 2 relating to the omission of the Management discussion and analysis.

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

UNAN

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN, JOBSON

Chairman Grant stated for the record that Local Law 10 of 2012 which sets aside \$10 million remains on the books and will have implications on the 2015 budget and this issue needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

15. CORRESPONDENCE/REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

NONE

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 10:00 PM
HOOD, JR./SOSKIN**

UNAN

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