

The Legislature of Rockland County



ILAN S. SCHOENBERGER
LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 4
PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. I. Schoenberger, Chair
Leg. A. Wolfe, Vice Chair
Leg. M. Grant, 2nd Vice Chair
Leg. D. Jobson
Leg. A. Paul

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Leg. J. Meyers
Leg. P. Moroney

OTHERS PRESENT:

Leg. Kantrowitz Leg. Low-Hogan
Leg. Wieder Leg. P. Soskin
Leg. J. Hood, Jr. Leg. Sparaco
Leg. Cornell R. McKay, Esq.
N. Doliner S. DeGroat
T. Vanderbeek G. Walsh
S. Grogan M.A. Walsh-Tozer
S. Powers P. Withers
R. Brega P. Gerdin
S. Cerra

**MINUTES
PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

ROLL CALL

1. **REFERRAL NO. 7555** APPROVING ADDENDUM TO LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND HB DRIVE-IN ASSOCIATES, LLC INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES FROM 290 TO 360 SPACES AND THE ANNUAL RENT BY AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$30,000 FOR MAXIMUM ANNUAL RENT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 FOR THE COMMUTER PARK AND RIDE LOT LOCATED ON ROUTE 59 IN THE HAMLET OF MONSEY, TOWN OF RAMAPO [NO COUNTY TAX DOLLARS] AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION] (\$150,000 ANNUALLY) **(THOMAS VANDERBEEK, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION) DL# 2013-05391**

Leg. Schoenberger stated any County resident is allowed to park at this lot and not pay anything.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/SCHOENBERGER**

**UNAN
TRANSFER TO B&F 1/28/14**

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SCHOENBERGER, WOLFE, JOBSON, PAUL

2. **REFERRAL NO. 9075** APPROVING AN AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO THE COUNTY FOR CLEANING AND MINOR REPAIR SERVICES OF THE ROCKLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE FOR THE FIVE (5) YEAR PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 2013 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2018 WITH REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE INITIAL TERM FROM APRIL 1, 2013 TO MARCH 31, 2014 TO BE MADE IN THE AMOUNT IF \$570,887 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES-FACILITIES MANAGEMENT] (\$570,887) **(GERRY WALSH, COMMISSIONER, DGS) DL# 2013-05222**

MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/GRANT

UNAN
TRANSFER TO B&F 1/28/14

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SCHOENBERGER, WOLFE, GRANT, JOBSON, PAUL, KANTROWITZ

3. **REFERRAL NO. 8293** DISCUSSION ITEM: UPDATE ON ROCKLAND COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES- TRANSPORT OF ROCKLAND AND TAPPAN ZEE EXPRESS **(HON. ILAN S. SCHOENBERGER, LEGISLATURE)**

Ms. Susan Cerra, new Transit Administrator responsible for TOR, TSX and TRIPS gave an update. She stated that new fare boxes were installed on all buses eliminating the need for the drivers handling of monies and giving change. A change card is issued if a customer does not have exact change. There was a lot of customer education done prior to the changeover including "train the trainer" which trained a few driver's who in turn trained other drivers. There were no problems and it went very smoothly.

Leg. Schoenberger stated that at a previous meeting of PPW, Mr. Brega had said he believed the fare boxes would increase revenue by approximately 20%; Mr. Vanderbeek predicted an even higher rate of 25%. Leg. Schoenberger noted that Mr. Brega had supplied some sort of fare bags at his cost and expense. Ms. Cerra said Mr. Brega had supplied wallets at his expense that the customer could use when receiving either a transfer or change card.

Leg. Schoenberger questioned Mr. Brega on the GPS system installed on the buses. Mr. Brega said it was part of their proposal to put a GPS system in each and every one of the buses in order to track the timing of the routes accurately. The system is installed and working very well. Hopefully, in the next month or so Brega plans an APP which can be downloaded to your smart phone and customers will be able to see how many minutes away the bus is, eliminating people waiting in the freezing cold or other bad weather.

Leg. Schoenberger said he had an e-mail from Mr. Brega to Mr. Altieri dated Jan. 6th regarding the washing of the buses. Mr. Brega stated the buses were currently being washed once a week and this was causing safety as well as health issues. The bus drivers can't see and the customers cannot identify the bus until it is right on top of them. The filth also sends a bad image of our transit system. He suggested washing the bus fleet every other day as was done in the past.

Leg. Schoenberger said the response Mr. Brega received was that there would be no additional compensation for more frequent washing. Ms. Cerra said this was how the attorney's office advised her to respond. Ms. Cerra said she was going to try to schedule an operations meeting for next week with Brega and staff from the Transportation Dept.

Mr. Brega spoke on the condition of the buses, many that have over a million miles on them and many that have outlived their useful life. Mr. Brega is very concerned about the safety of the tremendous amount of people they transport every day. The average RC bus does approximately 58,000 miles per year and almost one-third of the fleet has over 500,000 miles on it.

Leg. Schoenberger stated he thinks the Transportation Dept. is doing a good job and Brega is also doing a good job and he believes that we all have the same goal, which is to provide the best service for the safety and convenience of the public who ride the buses.

Leg. Schoenberger requested Mr. Brega write a letter to the Chair of the Legislature to be distributed to all Legislators documenting his concerns with the safety of the buses as discussed at this meeting.

ACTIONS:

MR. RICHARD BREGA WAS REQUESTED TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATURE OUTLINING ALL OF HIS CONCERNS REGARDING THE CONDITION OF THE BUS FLEET.

THE COMMITTEE REQUESTED CHAIR WOLFE WRITE A LETTER TO THE TRANSIT CONSULTANT TO CLARIFY THE INDUSTRY STANDARD REGARDING USEFUL LIFE OF PUBLIC BUSES.

4. REFERRAL NO. 7621 DISCUSSION ITEM: A LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING THE USE OF A BEST VALUE AWARD METHODOLOGY FOR PURCHASE CONTRACTS (INCLUDING CONTRACTS FOR SERVICE WORK, BUT EXCLUDING ANY PURCHASE CONTRACTS FOR THE COMPLETION OF A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE EIGHT OF THE LABOR LAW) (HON. ILAN S. SCHOENBERGER, LEGISLATURE)

Director of Purchasing, Paul Brennan explained that New York is one of the last states to authorize local governments to use "Best Value". One of the benefits is that it would allow us to use national cooperative contracts that are out there for many goods and services. Another benefit is it allows local governments to take into account the minority and women-owned status of a business in evaluating bid awards.

Leg. Schoenberger said he wanted counsel to look at the Procurement Policy to see what, if anything, counsel might recommend to make sure the Legislature maintains its ability to have checks and balances. And also to make sure that awards of bids are not divided so that an award that might be over \$100,000 and gets split by two bidders never comes to us, because it is under \$100,000.

ACTIONS:

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL TO REVIEW PROPOSED LOCAL LAW AND CURRENT PROCUREMENT POLICY AS IT RELATES TO BEST VALUE AND TO ASSESS WHETHER OR NOT THE PROPER OVERSIGHT WILL BE IN PLACE TO PROVIDE FOR CHECKS AND BALANCES. COUNSEL IS TO REVIEW LOCAL LAW IN THE CONTEXT OF HOW THE LEGISLATURE WILL BE PART OF THE PROCESS AND HOW EXTENSIVE LITIGATION WILL BE AVOIDED IN THE FUTURE.

CHAIR WOLFE AGREED TO FORWARD TO ALL LEGISLATORS AND LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL A COPY OF THE E-MAIL FROM PURCHASING DIRECTOR PAUL BRENNAN CONCERNING CRITERIA FOR BEST VALUE PROCUREMENT.

ADDENDUM

1. **REFERRAL NO. 3120** CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF LEGISLATORS DOUGLAS J. JOBSON, ARON W. WIEDER AND ANEY PAUL TO HEAR THE APPEAL OF JOSEPH KLEIN FROM AN ACTION BY THE ROCKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF PLUMBING, HEATING AND COOLING EXAMINERS
(HON. EDWIN J. DAY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE) DL#2014-00115

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
GRANT/WOLFE**

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SCHOENBERGER, WOLFE, GRANT, JOBSON, PAUL

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 8:15 pm
JOBSON/PAUL**

UNAN

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