

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:**

***Legislator Kate Browning - Chairperson***

*Legislator Robert Calarco - Vice-Chair*

Legislator DuWayne Gregory

Legislator Kara Hahn

Legislator John M. Kennedy

Legislator Tom Muratore

Legislator William Spencer

**Also in Attendance:**

*Deputy Presiding Officer Wayne Horsley - District #14*

*Legislator Al Krupski - District #1*

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature

Sarah Simpson - Office of Counsel to the Legislature

Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk, Suffolk County Legislature

Tim Rothang - Aide to Legislator Browning

Kellianne Sacchitello - Aide to Legislator Muratore

Lora Gellerstein - Aide to Legislator Spencer

Paul Perillie - Aide to Legislator Gregory

Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay

Debbie Tinnirello - Aide to Legislator Hahn

Bobby Knight - Aide to Presiding Officer

John Ortiz - Senior Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review Office

Diane Dono - Senior Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review Office

Errol Toulon - Deputy County Executive

Tom Vaughn - County Executive's Office

Marie Berkoski - County Executive's Office

Glenn Latendresse - Intern/County Executive's Office

Patrice Dlhopsky, Director, Suffolk County Probation Department

Christine Larkin - Vice-President/Probation Officers Association

Scott Mastellon - Assistant Deputy Commissioner/SCPD

Gerard Hardy - Deputy Inspector/SCPD-Commissioner's Office

Robert Waring - Captian/SCPD-Chief of Department's Office

Tracy Pollak - Suffolk County Police Department/Headquarters

Linda Russo - Suffolk County Medical Examiner's Office

Donna Ruppenthal - Suffolk County Medical Examiner's Office

Michael Sharkey - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office.

Robert Holley - Executive Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy

Ed Johnston - Deputy Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy

Louise Scarola - Treasurer/Suffolk County Fire Academy

Ronald Barz - Suffolk County Fire Academy

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Ed Springer - Chief Fire Marshall of Suffolk County  
Arthur Bloom - Executive Director/Fire Academy Foundation  
Jay Egan - Chairman/Suffolk County FRES Commission  
Laura Ahearn - Executive Director/Parents for Megan's Law  
Nick Luparella - Nominee/Suffolk County FRES Commission  
Arthur Sanchez, Deputy Sheriffs Police Benevolent Association  
Lou Tutone - 2nd Vice-President/Suffolk County PBA  
Jim Roddin - Trustee/Superior Officers Association  
Deborah McKee - 4th Vice President/AME  
Karen Hauff - AME/Police Emergency Unit  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

*(\*The meeting was called to order at 9:43 A.M. \*)*

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. We will start the meeting with a salute to the flag led by Legislator Hahn.

***Salutation***

And as always, we have a moment of silence for those who serve our country. But just as an FYI, my predecessor, Jack Eddington, had surgery, he had triple bypass. So please keep him in your prayers; he's doing fine, he's home. And also, we'll keep in our prayers the family of Lou Tutone, he's one of the PBA representatives, his brother Frank just passed away and was buried this week. So like I said, keep everyone in your prayers. Thank you.

***Moment of Silence Observed***

Thank you. Okay. I think what I'd like to do is we do have a presentation on the Superstorm Sandy After Action Review. I do have two cards. Do we have any other speakers in the room who need to sign a card, or would like to come forward? And I want to give you the courtesy, I just wanted to make sure that no one has a time issue if you have signed a card and need to speak. Is that good with everyone, that we can go ahead and do the Superstorm Sandy report first? Okay.

So Mr. Toulon, if you would like to come up. Good morning.

**MR. TOULON:**

Good morning.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Just begin when you're ready.

**MR. TOULON:**

Good morning. Thank you, Madam Chairperson and the Public Safety Committee. After Superstorm Sandy, our Administration looked at what was right and what went -- what was wrong with the entire operation. Of course, nobody anticipated the magnitude of the storm that hit Long Island. So what we did -- and basically, I'm going to run through the impact of Sandy, and subsequently what the Administration has implemented since the storm. So the impact, it was a Category III storm that impacted the entire eastern seaboard, killing 72 and causing an estimated \$50 billion in damages. It made its landfall in Suffolk County on Monday, October 29th, and it was 900 miles wide and it's the largest Atlantic storm in recorded history. The storm surged to almost 6-feet above normal tides in Montauk and Fire Island and almost five in

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Wading River. It caused hundreds of millions of dollars in structural damage to nearly 30,000 homes in Suffolk, and left more than one million County residents without electricity.

Some of the successes. FRES was officially activated on October 25th. They began coordinating logistics, personnel, they conducted briefings and other activities with agencies, municipalities, State and Federal local governments. They identified USAR team and equipment, communications equipment, sheltering locations and supplies and other County, State and Federal resources, and on October 27th, the County Executive declared a state of emergency for Suffolk County and announced a mandatory evacuation of Fire Island. Mandatory and -- voluntary evacuations of over 250,000 residents occurred; 24 shelters were opened in collaboration with FRES and the American Red Cross, sheltering almost 2200 Suffolk County residents. Suffolk County's DPW led the effort to collect more -- I'm sorry, collect and remove 1.4 million cubic yards of vegetative debris throughout the County. And they also made the Marine Bureau's fuel pumps operational and rapidly repaired vehicles.

Our Police Department's response to downed wires and trees, flooding conditions and people in distress are facilitated by unprecedented mutual aid response from the New York State Police. The Sheriff's Department, Probation Department and Park Police deployed critical support and crime suppression in areas without power, shelter security, traffic light malfunctions and gasoline shortages.

Our Department of Labor, in conjunction with Community Development Corporation, administered FEMA's Sheltering and Temporary Essential Power Pilot Program, redressing 184 homes of the 485 assessed. Also, our Labor's Consumer Affairs unit received almost -- a little over 1500 complaints regarding storm-related price gouging. Suffolk County departments contributed, when called upon, with critical, in-depth roles being played in FEMA and New York State Emergency Management Office.

So the After Action Review is a compilation of lessons learned and preparation for future events. Suggestions of operational adjustments to communication, staffing logistics before, during and immediately following an event was recommended. Drawing on the input from many departments and agencies in the County that responded, we continue to participate in a long-term recovery.

The County agency submitted recommendations and critical needs. Our County Executive staff recognized and categorized, prioritized recommendations and the input from all these departments and agencies. They identified an incident commander, which I was designated for any future storms, within the County Exec's Office and I'll be accountable to oversee response and immediate recovery. Regular interfacing between myself and department representatives regarding implementation and progress is still currently underway.

That was quick.

### **CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

That was quick. Okay. I do have one question. Does anybody else have questions before I ask anything? No questions? Wow, you're getting off easy, Errol.

### **LEG. SPENCER:**

No, no, I have --

### **CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. You know, one question, and I would like to know if -- we could follow-up after this. Motorola did come to visit me, I know that they'll be visiting with our Budget Office, and I know that they have met with Jon Schneider. And one of the issues, it's always been an issue, is our infrastructure for communications and the need to improve it.

I would like to have a follow-up. It's my understanding that what they're proposing is not a bad proposal, especially in this economy, which would help us move things forward a little better. But I would like to do a follow-up with all the necessary parties to look at the possibility of improving our infrastructure. But again, when it came to communication, did you feel that our communication was good enough? Because I know when we looked at the wildfires, communication was, at times, a bit of an issue. So how do we feel the communication worked during Superstorm Sandy between our Police, Emergency Services, fire ambulance and so forth.

**MR. TOULON:**

Considering the impact of the storm, of course our communications was definitely affected. And, you know, it brought back very similar -- to me, when I worked through September 11th, how the communications failed with the various agencies in New York City, so obviously communications is a key. Never, to my understanding, has Long Island been hit with a storm of this impact, and anything that we can do to better prepare ourselves is something that we definitely look at.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So, you know, if you can take it back, clearly it just seems that the proposal was sent forth to us and obviously I think it's something that we really do need to sit down and talk about, because we don't know if we're going to have another one. I know, God forbid, we'd have another wildfire, communication is definitely key for all of our emergency services to work together. So Mr. Vaughn, if you can get back to me on that, I'd appreciate it.

Legislator Spencer, you have a question?

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Hi. Thank you. That was -- you know, it's definitely a time that I'm sure that we'll all remember. And I noticed in my district where a lot of people did unprecedented things to try to help and support each other. I have a few questions. One relates to the issue where there was the gasoline shortage and the shortage of power, and when we look at gasoline in a station like that it's owned by private retailers, but it becomes an essential commodity for our infrastructure. And we, you know, initially thought that having legislation to require retailers to have generators would be a good idea, but I think the retailers are indicating that they have some comfort in large corporations versus small businesses that would have a different impact on them.

So, one, I was curious, I understand that for this particular storm, or in the future, we have generators and things that are available and power restoration plans and we have hospitals and essential services being at the top of that list. My first question is are we moving gas stations up the priority ladder to be restored because of the issue of needing power to run pumps.

**MR. TOULON:**

Well, of course gasolines -- gasoline stations are amongst our priorities, of course below health care. You know, because we want to make sure that our health care institutions are stable and able to maintain the operations for especially critical care patients. But yes, gas stations are -- and, you know, one of the things that we looked at, of course, was the odd/even -- you know, we maybe should have went to that system a little earlier into the storm.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

I think it would be critical to also have some standardized guidance in terms of how -- and I don't want to overreach or try to make the people do things that we don't have the authority, but in a state of emergency where you had situations where some people would sit in a car for 12 hours and then make it to the front of the line and then be told that there was no gas, you had -- and there are all sorts of tricks, some would have their friends and family would be able to come or you could walk up to the front of the line and get gas. I do -- is there any plan to -- besides the odd/even that I think consideration of a standardized disaster guidelines instead of maybe laws, but maybe

guidelines that would allow for better distribution?

**MR. TOULON:**

The communications between the law enforcement personnel that would be stationed around some of the gas stations throughout the County -- and of course, you know, it all depends on the impact of the storm. You know, the next storm could be more severe or may be less severe than what we experienced in Sandy. So, you know, this is a plan that's going to be evolving and changing as the game goes on. Almost like a football game; depending on what the defense is calling is, you know, what you see across the -- the other side of the ball is what the offense is going to do.

We will look and maintain the operations of the gas stations as well as the Water Authority and also other municipal -- actually, not municipalities, but utilities as far as how we can better assist them in restoration of power or residents getting gas so that they can -- you know, if they lost power for their generators at home. So it all depends on what's going on at that situation. And also, with the law enforcement personnel we're able to put at certain locations to then monitor and then relay that information back to us at FRES and the bunker as to what is going on so we can make the necessary adjustments as we go forward.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

I think that would be, you know, extremely important that you're doing that.

The other question I had was relating to County employees and law enforcement where we have those employees that are civilian employees -- or not civilian, but non-law enforcement that are essential personnel, and Tom may be able to weigh in on this. I know that at one point where we knew that, you know, our officers, we could get them to and from work by making sure that they could get to the front of the line. But some of our, I guess, essential personnel, like secretaries and operators and things of that sort, I think that there had to be an Executive Order to make sure. Have we kind of standardized or taken a better look at which employees would be required and making sure that -- would they have an ID that would allow them to get gas at County facilities? Do we have agreements with some private gas stations that would also help us in this situation? Have we looked into anything like that?

**MR. TOULON:**

With regard to essential personnel, all department heads have submitted to me the names of the essential personnel in their particular departments, so we do have the list. We have not entered into any type of agreement with any private gas stations, which is something that I have to look into because that's a very good point. But we do have the list of all the essential personnel for each department, and we can identify them by faxing to a law enforcement representative that might be stationed at a particular pump station to facilitate the gasoline going to those essential personnel.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Great. And my last question -- I'm sorry, it definitely generated a lot of interest -- is there any mechanism of coordinating, I guess, relief response to -- for instance, like with -- we had out-of-state electrical workers who came in, we had other, I guess, first responders who were involved, and we tried to make a coordinated effort to feed them in my Legislative District and restaurants wanted to donate food. We were occasionally bringing trays of food to feed a lot of people, but we knew this was County-wide and, you know, food was going to waste and things of that sort. So it would be great if there was some sort of coordination effort through the fire departments where we could not have resources that are wasted and have them distributed, or if people who want to get involved, businesses who are to contribute to someone that -- I had a friend who has a construction company and he said, "*I will clear trees for free,*" but just trying to find out where he could get the authority to do it and not having -- well, we had high voltage workers, but we had electrical workers who could address a particular issue and help to restore power, but there was issues in terms of, I guess, union contracts and things. Have we done anything to get rid of

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that red tape; if there's a declaration of disaster where if we have able-bodied, qualified people that can help do these things, that there's a mechanism to get them involved without going through a lot of red tape?

**MR. TOULON:**

Well, that would be one of my jobs, is to ensure that we can cut through that as quickly as possible. One of the things that I was able to do was formulate my own cadre of County personnel in case of emergency from various departments throughout the County. So what we did -- what I've done was we're actually meeting next week, we're going over NIMS protocol, we're going over disaster protocol, and what we're doing is I've identified key areas within the County that we will be monitoring daily, not only getting hourly updates from each Commissioner, which I will be able to have a recorder input this. Because as we go forward in the future, one of the things that I want to do is to make sure that I can look at, between a certain time frame, if gas stations are now becoming operable or they're not operable or they're -- you know, we're having insufficient gas, insufficient food, power outages, we're having issues in certain locations with sanitation pick-ups, that we can monitor it as quickly as possible and see what we can do to mitigate these issues. So that's one of my goals with this team or this cadre that I've assembled.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Thank you so much. I appreciate you responding to all of my questions. It's a very important job that you're doing; any way that I can support you as a Legislator, please let me know.

**MR. TOULON:**

Thank you, sir.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Rob?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Good morning, Dr. Toulon. How are you?

**MR. TOULON:**

Good morning, sir.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Just one quick question for you. As you know, I represent one of the south shore districts and have quite a bit of coastline, and actually represent the beach for the whole Brookhaven section of Fire Island. Do you know where we stand right now in terms of dune replenishment at Smith Point Beach and some of the other work that needs to be done to restore that barrier Island? Certainly it did its job during the storm. Though we had severe flooding along the south shore, it probably would have been a lot worse if it wasn't there. So are you aware at all about where we are in that process and if the Federal government is looking to come in and do any work? I heard they were going to start at Smith Point and move west, and are we going to be impacted by the Federal government shutdown in that process?

**MR. TOULON:**

No, I do not at this time, but I can get back to you today.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

I appreciate it. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. DuWayne?

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Thank you. And thank you, Dr. Toulon, for coming in and giving us your presentation. I think it's very important to have an after action review and I think you guys have done an excellent job.

So one of the -- I think Doc and Robert asked excellent questions along the lines that I was thinking, but just as a little follow-up to what Legislator Calarco -- not Rob, but Legislator Calarco just asked. I think it might be beneficial for residents, because there's a lot of moving pieces as far as Federal funding and things, there's, you know, CRZ committees, this, that and the other. I think it may be beneficial for residents to be able to go to one location and say this is what's going on in various communities as a part of the recovery from Tropical Storm Sandy, this is the status on, you know, replenishing the Barrier Islands, or whatever the case may be. Because there is a lot going on and it's kind of slow, but there's, you know, a lot of things that are happening, I think it would be beneficial for our residents to know that.

Also -- maybe I missed it, I tried to go through and look. But I think there should be -- and I think it was done, to some extent, during the storm -- a place for residents to go and look and say, "Well, what do we do during the storm." Understanding that people may lose electricity, it may be difficult for them to access the web; I think prior to any event, having that information would be very critical.

So I think maybe some consideration should be given towards that. Especially maybe even put it on the website somewhere very accessible during the hurricane season. Some people said, "Okay, this is what we have to do, this is how we prepare for it," in June and, whatever, October. My concern is you evaluated what happened, you know what you want to do, but if there were a storm that would happen tomorrow where would we be? How would we respond? We know where we want to go, but where are we and do we feel that there's -- I see that you have recommended priorities. Some of those are more critical, I guess, or more of a priority than others. What do we -- do we feel -- I know we feel confident that we would be able to respond and handle any event that would occur, but if you had your, you know, top three wish list to really have the tools in place to feel comfortable to address an event that may happen tomorrow, what would those be and how can we help you get that.

**MR. TOULON:**

I think the number one thing would be communications to the public, you know, prior to an anticipated storm hitting our region. One of the things that we -- you know, we've taken a hard look at was informing the public, letting them know what they should do to be safe, the different -- the different precautions that they should take, the different options that they have, and I think communications to the public would be key.

The second thing on our part would be, you know, to try and anticipate the storm and where it's going to hit and where the -- make sure that the resources that we would need to get to that region or that particular area as quickly as possible.

And then the third would be the actual mitigation during the storm. You know, while the storm is, you know, in it's heaviest throes, and then also the aftermath of trying to assist people as quickly as possible and cutting through the red tape, as Legislator Spencer had mentioned earlier.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay, great. Now thinking prospectively, obviously there are some locations, some facilities that are more vulnerable to a similar type storm on the south shore, even on the north shore. This committee that you established, or whatever committee there may be that looks at these types of things, are they considering, for instance, as leases come up. You know, my office is on the south shore, it's not -- I won't say it's vulnerable, but, you know, there are some offices that say they're closer to the shore that may be impacted should a similar type storm happen. Are we looking, is

there any evaluation of any types of facilities as leases come up? Well, maybe we shouldn't renew a lease in this area, maybe we should move further north so that we're not vulnerable to a future storm; are we taking those types of things into consideration?

**MR. TOULON:**

That's an excellent point and that's something I will have to look at. And if it is being done, I do not know.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Right. Because I -- you know, I literally live (*sic*) two blocks from my house, I didn't have electric in my house, so I slept in my office and we were receiving calls eleven o'clock at night from people and we opened our office up to people. So my office, you know, we're not on the shore but we're south of Montauk -- south of Sunrise, excuse me. But I imagine others, I know Legislator Calarco is further south and I'm sure there are other facilities that may be more vulnerable, so maybe we should consider that.

And I know you had talked a little bit about the odd/even days with Dr. Spencer about the gas, but have we addressed that issue fully with the distribution points? Because that was one of the issues, the gas wasn't flowing in and that's what kind of -- have we addressed that sufficiently to ensure that that won't happen? I mean, it was beyond just gas retailers not having generators.

**MR. TOULON:**

Right.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

That was an issue, but there was also an issue of supply.

**MR. TOULON:**

Right. And if I'm correct, the channel that was closed with gas was not being delivered into -- gasoline was not being delivered into, you know, our region, which was something that we could not control. We just could only control what the current supply was and trying to meet the existing demand that was occurring at the various gas stations. So really just trying to control and being able to distribute it, an equal amount of gasoline to residents, whether it's a certain amount of gasoline or a certain dollar amount that we could implement as far as the distribution of gasoline at those gas stations.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Was the channel closed because of safety reasons or was it just --

**MR. TOULON:**

That was the Governor's Office that -- that's who controlled it. And it was because of safety reasons at the time.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay.

**MR. TOULON:**

Because once it was opened up and gasoline was distributed into our area, you know, slowly but surely more and more residents were receiving gas and the lines, the demand had eased up.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay. Now, during this process, there were at least one or two meetings, public meetings and there were a lot of interests, obviously, from the public. And there were suggestions, a lot of suggestions, and one of the suggestions was the committee that FRES -- I don't know, does that committee still

exist now that FRES runs? I know you said that you've established a committee, but I think historically FRES, or maybe not necessarily FRES but Joe Williams coordinated a -- I don't know the name of the committee, but it was -- the purpose was to address these types of issues, was to add representation from the Gas Retailers Association, or those industries or organizations that we felt that may have not been a part of the process that may be beneficial in the future to do so.

**MR. TOULON:**

No, my responsibilities do not -- are a little different than Commissioner Williams. Commissioner Williams still has those responsibilities. My responsibilities are just to make sure that everything is coordinated in an effective manner.

Now, when I spoke about communications, communications not only to the media and to the public but also to elected officials so that you can get that information out into the -- to your constituents; overseeing and cutting through that red tape process, if it needs to be; and also, you know, really just trying to minimize any extra work that's going to occur. You know, I really want to try and make it as streamlined and as efficient as trying to move the process along so that things get done in a lot quicker fashion.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay. All right. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Legislator Muratore?

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Dr. Toulon. How are you?

**MR. TOULON:**

Good morning, sir.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Again, mine is more of a statement. And reluctantly I want to admit this, that I've probably lived in Suffolk County longer than anybody else in this room. And, you know, I've seen everything in my youth and in my older years, everything from rain to snow and, you know, I've got to commend our County workers, all our employees that, you know, work for the Legislators, all our uniformed services, our Police, our volunteer firemen for everything they did. And, you know, you cannot plan for Mother Nature's wrath. You know, can move north, south, east or west, you know, and one time we can be right and one time we can be wrong. You know, Mother Nature always wants what's hers. You know, we see that on the beaches, you know, she takes and she gives back. You know, we spend all this money putting sand back and she takes it away and she moves it someplace else where we want anyway.

So, you know, I really just -- I don't know how we really get prepared for what's going on, other than education and you're doing that. You know, I do that in my district office. I sent out, it's on my website too, emergency preparedness. I mean, being prepared for the storm. You know, we saw what happened with the snowstorm, people trying to go places and creating havoc, and then everybody gets slammed because the cars get stuck and we're not prepared for it.

So, you know, I want to commend everyone here, from our Legislators to, you know, our civilian employees who do so much and will probably continue to do so much. I don't know if you can -- if you have the magic to predict where it's going to be and what's it's going to do, and hopefully you do, but God bless you for all you've done and, you know, hopefully we'll be prepared for the next one. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

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Thank you. I think ditto from all of us, because you can't prepare for Mother Nature no matter what you do. You can try to prepare and do the best you can, and I think -- I do think that, you know, it definitely was a very good effort on everyone's part.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Oh, yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And like you say, every storm is different. John?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning. How are you, Dr. Toulon?

**MR. TOULON:**

Good morning, sir.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Good to see you. A couple of points. And things, I guess, that I would ask whether or not you've done. And knowing your background and knowing planning, I'm sure you probably have many steps that are in place that you may not have even related to us. So let's talk about a couple of particulars.

Up here on the north shore, as you know, we were inundated, I guess, with the tree damage and the power lines down, similar to what happened on the south shore. Coincidentally, I wound up in the same situation as Legislator Gregory, both of us were in our office for about eight or ten days, and we had the same exact circumstances with the phones ringing constantly, you know, day and night, they would start at 6:30 in the morning and they would run until midnight.

We -- like you did, I'm sure -- opened up our individual offices for charging. That became very important, and I know that the County Executive did make the Dennison Building open for charging stations. Many, many people were only communicating by cell. But it seemed to me that each one of us, yet again, was trying to get the information out in an individual fashion, and if something as simple as that was preplanned with designation out there about charging stations, warming stations and some of the other simple necessities that folks could have.

And also extremely important, and I only became aware of this because I had a constituent who was in her late 60's on chemo and who would not leave her house because of the concerns with her pets. Yes, he -- the Prevention Society set up a pet-friendly shelter, but it was out in Longwood, and elderly here, for whatever reason, didn't want to travel that far out. I guess it's something that unless you have a pet, you don't necessarily think about, but it's important, I guess, to have that in place. So I'd ask, if you could, to make sure that in your action plan, those are elements that you consider.

The other points that I'd speak about, and you specifically were instrumental with this, both after the hurricane and after the snowstorm. The villages, based on the fact that we have these different entities that operate governmentally, when it comes to time to access resources needed, to open up roadways and to do basic things becomes somewhat, in my opinion, I don't want to call it chaotic, but it's somewhat disjoint. You specifically helped out with Lake Grove in both events, and many, many people were in there stranded and housebound for multiple days and simple access and opening resources were beyond what the village has.

So, again, in the action plan, like it or not, you know, we're here at the County level, but in many

ways were involved with the town municipal work entities who in some cases do or don't have relationships with the villages. But ultimately somebody stranded, you know, on Elliot Street doesn't want to hear about that. They want to know what are you going to do to get the road open so the ambulance can get to my, you know, wife or husband who's got, you know, a heart situation or something along those lines.

So that would be my other ask to you or request to you, that in the action plan there's something that speaks specifically to the key context. I know through FRES and through the OEM some of that was going on, but it seemed to get a little bit softer or more squirrely when it got down to the particular villages. So I just ask that that is something that's very clearly delineated regarding all those basic types of municipal functions, whether it's tree clearing for downed lines or road plowing or removal of, you know, standing water, whatever the heck it is that's impeding just simple access on the roadways there.

And then lastly, the other piece, I guess, that I'd just mention to you was amongst all the wild rumors that flew around specifically regarding gas -- and I'm sure you heard this, we all talked about it -- was whether or not Holtsville, the depot out there, had the ethenol, had the blend. Raw gas was coming in and the -- there was -- and I was never able to confirm this or not, that there was an inability to fill tankers because of the lack of ethenol there to blend, as is whatever the Federal or State requirements are for gas to be, you know, dumped into the tanks at the pumps.

That's it, that's my, you know, back-of-the-napkin assessment with it. All things being equal, you did a great job. Everybody here in the audience, as a matter of fact, from the PD, I see the Fire Academy and the Fire Marshall back there, Ed Springer and everybody, and the Sheriff's Office as well, all jumped in and did phenomenal jobs. But you being the planner that you are, I'd ask that those elements be in the plan that we implement at the County level. All right?

**MR. TOULON:**

Thank you.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you, John. Short and sweet as you always are.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

Kara?

**LEG. HAHN:**

A couple of things that I've probably said before, but I think are worth repeating. But I also want to give a shout-out to all the volunteer firefighters in the room, because I know how hard they work during these kinds of disasters.

During Hurricane Gloria, I was 13 or 14 and I hopped on the back of a pick-up truck with my Dad with a -- you know, with a chain saw, cutting down trees that were in the road. Because in Stony Brook, during that event, every single roadway was covered with trees and the fire department really cleared the way. And I know that that happened this time around, they were doing the same thing.

I also was told, my Dad said that now that people have these really powerful generators, that

sometimes the electricity generated in the home can shoot back out to the lines on the street. And so people need to know, even though you think there's no -- you know, when they say don't touch a downed wire because you never know, you really never know. Even if the whole street is out of electricity, it could be electric that's kind of just shot back to the lines on the street from a home that's running a generator, and that's really important for people to know.

I agree with John about the charging stations. We had a handful of people that came into our office once we finally got power, but I think that if there was a real organized understanding ahead of time that, you know, it's the library, it's the, you know, gymnasium in the school, wherever you want to come to get warm and/or our district offices and every single County office, that if we have power you can come. You know, I think that that would be helpful ahead of time for people to know and it be codified or whatever the word is that there's that understanding ahead of time.

I also want to just reiterate the fact that -- and remind everyone just how reliant we are on technology, but that don't forget about paper. And so we should think of a way to distribute, whether it's once our office is up and running. I don't know if we -- I can't even remember if our e-mail went down. But if you faxed us something that we needed to, you know, hang a clipboard outside of our office door and people could just pull the flier with the latest information. You know, thinking of ways to distribute -- you know, even if that gets to the fire departments that are going around and/or the LIPA trucks that are circulating, if they just have a paper flier that they could hand out to residents. Never underestimate the power of the paper when everything else is failing. So, you know, I think that's just something we have to consider, every single possible way to get the information out if everything is down, you know, how are we, you know, communicating and how available is that to everyone? So, that's what I wanted to say.

**MR. TOULON:**

If I may, Legislator Hahn. One of the things that we're looking at doing, you know, we're going to be scheduling conference calls with all elected officials. And during those conference calls, if you have power in your district while, you know, Legislator Gregory or Calarco may not, we can then inform residents that there are certain amenities, meaning a charging station or warming station if your office so chooses to do so, we can let them know. So once in our communications with our elected officials, from Legislators, villages and the towns, what exactly are they doing and what services are available, because they may have power or power has been restored, we can then get that information out to the public as to who they can see and who they can speak to regarding services that they may require.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

DuWayne, you have another question?

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Yes, thank you. I'm still trying to imagine Legislator Hahn with a chain saw in the back of a truck.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**LEG. HAHN:**

At 14.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

At 14. Yeah, one last question I forgot to ask about. There was an issue with prisoners; have we addressed that, getting variances and I think it was a ten or something like that? Did we address that issue, or is that not a concern now?

**MR. TOULON:**

That is an issue, because the Sheriff's an independent elected official -- I can speak to him about it, but that would be something I would feel more comfortable him discussing.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay. Have there been discussions about it? That's really what I'm asking.

**MR. TOULON:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Mike is here. And I don't want to put you on the spot, Mike, but if you do have anything, you could add to that.

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

I'm not really sure what you're referring to, unless you're referring to the sprung housing unit in Yaphank.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Maybe that's it -- there was some issue, as I recall, with concern about excess prisoners, and I guess we wanted to put up a tent or something, right? I don't know, maybe my memory is failing.

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

The only thing I can think of is that you might be referring to is during -- well, prior to the storm we were supposed to empty the sprung unit, which is, if you've been out to Yaphank, you might refer to it as a tent.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Right.

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

It's the big, white --

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Uh-huh.

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

-- stressed membrane housing area.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Right.

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

And that was, in fact, emptied prior to the storm. And post-storm, there were discussions with the Commissioner as to how they wanted to handle it in the future; that's been addressed.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay, so that's been addressed.

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

Yes.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay, great. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

One more question, Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Let me throw one in, too, because I see our 911 operators. Going back to when you talk about essential personnel. I know that the last time when the 911 operators, when there was a gas shortage, there seemed to be a miscommunication as to whether they could go to the County pumps so they could get to work. And I'm assuming that you've taken that into consideration, that all of our 911 operators should have access to the County pumps during the time period that, you know, God forbid the pumps are shut down, that they can get to work.

**MR. TOULON:**

I would agree. But when we asked the department heads to submit the names of their essential personnel, we didn't ask them for their titles, we just asked each department head to identify their personnel. So if Commissioner Williams included those names, which I'm sure he did, there would be no issue.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Well, those names change, too, with retirements and whatever else and sick. So I would hope that, you know, as time would get closer, that would have to be an updated list. And, you know, I see -- I have to say, I really like the report. It's very easy to look at and to read. And, you know, again, when you talk about emergency, essential personal, I think about our 911 operators, Probation, because we have a law in place regarding sex offenders, you know, for emergency evacuation shelters. We need our Probation Officers to be proactive and being out there to make sure that our shelters are safe. So I do see, you know, the way this report is written up, like I said, it's pretty easy to read, and to see that it doesn't look like you've really left a whole lot out. And, you know, like Tom said, you can never be a hundred percent ready, but I think next time around I think we'll see an even better response on the part of the County. So thank you for all your work on this. John, you have a question?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Just one other item, as a matter of fact. I'm -- among the many, many, many things that we wound up having to deal with, Errol, as you'll recall, John J. Foley wound up housing somewhere in the neighborhood of about 250 displaced facility residents. Babylon Beacon House was completely comprised and, I guess, overrun. The facility over on Clay Pitts Road in East Northport, I can't remember the name of it right now, but the whole facility was completely comprised and nursing home patients wound up in Foley.

So the question is simple; now the County Executive closed Foley, what happens in the next event when facilities wind up going down and becoming comprised? It is inevitable that it's either going to be power failure or, you know, water compromise. As a matter of fact, at one of the facilities I recall we had power outages during the summertime, and it was specifically because of loss of air-conditioning that we actually had to evacuate residents over to John J. What do we do?

**MR. TOULON:**

Well, it's going to be incumbent upon me to pre-determine what existing facilities and beds are available prior to a storm to see where we can move those patients.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay, that would be good. So I guess what I would ask you, then, is is to give it some thought and once you have thought about it, maybe you can share those thoughts with me. Because when a storm comes, as of right now, there's no other public nursing home in Suffolk County. Like I said,

the County Executive closed it, so there's no place for displaced proprietaries to wind up going at this point. So I'm sure that, you know, you'll come up with a solution and I would be very happy to hear that. Thank you.

**MR. TOULON:**

Thank you, sir.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Is that it? No more questions. Okay, Errol. Thank you very much --

**MR. TOULON:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

-- for your presentation. And I agree with Legislator Kennedy --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Kate, one more thing. Did anybody -- one more thing?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Say again?

**LEG. HAHN:**

One more thing?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Sure. But I'll add, I do agree with Legislator Kennedy and thank him for bringing it up, because I visited the nursing home after the storm and met many of the evacuees. They had, you know, their dining area, they had cots all over the place. I'm just curious, if we have 200 evacuees, between nursing homes and people who are in their homes who need medical need, I'm just curious -- I mean, we're going to have to have agreements with nursing homes throughout Suffolk County, and hospitals. And I think we even had some hospitals that had to send people out. So, it will be interesting to see what happens with people with special needs. So, Kara, you want to ask --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Sorry. Yeah, I forgot, when I asked questions before, to mention 911 operators, but Legislator Kennedy is telling me that questions had been asked. I just want to reiterate how much of a priority, you know, that I see that we are ready and prepared before the storm for them as well and what they need to, you know, be there for the County. So thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And that phone number? Because I know we had the issue with people calling the 911 operators at the 852-COPS. Didn't you say -- Tom, weren't you saying that there was going to be a new number set up for information?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yes, we have been working with IT on that. I don't think that we have one set up yet, but we are working through that issue to try and alleviate that. And I think that the other thing that we talked about, too, was as -- I seem to remember Joe Williams speaking about it as well. The -- I can't remember the exact name of the team that was brought in, but there was a -- there was a team of individuals who were used to alleviate some pressure on the FRES operators, they weren't answering the 911 calls, but they were answering -- they were answering other --

**MR. TOULON:**

CERT calls.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

-- calls. Thank you, Errol, the CERT calls, and I do believe that we're putting that in place as well, or looking to put that in place as well.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So the CERT volunteers would be answering. Because I know when --

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Right, to not have --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

-- the County Executive was doing press conferences and saying, "*For information call,*" then the 911 operators are having to answer the call but saying, "*We don't know anything about that.*"

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Right, so the idea would be to not have -- to be not having those calls go to the 911 center, correct.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Good.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

And using, you know, those types of volunteers or resources to take the pressure off the 911 operators.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay, great. Thank you. And that's it? Okay, just an hour later.

Errol, thank you very much for all your work on this, and I'm sure we'll continue to work with you. And like I said, you know, I know my office had no phones, you know, computer, but I do think that that's something we should look at, is if our offices are available with electricity or whatever, that, you know, we could even be considered some kind of a shelter system type thing in our offices; I don't see why we couldn't be doing that.

**MR. TOULON:**

Thank you.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Madam Chair, can I -- Dr. Toulon has been here and he's very informative, but he sent us an e-mail just recently about the issues associated with Dr. Milewski and her departure.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I was going -- were you here when he talked about the CN?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I read the e-mail. I was -- no, I did not -- I don't think I heard that there was a mention of --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I actually was going to ask a question on that, but if you want to go ahead and ask about it now.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Again, just, you know, a quick statement. Dr. Milewski was an outstanding ME. I personally am very sorry to see her -- to see her leave. That is one of the most diverse offices, I guess, that we have as a County entity. And again, you know better than anybody the critical role they play, particularly in our criminal justice system.

So the e-mail indicated that, I guess, interviews are already commencing? I don't want to know the specifics but, I mean, how are you communicating it, how are you soliciting it, and what are we going to look at as far as the CN with the salary range? How do you like that one, Tom? Either one of you.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

So we are bringing forward a Certificate of Necessity on Tuesday.

It's my understanding that the piece of legislation that we're bringing forward will not include an actual salary, but what it will grant -- what it will do is change the law. Because currently there's a law in place that says that we can't hire a Commissioner at greater than the salary of the County Executive, and one of the things that Dr. Toulon has run into as he has begun this process is the fact that our Medical Examiner is -- makes far less than other Medical Examiners in other municipalities. So in order to try and address that concern, we're going to have to adopt a Local Law to change -- to change that structure. And that's what the Certificate of Necessity will do, it will allow us to be able to negotiate more and with more marketable rates for that position.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, you know, listen, I'm more than happy to get a look at what the content of the legislation is regarding, you know, recruiting particular individuals and a cap with the County Executive's salary. Quite frankly, it's ludicrous to think that we would have a department Director who's a physician and we would actually be paying them less than 200 grand a year. Quite frankly, that's almost obscene. With the level of responsibility and the level of commitment that they have to put out, and quite frankly representative of what the investment is. My son is a physician. You know, we've dealt with it day in and day out and -- but nevertheless, I know we also went through quite a bit in order to create the new department for Dr. Milewski, to be cognizant of her being able to deploy her assets. My concerns are, you know, did anybody get -- I mean, did she just like adios out the door or did she say, *I'm getting paid better, you know, at a new location, or thank you for the opportunity to work for Suffolk, have a nice life, I'll see ya.* Anything?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I understand those concerns, but I'm not positive that it would be fair for me to speak to Dr. Milewski's intent for why she chose to take another position. I'm just not comfortable talking about that at this point.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, okay, that's fine.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

And I sincerely understand the genesis of the question, but I'm just not positive that --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

All right. You know what, listen, we don't necessarily need to divulge particular personnel items. But so then let's go back to the CN.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Sure.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

You know, not seeing it in hand, is it specifically just to waive this position from the cap that's in place, or does it abolish the cap?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No, the draft version that I have seen of it, and I think that we will be able to submit it probably sometime either later today or early tomorrow. The draft version that I have seen of it I believe just speaks specifically either to just this position or this position and the Health Commissioner position as well. But it does not abolish the cap entirely, it is specific.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. All right. Well --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

What I was going to add to that was, you know, out of curiosity, obviously the salary could possibly have paid a role -- played a role on being able to retain somebody in this position. So curiosity, had there been some negotiations with our Medical Examiner to say, you know, we'd like to reconsider, work with the Legislature to change the salary to get her to stay, or was it kind of a little too late?

**MR. TOULON:**

In my opinion, after talking with Dr. Milewski, it was a little too late. I think there were some mitigating and personal issues that she decided to move to a different -- you know, different position.

We received 30 days notice, which has given us a little bit of a difficult -- this is a difficult time to try and recruit someone with those qualifications and certification to move right into a position. So we've advertised through Civil Service and NAME, which I believe is National Association of Medical Examiners. There's another pathology website that we've advertised in, and we've had five, so far five applicants or five candidates apply for the position and we currently have interviewed.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And again, like you said, a little too late. She gave 30-days notice, so we knew 30-days ago that she was leaving.

**MR. TOULON:**

Uh-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And I'm sure salary played a role in it, which I think if we knew here that that was possibly a reason why we were going to lose her, that if we all knew a little bit sooner, but we all just found out this week that she's leaving -- that she left; is she gone already?

**MR. TOULON:**

Oh, yeah, she's gone.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**MR. FREAS:**

She left Friday.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Again, not to say it, it's like everything at the last minute, you know, that we're finding out. And when she said 30-days ago, "*I'm leaving*," I think the conversation should have started back then; Well, what's the reason, and if salary was one of the reasons, say, *Okay, let's talk to the Legislature*

*and let's try and do this.* Because I think we've had a meeting over the past 30-days where we could have had that CN at the last General Meeting.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

And I certainly understand those concerns, Legislator Browning. But my understanding of the situation is that the reason for the Certificate of Necessity at this point in time is to be able to have us be able to recruit a candidate. Now, I don't -- you know, I will leave it to Dr. Toulon, and I really don't want to get into the specifics of why, you know, she chose -- she felt the need to move on.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

But I think that this is a -- this is something that is being generated more from the attempt to recruit somebody here and to fill that job now.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, what I'm saying is she may not have left if we had had that conversation 30-days ago and there would have been a commitment from the Legislature to say, *Okay, we recognize the problem*, and maybe 30-days, over the past 30 days at a General Meeting we could have had that CN and not have a -- and have a Medical Examiner. Because the other part of it is, she has no Deputy, so that's a problem. And curiosity, I mean, Craig, do you know what the going salary is for a Medical Examiner?

**MR. FREAS:**

We actually discussed this last year in our review of the 2013 budget, and unless it's overcome by events, for example a CN, it's going to be discussed again in the 2014 Operating Budget Review.

The national average salary, the range for Medical -- for Chief Medical Examiners I'm going to say is in the 200 to \$250,000 a year range. We are constrained by 205-5 for our exempt positions. And you know, we're all public employees here, our salaries are a matter of public record, I believe Dr. Milewski was getting about 165, 170. At one time we were able to supplement that with a stipend for her position as a Professor, some sort of professorship of pathology at Stony Brook; that, I believe, has gone away over the last couple of years.

I would imagine -- no, I'm not even going to speculate. I don't know, I would think that salary plays a factor, especially given the responsibility of the position, in anyone either deciding to take it or deciding to keep it for a certain amount of time. That's why we've emphasized it in the -- why we mentioned it in the review last year and in the review again this year.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Well, I'll just say I wish we knew.

**MR. TOULON:**

I can say that Dr. Milewski's salary was one thousand -- \$172,295 and she was receiving a \$40,000 stipend from Stony Brook University when she departed. One of the reasons why we ensure that there's a representative from Stony Brook University on our search committee is because we wanted to make sure that the candidate meets the academic requirements that can be a faculty member with Stony Brook University. So I can assure you that one of the key reasons she expressed to me was a personal reason and not a salary. While salary is always an issue with everybody, in today's current times there was a personal issue that was discussed with me.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And of course not being said, when you talked about a national average, I mean, the cost of living here, what's the differential for Long Island versus the national average? There's something significant there.

**MR. FREAS:**

Here's the thing. Forensic Pathologists with experience and qualifications to become Chief Medical Examiners of large municipalities -- we are one -- we're, what, No. 23 or some -- number 20 something biggest municipality in the country with regard to population -- are relatively difficult to find. There is a -- there is obviously a cost differential. However, the local cost, with the exception of New York City which I'm not quite sure how much they make -- oh, you've got them all.

**MR. TOULON:**

I have them.

**MR. FREAS:**

You're all right.

**MR. TOULON:**

Yeah, in New York City, which has a population of over eight million people, the Chief Medical Examiner makes \$356,000. Of course, in comparison with Travis County in Texas, the Chief Medical Examiner, with a population of over a million, a million ninety-six approximately, is 298,000. Just looking at El Paso County in Texas, the Chief Medical Examiner makes 270,000 for a population of approximately 670,000 people. So when we've looked at the cost comparison, obviously there is some disparity.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Absolutely. Okay. Well, thank you. Any more questions?

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Oh, sorry, DuWayne.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Thank you. Just quickly, I know you mentioned that there's going to be a CN coming, but it also includes the Health Commissioner? Now, my recollection is we addressed that issue several years ago. Is there any reason why we're addressing it again?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

As I said, Legislator, it is a draft and I wasn't sure if it included both the Medical Examiner and the Health Commissioner. I know that it specifically -- it's a specific resolution, so it either addresses simply the Medical Examiners or both of those positions. If there is a reason for it -- if we do feel -- if it does include the Health Commissioner, I will certainly have a reason for why we felt the need to go back to it again.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay. And will the resolution -- I guess there's a cap. It's not -- disallowing the regulation, but there's going to be a cap to it?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

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I believe it's an exception for the Medical Examiner to that cap; that's what I believe --

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Exception with a new cap or just an exception? I mean, because, you know, whatever it is now, 180,000, whatever the County Executive can make, 200 -- I think by law 205,000.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Right, Dr. Toulon is telling me the legislation will include a range in it from 200 to 250.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

There we go. All right, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I think I'd like to get to the public portion. Don't go anywhere, Tom, you just stick around. But thank you, Dr. Toulon.

Okay. The first speaker is Christine Larkin.

**MS. LARKIN:**

Good morning. I'm Christine Larkin, I'm the Vice-President of the Suffolk County Probation Officers Association. On July 25th, I spoke of how our number of Probation Officers have decreased by 14% since 2009, and how we now have only 247 Probation Officers. Well, since that meeting we've lost one more field PO and we're down to 246.

It was our hope as a union, after conversations with our Director, that we would be looking at two classes of 14 Probation Officers; one class possibly by the end of 2013 and one in 2014 or, at worst, both in 2014. In looking at the budget, we do not see the funds to be able to hire those two classes in 2014. This concerns us and should concern you for your community's safety, because those two classes would only begin to fill the gap of the uncovered caseloads or the caseloads that were collapsed and the cases given to other Probation Officers who already had high numbers of probationers to make their numbers to supervise in the community unmanageable. With the numbers over a hundred, the community safety is at risk when we work to supervise that many people on a caseload.

In the budget, we do see a half of a million dollars to hire retired Probation Officers. As a union, we are opposed to this idea. These people will not be able to help us fill the gap in caseloads, they won't be peace officers, they do not have arresting powers, and they will not be able to carry a firearm; therefore, they will not be able to have a field job, which is what helps us monitor the public safety in the community. This is not a solution to the problem of needing to fill caseloads. The only solution to be able to continue to maintain community safety is to hire more Probation Officers to be able to monitor the probationers in your community. Those people who have drug charges, weapons crime and sex offenses need your help in order to be maintained properly by helping us expand our numbers to help your community be safe. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you. Anybody have any questions? I have to say, recently at the CJCC meeting, Judge Horowitz was there and, you know, he oversees the Drug Court and now there's going to be a Sex Trafficking Court. So obviously it's going to require more work on the part of Legal Aid, it's going to require more work on the part of our Probation Officers, so that's going to increase your caseload. I'm going to be curious and interested to see how that's going to affect you guys. And, you know, I say it every time we're here, Probation Officers cost less than a jail cell. And here we are being told we have to build Phase II; and it's like, really, do the numbers. Probation Officers cost less money. I don't think there's anybody here that disagrees. John?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Not at all. As a matter of fact, Madam Chair, Probation has really been the driver when we've talked about alternatives. But through the Chair, I've got a question to the speaker, and thank you. Good to see you again. But very recently, I learned something that I personally am very concerned about, the Day Reporting Center, I believe. The Day Reporting Center -- which is literally probably no more than 1,500 feet away from us here on the north campus and has been a program that's been in place for the better part of, what, 20, 25 years, I guess -- is closing or has closed?

**MS. LARKIN:**

It is closing, yes. I think the date is by the end of October.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And what is -- why?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Patrice Dlhopsky is here, if you want her to respond to that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, sure, yeah, I'd like to hear from anybody. Because my understanding is that it's provided a critical kind of tool in the continuum associated with addressing compliance with probationers. So, sure. Good morning.

**MS. DLHOPOLSKY:**

The decision, which was a very difficult one, was made to close the Day Reporting Center because of the limited number of people we were serving there. The population was down to approximately 45 people who were reporting there routinely. Given the current situation and given the physical location here in Hauppauge, which didn't allow us to serve anyone basically further than sort of the midway point in Brookhaven because of transportation concerns, we decided that the resources would be better applied in something that could reach more people. At the same time, a new Probation supervision rule was put into effect by the State Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives which is the authority to which we report. What we determined was that we would be better served to create high-risk caseloads supervising people in the community, so these are high-risk caseloads with fewer probationers being supervised on those caseloads. That allowed us to redeploy the staff that will be in the Day Reporting Center. At this point, it was simply a question of intelligent use of limited resources.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, again, I -- you are the Director of the unit and that's -- we've tasked you with that function, and so obviously you make the decisions you can as to how to meet the mission with the resources you have. That goes to the speaker talking about, I guess, in my opinion, the fact that we have what is a severe lack of Probation Officers.

But more importantly, and I would gently disagree with you as far as accessibility, having an office right here, seeing the buses that are here day in and day out, and knowing the S-62 because I've ridden it, which comes all the way from Riverhead right here to Hauppauge, I'd have to say to you, a probationer residing almost anywhere in Suffolk County would have the ability to get here even if they didn't have a driver's license or a car.

I'm also told that not only were folks there interacting with our Probation Officers, but there was also ancillary staff that interacted there, too, through the Health Department, I believe, through Mental Health.

**MS. DLHOPOLSKY:**

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Health Department staff was removed completely last June. We no longer had any Health Department staff and that was part of the reasoning why we made the determination to close the Day Reporting Center. That staff was removed at the time that -- when the layoffs took effect, at the end of last June the Health Department made the decision to remove their staff from the Day Reporting Center.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. So this is more of a conversation that I need to have, then. Because this is something that's not just a lack of POs that you have, but apparently a lack of a commitment on our part to support the model for individuals who are non-compliant, out in the community and needed to come to a facility to interact with the CASACs and the Health Department folks and all the -- and the Labor Department folks. To me, you know, maybe I'm old school, but when you have somebody who's not cutting it out in the community, you make them show up and go ahead and spend the time until they get it right. I understand your decision, I don't agree with it, and I certainly am not familiar with what the State additional requirement is regarding these high-risk caseloads, but I guess that means we have to look at the budget and try and get some POs for you. Okay. All right, I'll yield. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Rob, did you --

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Nope, we got it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Because he got it. Yeah, I mean, I don't know that I'm necessarily opposed to closing Day Reporting with the insurance that the people who were going to Day Reporting are continuing to get the services, which means intensive supervision.

**MS. DLHOPOLSKY:**

We also increased the number of the intensive narcotics caseload, because many of the people who were in the Day Reporting Center, that was the basis of their problem and so we increased that number. And we're -- in keeping them in that, we're able to supervise a greater number of people, so it just seemed to be a better use of resources.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So I guess we'll continue the following conversation. Christine, thank you as always.

**MS. LARKIN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you, Patrice.

Okay and our last card is Arthur Bloom. Arthur, if you want to -- if you want to grab a seat, you could.

**MR. BLOOM:**

Thank you, ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

There's a mic that you don't have to hold the button on, which will make it easier for you.

**MR. BLOOM:**

How's that?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

That's great.

**MR. BLOOM:**

Good morning. Madam Chair and the committee, thank you for letting me speak this morning on short notice. I'm Arthur Bloom, I'm from Shelter Island. I am one of your FRES representatives, I represent the 10th Division which is the Town of Shelter Island and the Incorporated Village of Dering Harbor. I have been in the volunteer emergency services for 43 years, I've been with the Shelter Island Fire Department, which is Shelter Island being my hometown, when I came back there I became a volunteer firefighter and I've been doing that for 23 years.

In my role as a FRES Commission member for the last few years, it's become apparent to me that, as we all know, there's budgetary problems. State aid is being cut, County budgets are being cut to try to handle the financial situation that we all find ourselves in. And I engaged in a conversation with the then Director, Chief Dick Stockinger of the Fire Academy who appears at FRES meetings, and his main agenda was trying to find money to continue the training for firefighters. And now the current Director, Chief Holly and I have had conversations subsequent to that, and the idea came up that we could form a non-profit foundation that would take contributions of funds and in-kind services from corporations and citizens and direct those contributions to the efforts of the Fire Academy.

I spoke to a few people who had tried to do it in the past, they all said it was an almost insurmountable problem. I am a person to whom insurmountable is not a word, so I -- it took a year for the Internal Revenue Service to approve my plan and I'm here today with good news and to announce that I'm now authorized by the Internal Revenue Service to give tax exemptions to donors and to contribute those donations to the Fire Academy to try to close the budget gap that that organization has.

There are three very important things that firefighters have to do in their -- volunteer firefighters have to do in their careers; the first is training, the second is training and the third one is training. So without training, firefighters get hurt; without training, the general public, who are your constituents, get hurt, we don't want anyone to get hurt.

*(\*Deputy Presiding Officer Horsley entered the meeting at 11:02 A.M. \*)*

There has been a reduction in training modules over the last few years and I intend to close that gap and get those training modules reinstated. There are things that need to be built. I intend to get donations of in-kind services such as lumber, gasoline, propane, tires, anything you can think of that's a physical commodity that the Fire Academy needs, I plan to get corporations to donate that. The deal for them is, of course, they get a tax deduction, and most accountants who work for bosses say do anything you can to get a tax deduction if you want to do something nice for someone.

We are going to start off small. We're basing our model on the FDNY foundation which takes in about two and a half million dollars a year to pretty much do an analogous thing with the fire department in New York City. I've been in touch with them, they've been very supportive, I've been working very closely, my Board of Directors and I have been working very closely with Chief Holly and we're all very enthusiastic about it and I'm happy to bring you the good news today.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, thank you. And actually, I am somewhat, not so much, familiar with the FDNY foundation, but I know that the New York City Police Department have a foundation also.

**MR. BLOOM:**

Yes, ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And they do a lot of fundraising to help with the New York City Police Department. So one of my questions is what is your goal for the Fire Academy as far as your fund-raising?

**MR. BLOOM:**

Well, Madam Chair, we're going to identify first what the budgetary shortfall is, which is in the range, I think, of several hundred thousand dollars, and we're going to try to chip away at that. At the same time, we're going to try to provide material and other things that can be donated that are not monetary to relieve the pressure on the budget, so to speak. But I would like to state that there's an expression, being punished for one's own success, and I don't want Chief Holly to suffer from my success. I don't want anyone to say, *Well, the foundation just got you this box of stuff that you have on your budget, so we're going to eliminate that line on your budget.* I hope that we can work together and be partners in this effort and not allow Chief Holly to suffer.

*(\*Legislator Krupski entered the meeting at 11:05 A.M. \*)*

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You did mention about the FDNY foundation and how much they have raised, so I'm assuming they're very successful. You know, what -- what does their funds -- what do they contribute their funds to?

**MR. BLOOM:**

Ma'am, they -- just as a note, a background, we have 11,000 firefighters in Suffolk County. The City of New York has 11,000 firefighters, so we have the same number of firefighters, of course spread out over a much larger area, for a million residents.

Specifically, what the FDNY foundation does is it holds fund-raisers. The last fund-raiser they held was at the Waldorf where they raised \$1.7 million in one evening. We have set our sights a lot lower than that, of course, but we -- what they do is they do training of the general public in terms of fire prevention, they distribute smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to people who can't afford them. They have a youth program where they educate youth in fire prevention and fire safety, and they also contribute a great deal to their -- the City of New York's Fire Academy for equipment and safety -- safety equipment and training equipment that -- and it relieves the pressure on the taxpayers of the City of New York. So we plan to do -- you know, in microcosm we plan to do the same thing.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. What can we do at the Legislature to help you with this?

**MR. BLOOM:**

Well, the biggest help I got so far was the Internal Revenue Service, after 14 months, decided that they would give me my little piece of paper that says I can do this. I appear today asking you all for nothing. I'm here to offer things to you, but I would like some kind of a -- if a proclamation is too formal, at least some vote of confidence from your committee, ma'am, and from the Legislature in general so that my organization will have credibility, basically.

When I go out and talk to Motorola and say, *"I need \$50,000,"* and they say, *"Who are you?"* I can refer them to you folks and they will know that I have the credibility and that I am trying to be a partner with the Suffolk County government.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, I can say -- I mean, I did go to one of the events that the NYPD foundation had, I was very impressed, and I guess it was similar to the FDNY, who was there and the funds that they raised was phenomenal. So, you know, if this is going to help us to help the academy, I don't see why this would be a bad idea. You know, when it comes to equipment and the needs of our volunteers, we have to make sure they get everything they need. John, you have a question?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yeah. Thank you for being here, Mr. Bloom, first of all. And thank you for your commitment to the formation of a 501(c)3.

**MR. BLOOM:**

You're welcome, sir.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

It's not an easy process, as a matter of fact, I've gone through it and done it for the 911 Responders and a bunch of other folks. And, you know, now with everybody furloughed, I guess, it's a good thing you got in under the wire.

**MR. BLOOM:**

Yes, sir.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Who is on your board, just out of curiosity?

**MR. BLOOM:**

We have a gentleman by the name Jim {Stoutenrous} who is a -- he is my professional fund-raiser.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**MR. BLOOM:**

He has worked with non-profits. He worked for nine years with the 9/11 Survivors -- family and survivors; I'm not sure of the exact name of that foundation.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Good.

**MR. BLOOM:**

But he worked with them for nine years following September 11th.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**MR. BLOOM:**

The other board member is Chief John D'Amato, he is my current boss in the fire department on Shelter Island. He is a 40-year retired AT&T Director.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**MR. BLOOM:**

I am a 30-year retired AT&T one-feather Indian, but he and I get along very well.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Excellent. So you gentlemen are gentlemen of -- you know, have experience out there in the business world and --

**MR. BLOOM:**

We like to think so, yes, sir.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Excellent. Good, that's good to hear, so it will be a substantive board. And as the Madam Chair has said, we'd be happy to, you know, furnish a proclamation, a letter of congratulations, anything that helps you as you're out there shopping with corporations to go ahead and solicit donations.

**MR. BLOOM:**

Sir, that would be terrific if we could have -- the cliché is, of course, the photo op. The first time we bring in a nice, big, cardboard check, I certainly would like to have --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

We'll even travel out to Shelter Island, how do you like that? *(Laughter)*

**MR. BLOOM:**

As long as you have your shots, that would be fine, yes, sir.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

How about a deer poster? *(Laughter)*

**MR. BLOOM:**

So, is there anything else that I can answer or can I count on your support?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Oh, absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I see why not. I mean, like I said, I'm familiar with the NYPD. You know, I wasn't aware the FDNY had it, but it doesn't surprise me. Again, it's -- as you said, it's about what's important for our volunteers; training, training, training. And if this can help relieve some of our budget problems -- and I understand, it's not about taking away the funding and continuing to take away the funding, this would be in addition to and I think certainly can help us.

And I -- you know, I think about -- you said it's taken you over a year to go through this process and now you just got your 501(c)3 status and then all this other news comes up. So, but I see that there's a six month hiatus which I think will give you an opportunity to show, you know, what you can do. And I think the Executive, I would like to think that the Executive could support that also.

**MR. BLOOM:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Any other questions; no? Thank you, Arthur.

**MR. BLOOM:**

You're welcome, ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And not to forget our new Deputy Director for the Suffolk County Fire Academy, Ed Johnston is here. I think, Ed, this is your first -- this is your first meeting, right?

**MR. JOHNSTON:**

Yes, ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So I want to say -- and also a constituent of mine from the Mastic Beach Fire Department. So, welcome and we look forward to seeing you more often.

I don't know if there's any other things. There was a couple of things, and I know, Tom, I had said to you, I wanted to ask about a couple of things. Oh, also, Captain Harding (Hardy) will no longer be coming. Thank you, Captain Harding (Hardy), for coming to our meetings. And Captain Waring -- I can't see you from here, but I know you're here -- will now be the Police representative at our Public Safety meetings.

So I don't know if you guys have the questions. I know, Kara, you had asked about the cars. I did speak with DPW, he was not able to come today, but he is aware of your concerns and is working to get the information for you.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yeah, I haven't seen -- it's been over a month now, I haven't seen any response, any data on the car issue, so --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yeah. Well --

**LEG. HAHN:**

-- I just would like to reiterate my concerns there.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Not just that one. There's a couple of issues when you talk about no response.

Mr. Vaughn, I sent a letter, and actually the committee, the Public Safety Committee sent a letter with regards to the Police class. I know we received the information from our Budget Office, which is unusual to say that we should go ahead and move forward with a class right away. Usually we hear, "*Wait until December 26th*," or a cost savings. I sent a letter, I asked my Aide to send an e-mail to Mr. Schneider to find out if he got the letter, and I got basically a two-word response, "*Got it*"; I don't know what that means. I'd like to know that *got it* meant, yes, I got the letter, but the fact that we have not received a response with regards to the Police class and what the intention is of the Executive. I can tell you I was down in Mastic Beach talking to some people and a gentleman told me about his nephew, he's, you know, waiting to hear to get on the police class. I did also bump into another gentleman who said, you know, he's on the Deputy Sheriffs' list. You know, these people are kind of like hanging on to a piece of thread saying *I'm ready*, but when is it going to happen?

The fact that this committee has received no response I think is a total disrespect. That we haven't even got a yes, no or maybe so response. And I think it's -- it would be appropriate that we would get some kind of response. So do you know anything about a Police class?

**LEG. HAHN:**

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I did want to correct you just so ever slightly on the cars. I did get a response saying *we're working on it*, it wasn't like -- I just haven't gotten the data yet. I wanted to clarify that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

How about the class?

(\*Laughter\*)

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay, so let's get on the class. So are we going to get a response? And I'm not going to shoot you on this issue, it's, you know -- again, you know, why can't we get a response on this?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Legislator Browning, thank you very much for the question. So if we don't mind just one thing in an order. Yes, Legislator Hahn, we are working on the car issue. I do believe that Commissioner Anderson will be present during the Public Safety budget hearings, specifically the Public Safety, in addition to his Public Works Committee which he would be showing up to, but he will also be at the Public Safety one to address the issues regarding -- any issues regarding Police fleet. So that would be number one.

Number two, regarding the Police class. I do not have any information regarding the seating of a Police class. I can confirm receipt of the letter, I do apologize, I am certain that there was no disrespect intended. But I would be happy to look into the matter and if I can provide any information, we'd be more than willing to. And I thank you very much for not shooting the messenger.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

(Laughter) Well, I try not to, Tom. But --

**MR. VAUGHN:**

And I really appreciate that, Legislator Browning.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You know, the letter went out, and a simple -- I'm sorry, an e-mail "got it", and I know I give it to you, DuWayne, you know, come on. Is that a response? Absolutely not. You know, send me a letter, send me an e-mail and say *We haven't considered it yet, we don't know what we're doing yet, we're looking at the budget*, give me something, but just a *got it* e-mail response, I'm sorry, is not acceptable.

And I think that we deserve a bit more respect than that. I mean, the entire committee signed this letter and I think we're entitled to a response of some sort. You know, if -- and again, are we -- is this Police class going to be how many? I think we were looking at 75. I don't know if there's going to be any Deputy Sheriffs. Mike, can you --

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

(Shook head no)

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I mean, I've made a request of the Sheriff's Department to find out if any SCINS were signed for Deputy Sheriffs. I know there's talk about a Corrections Officers class, I think it was October. Mike, do you know if it's starting?

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

They started that class.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

It has started? Great, that's a good thing. So please, you know, yes, no, maybe? Why can't we get a response? That's all I want to know.

And John, while you're here, if you could kind of give us a little bit of FYI on why it's appropriate to start a class right now as far as how it will affect our budget.

**MR. ORTIZ:**

It's pretty simple. You start a class on September 1st, they need six months in the academy and three months field training before they can be deployed boots-on-the-ground. So a September 1st class would put them on the street June 1st, when heavy overtime -- the heaviest period of overtime for the Police Department is June, July and August. Delaying the class until October 1st puts them on the street July 1st, you know, November 1st, August 1st, you know, and so on. Putting -- and I believe the class has been cut to 50 because of the potential transfer of the Park Police Officers. So not putting those 50 on the streets in June, now we're looking at mid-July. It costs us about a million dollars a month in overtime.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And normally we'd save money, but now we're seeing because of the Police contract and the concessions that they have made with, you know, taking longer to top step, starting salaries are less, you know, it makes sense. And we are at an all-time low when it comes to Police Officers. So, you know, we need an answer as soon as possible, because, you know, again, a million dollars right there is what we could save by starting a class. You have a question?

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Just that I may be able to shed some light to this situation. It's -- I believe the intention of the Administration, I spoke to the County Executive and Jon Schneider and I was just confirming with -- Wayne Horsley was at the same meeting. From my understanding, the Administration is looking to put in a class of, I don't know, 30, whatever it was, to be offset by the Park Officers that they anticipate bringing on. They anticipated doing that at the end of September, early October, and when they go through the whole State process to get the Park Police to transfer over, they figured that the personnel, the recruits will be coming out of the academy. I don't know if that's still the plan. That was a meeting that we had about the County Executive before he released his budget, there were several of us there, Legislator D'Amaro and --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

-- I think you were there as well, correct me if I'm wrong.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

*(Nodded head yes).*

**LEG. GREGORY:**

I don't know if that's still the plan, but that was my understanding of what was laid out to us and I don't know if that's still on schedule.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So why didn't we receive that in the form of a letter then?

**LEG. GREGORY:**

I don't know.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I mean, there was a meeting with certain individuals and I have always said that, you know, having meetings on issues -- and I know I was called to a meeting regarding Fire Rescue. As the Chair of Public Safety, I didn't get a call for this meeting; so, again, why wasn't I? And then if you're able to tell me what was said at that meeting, then why couldn't we have received that in the form of a letter? So, no excuses. I'm sorry.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Kate, just to add a little bit to that. The meeting, just so you -- to be all fair here, was about the release of the budget coming over to us and it was just -- it was just a brief conversation about Police issues, what's in the budget and the like. But you're absolutely right, there's no excuse. I'm not --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Either way, yeah.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

I'm not making an excuse.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

They were able to tell you that then, they could have responded to that letter.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Yeah, it might be -- the hang up, and I'm speculating here, might be on the numbers that's going to be in the class because they were considering the Park Police numbers involving that and how many they're going to actually need. That was the conversation, but it was very brief and it was involving the budget.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, let me ask, because I know the issue with transferring Park Police officers. You know, I was going to save that for when we have public hearings on the budget, is obviously there's a Civil Service issue with the Parks Police. How quickly are we planning to get that done? Because now that's anticipated in the -- that's in our budget. How sure are we that we're going to get that done next year? So again, it's kind of assuming you're going to get something done, so it's not set in stone. And there's a lot of issues I'd be curious about because the ten west towns are the Suffolk County Police Department and now you're going to bring all of the police -- Parks Police into the Suffolk County Police Department where they don't service the East End, so who's going to be working on the East End parks?

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Those are questions that have to be answered.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right. So --

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

The budget's a plan and that's -- we were talking about the plan.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, I'm just curious if that's something that they've thought about.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

All legitimate questions, though.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

We don't have Park Rangers yet.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

That's part of the plan.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Part of the plan, but they're not hired yet. So that's the other issue, is we don't have them hired yet. And are they going to be peace officers, the Park Rangers? Are they going to be carrying guns? You know, do they have arresting ability? If they don't and a 911 call is being made, you know, in a park, who's going to respond to that 911 call? If it's in Southampton or Montauk, is it going to be that local Police Department, and have we had an agreement with them that they're going to respond to our parks? And we have Deputy Sheriffs on the East End, are we going to start using our Deputy Sheriffs to respond on the East End? So there's an awful lot of unanswered questions and it's in the budget. Go ahead.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So can you just remind me, John, maybe you know about the number of Parks Police we're talking about as a possibility?

**MR. ORTIZ:**

On the last payroll there were 34, but I was told the total number of positions is going to be 36, two of them might be out on some type of leave.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. So -- but the number, then, that's being, you know, thrown around all -- I mean, be it unofficially, the 30 number just seems too low to me. When we were supposed to have a class of 75, if we knock that down by 36, you know, we're still talking about --

**MR. ORTIZ:**

Well, the recommended budget includes funding for 50 recruits, so.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Fifty.

**MR. ORTIZ:**

Yeah, 50, so it would -- the net result would be 80, 86 instead of 75, actually.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. So -- well, no, but somebody mentioned the 30 number. No, you didn't hear that, okay. I don't know where I heard that.

I also had a conversation with the County Executive -- it was very informal, I just ran into him in a parking lot -- and I know it's being considered. I just would be -- you know, I would be working as hard as I possibly could to get them in so we could save this overtime, the overtime costs. And it's amazing to me, it's so exciting for the first time ever, right, that you want to start a class early, that I can think of. You know, that we want to start a class early to save money. Like, it's just -- it's amazing. It's a really -- it's something that should be -- you know, we should continue to talk about how, you know, impressive just that fact is. And so we're just excited to take advantage of something that, you know, the County Executive was so successful in negotiating for us and getting more officers on the streets will actually cost us less money. So all we want to do is take advantage of something that he, you know, created -- a situation he created for us to save money and get

more officers on the streets. It's really an amazing thing.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

John?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

My question goes to, I guess -- actually, through you to the Chair to Legislator Horsley, our Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officer. The meeting with the County Executive was great, and it's nice to hear about what is being proposed for 2014. But as you -- we all know around this horseshoe, we all have started and will chew up tremendous amounts of time now in going through that thousand-page document, adding, subtracting, doing the things that we want to and adopting it so that will be our road map for 2014. But what we're talking about today is what we did a year ago and what's the actuality now, not what's going to be proposed in the future, which who knows what's going to happen. We're talking about what we represented to the public and the 2% tax increase we supported in a special district, and the fact that it's a bait and switch. We're not getting what we proposed to put out there. The class needs to be started now that we represented we would put out there, and that's the message you have to give because you represent all of us. That's the message I'd give.

So you can talk about, you know, where he wants to go with pulling in people that actually are dependent upon acts of the State Legislature. No matter what we talk about with this here, it's beyond our authority or power to do. So in many respects, it's yet again, you know, like a wish and a prayer and a whim and this, that and the other thing, it's not reality. As we sit here right now today, that's not reality, but the budget we put out there that we adopted for 2013; how many officers was it, John, in this class?

**MR. ORTIZ:**

It was originally 75, but it's been cut to 50.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Who cut it to 50?

**MR. ORTIZ:**

In the recommended budget with the transfer of the Park Police Officers --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

No, no, no, no, I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about the 2013; what did the 2013 adopted talk about? Seventy-five.

**MR. ORTIZ:**

Yeah, 75 in September.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Right, okay. That's our reality right now, a class that gets seated with 75 officers, and anything beyond that is just so much blah, blah, blah, as they say at this point; it's not reality.

So Mr. Deputy Presiding Officer, I would ask you to share that with the Administration as far as what are we doing today now about implementing the 2013 budget. Thank you.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

May I respond?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Sure you may.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Well, thank you. Thank you very much for your barking, and I always appreciate your --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I know you do.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

-- stern lectures. I'll be happy to ask the County Executive when we're going to start and will be emphatic over the matter that we are looking forward to a class starting, I believe -- I'm a little surprised that it hasn't started already, but we'll have an answer back to you shortly.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thank you.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

And again, thank you for your kind comments.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

There you go.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So let's not continue to speculate, because how many times have we looked at this budget with speculative revenue with sales of nursing homes and sale lease-backs, and we speculate everything. And again, this idea of the Parks Police merging with the Suffolk County PD is pure speculation right now. Like John said, the State has to weigh in on this, and, you know, with a bit of luck, maybe they'll agree to it. I don't see why they wouldn't want to or wouldn't be willing to, but, you know, again, it's speculation because we have nothing guaranteed. Nothing is set in stone. Tom?

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

It's a plan.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

My question is when these Park Police come over and wear the patch of the Suffolk County Police Department and drive the blue and white Police car of the Suffolk County Police Department, where are they going to patrol? Who's going to be patrolling our parks? Are we no longer going to have patrolling in our parks? So, you know, we're taking 36 and we're saying, oh, they're becoming part of the Suffolk County Police Department, but now we have new posts. Are they going to assimilate them into sectors? I mean, they're saying, "well, we have 36, so we don't need to hire 75. We're going to hire 75 less 36.

But the amount of responsibility has grown.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Uh-huh.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

And who's going to be patrolling the East End? I mean, is the Suffolk County Police Department going to be going out of their jurisdiction? I mean, we are Suffolk County, we end at the Riverhead line and we end at the Nassau line. Are we going to be able to go over the Riverhead line and go east and patrol? Who's going to patrol out there? So if I can get those questions answered, I'd appreciate that also.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yeah, I think I asked that. Captain Waring, Captain Harding (Hardy), are you guys -- do you have any knowledge of this, what's going on?

I don't want to put you guys on the spot, maybe you don't know. *(Laughter)*

**LEG. MURATORE:**

I think Tom may know, he's raising his hand like he has an answer.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Maybe somebody from higher pay grades should be here to answer those questions. But, you know, obviously, I don't know if you've been involved in any conversations with regards to this maneuver?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Legislator Browning, thank you very much. Yes, this is part of our budget. And yes, the questions that are being asked regarding who will patrol the parks and how we are going to assimilate in, these are all questions that we look forward to addressing during the budget hearings that are going to take place on October 22nd and October 23rd. And we certainly do understand the questions that have been asked about the seating of the Police class. And since apparently Legislator Kennedy wasn't talking to me when he was talking to Legislator Horsley; Legislator Horsley, I look forward to you conferring all of Legislator Kennedy's concerns to me --

*(\*Laughter\*)*

-- at the end of the meeting, since I was not -- apparently there was a mute button on my ears at that moment in time, but I look forward to that conversation.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Mr. Vaughn, I --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

You can hear at any time, Tom.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Thank you very much, sir.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

But again, as I do often times --

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

I'd be pleased to act as the conduit.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

-- the DPO carries what the concerns of the Leg are to the County Executive. So I'll be happy to have you share them, but I'm equally eager to have Deputy Presiding Officer Horsley share them as well.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Very good.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Captain Waring, have you been involved in any conversations at this time?

**CAPTAIN WARING:**

Not at all, no; that's the short answer. I don't know.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And again, Tom, you said it's in our budget. It's in our 2014 budget, not the 2013 budget which John said the 2013 budget said 75 Police Officers.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Correct. And I think that there -- I actually believe that there are two separate issues here, as I believe that Legislator Kennedy believes that there are two separate issues here. There is the issue of the seating of the Police class and what was in -- what was in the adopted budget, and then there is the issue of going forward and what is in the 2014 budget.

If I may, just for a moment briefly, I just would also like to add to your comments earlier at the beginning of this conversation and thank Captain Hardy for working with me in these last couple of months. I think we both started doing this job right around the same time, so it is certainly a shame to see him go, but I look forward to working with Captain Waring. So, thank you both.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay, thank you. And again, let's find out when that class of 75 is starting this year. And next year, I believe the budget said 60, I'm pretty sure the budget said 60 for 2014, correct?

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

That's right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So now I'm hearing 50. So, yeah, maybe that could be the Parks Police Officers joining in, but I look forward to getting all those answers. I have one last question, and that would be -- it's been brought to my attention that there's a need for bulletproof vests, new ones. I believe there is some paperwork sitting on the County Executive's Office waiting to be signed. I would like -- I'm not going to ask you for immediate responses, but the bulletproof vests that we have, I know that there's a five-year time limit on a vest; am I correct? Isn't it five years?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I don't know the exact statute of limitations on a vest, but I do know that they do not last forever and that we do need to replace them.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Captain Hardy (Hardy), Captain Waring? Because I know my husband was telling me that I think they do five years, he says it's not like after five years it's not working, it's not as effective because it does wear away.

**CAPTAIN WARING:**

I'm not a hundred percent sure, but I do believe they try to replace them every five years.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So could we get some information regarding the vests, as far as, you know, how old the vests are that officers are currently wearing, and how many need to be replaced. And I see Mike Sharkey just walked back in the room; I'm just curious if you could get the same answer with regards to bulletproof vests. How many of your officers are wearing vests that are five years and over, and how many you would need to have replaced. Okay?

I think that's it for now, and we'll be looking forward to the response on the cars. So any other questions? No, we're good? Hopefully we'll get done by 12.

Okay. So we do have ***Tabled Resolutions, 1448-13 - Approving the appointment of Nicholas Luparella III as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services***

**Commission (County Executive).** Mr. Luparella, you're here, I believe. If you would like to come forward. Good morning. I hope you had fun (*laughter*).

**MR. LUPARELLA:**

Good morning.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

If you would just like to introduce yourself, tell us where you're from and if you want to give us a little bit of background on yourself.

**MR. LUPARELLA:**

I'm ex-Chief Nick Luparella from Riverhead Fire Department.

I represent the 6th Division of Riverhead Town Chiefs. I have over 33 years in the fire service with Riverhead.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Does anyone have any questions; no? Okay. I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator -- who said that?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Calarco.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, ***it is approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Spencer)***. Congratulations, Mr. Luparella.

**MR. LUPARELLA:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I will look forward to -- I come to the FRES meetings, I look forward to seeing you there.

**MR. LUPARELLA:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And you don't have to come on Tuesday. Thank you.

And that was so -- all that, you sat here for how long? For that.

But I hope you enjoyed the meeting.

**(\*Laughter\*)**

***IR 1508-13 - Adopting Local Law No. -2013, A Local Law to require use of safety helmets by all bicyclists in Suffolk County (Barraga).***

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Motion to table by Legislator Calarco. I'll second it. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Opposed, okay. *It is tabled (VOTE: 5-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Hahn - Not Present: Legislator Spencer).*

**Introductory Resolutions**

IR 1592-13 - Terminating the County's -- oh, no, no, no, these are -- is this -- I thought this was tabled from last meeting. These were all tabled from the September 11th meeting, okay.

So *IR 1592-13 - Terminating the County's ShotSpotter Program (Cilmi)*. I'll make a motion to table.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Spencer).*

*IR 1636-13 - Accepting and appropriating Federal pass-through grant funds from the NYS Office of Homeland Security (NYS OHS) in the amount of \$135,000 for "Operation Shield" under State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) to be administered by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the East End Marine Task Force, Suffolk County Police Department, Suffolk County Park Police -- which may not be around for much longer -- and various other Federal, State and Local Agencies, and to execute grant related agreements with 100% support (County Executive).* I'll make a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's approved (and placed on the consent calendar) (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Spencer).*

*1690-13 - Adopting Local Law No. -2013, A Local Law to amend Section A13-10 of the Suffolk County Administrative Code to authorize donation of property held by the Police Property Bureau (County Executive).* Did we --

**MR. NOLAN:**

You have to table.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay, for public hearing?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So I'll make a motion to table for public hearing.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's tabled for public hearing (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Spencer).*

*1698-13 - Adopting Local Law No. -2013, A Local Law to enhance and improve Suffolk County's E-911 Service (Schneiderman).* I'll make a motion to table for public hearing.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco, All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Spencer).*

*IR 1727-13 - Appropriating funds in connection with renovations and alterations to probation buildings (CP 3063)(County Executive).*

**LEG. HAHN:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Motion to approve, Legislator Hahn.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Spencer).*

*1728-13 - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal pass-through grant funds from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in the amount of \$51,000 for the 2012 HazMat Grant Program administered by the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and to execute grant related agreements (County Executive).* I'll make a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It is approved (and placed on the Consent Calendar) (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Spencer).*

*1750-13 - Appropriating funds for the Office of the Medical Examiner Consolidated Laboratory (CP 1109)(County Executive).* I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second -- who said that?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Kara.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Kara? Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Spencer).*

*1751-13 - Requesting legislative approval of a contract award for Temporary Lab Support Services for the Office of the Medical Examiner (County Executive).* Motion to approve. Second, Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Spencer).*

*1794-13 - Accepting and appropriating grant funds in the amount of \$180,564 from the United States Department of Transportation for a Dedicated Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Enforcement Project with 80% support (County Executive).*

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Motion to approve, Legislator Kennedy. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Spencer).*

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Madam Chair, just a point of quick personal privilege. We do have Mr. Holly here from the Fire Academy. And if I can just ask him for 30 seconds to talk to us a little bit about what's going on over these last couple of months regarding the academy budget development.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

We can do that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I would like to ask him to go ahead and speak just briefly, through the Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You want to come up? And real quick, I just forgot, Legislator Spencer was here and had to leave, he had a medical emergency. Thank you.

Okay, Bob.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Bob, good morning. Can you just tell us briefly what's transpired from where we had that announcement back in August to where we are now?

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

Yes. A lot of things have transpired, and I don't want to take up too much of your time. I do want

to let you know, Commissioner Williams and the Vocational Board will be sitting down this coming Monday to begin contract negotiations.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. And so that contract that we're talking about, we are in -- or what the County Executive has put in his recommended 2014 is, I guess, a six-month continuum. But you're looking to negotiate a full-year contract, I believe, right?

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

The informal discussions, we are hoping to negotiate a multi-year contract.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Excellent.

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

Probably two, from what I have heard. But right now, yes, we are extending the contract, or the contract has been extended to July 1st, or June 30th.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Very good. I want to thank you for all your efforts in this, and I think it's been a very informative process for many of us.

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Bob, real quick, I have a question with regards to the contract. I believe there's a clause in the contract that in order for the County to take over, if they wanted to take over or not fund you, isn't there a six-month clause?

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

There is a clause in there that if negotiations are not successful, the contract will be extended for six months. So we are in a signed contract for 2013 right now which will automatically be extended till the end of June if no action is taken. So that's what we're -- I assume we're going to be operating under until June.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Madam Chair, there's just one other point that I think it's important we get on the record, because until this came about, I certainly was unaware of this. The employees of the Fire Academy are municipal employees.

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

That is correct.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

They're not County employees, but they are public employees.

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

That's correct, they're all into the New York State Retirement System.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Retirement system, all members of the New York State Retirement System. And the health

insurance benefit provided for the employees is through --

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

Is paid for through the Vocational Board, through ERS I believe it is.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, NYSHIP.

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

NYSHIP.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

NYSHIP is the provider. So similar to State employees from DMV or anyplace else, that's the medical insurance that the employees there are covered under at this point.

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

That's correct.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. All right, thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Bob.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Kara?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you. Two points. I just wanted to -- well, kind of reiterate what the other gentleman said earlier; you know, training, training, training. And so I know I had gotten -- before this whole thing was an issue at all, I had gotten complaints from some of my local departments about the training cutbacks, and I hope that the ultimate goal is getting each department back into the hands-on training facility eight times a year; like, that's what I am hoping you're going to work on.

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

The only goal -- and I really don't want to rehash this entire process that we've just gone through for the last two months. The only goal of the Fire Academy is to provide training.

**LEG. HAHN:**

How are we doing with the on-line -- the on-line classes?

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

As we speak right now, the Fire Fighter II course is up on-line, it has been for a little over a week, and so far it seems to be a tremendous success.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Oh, good. And the HazMat recerts?

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

The HazMat refresher is in the hands of the IT Department right now. We are negotiating, we need a voiceover person coming from the Suffolk County Police Department to finalize the program. It's essentially ready to roll out with just one or two final things that need to be done.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Are you still getting the IT Department dragging their feet or you feel like they have come around

and are more responsive now?

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

We're working together a lot better than we did.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Good, good, good. No, I'm very excited about those classes going on-line. The vollies, you know, have so much -- you know, they're giving of their time, and the more that they can do from home, if they're able, and the more convenient it can be for them, just the better for everyone. So I'm very excited about that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

DuWayne, you have a question?

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Just a quick question. You had mentioned that all the employees are Civil Service employees?

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

We follow the Civil Service guidelines. They are not technically Civil Service, but they are all selected off of a Civil Service list.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay. So there's a contribution into the State pension.

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

Correct.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay. And that's everyone, not -- most people, but that's everyone? I kept hearing this much to do about the treasurer, I've never met the person, but I don't think --

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

My position --

**LEG. GREGORY:**

I never heard of a Civil Service title for treasurer, that's why I'm asking.

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

No, my position, the Deputy Director's position and the Treasurer are exempt positions.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay, that's what I figured. Okay. And how many in total are there, positions?

**CHIEF HOLLY:**

Twelve.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay. All right, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Did you have a question?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

*(Shook head no)*

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No? Okay. I don't think there are any more questions.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thank you, Bob.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Bob, thank you very much.

Okay, with that, we have nothing more on the agenda, so I'll make a motion to adjourn.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. We're adjourned.

*(\*The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM\*)*

*{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically.*