

**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, May 30, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Legislator Kate Browning, Chairperson
Legislator Robert Calarco, Vice-Chair
Legislator DuWayne Gregory, Member
Legislator Kara Hahn, Member
Legislator William Spencer, Member
Legislator John M. Kennedy, Member
Legislator Tom Muratore, Member

Also in Attendance:

Deputy Presiding Officer Wayne Horsley, 14th Legislative District
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Tim Rothang, Aide to Legislator Browning
Bobby Knight, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Paul Perillie, Aide to Legislator Gregory
Lora Gellerstein, Aide to Legislator Spencer
Kevin LaValle, Aide to Legislator Muratore
Ali Nazir, Aide to Legislator Kennedy
Debbie Tinnirello, Aide to Legislator Hahn
John Ortiz, Senior Budget Analyst, Budget Review Office
Bill Shilling, Clerk's Office, Suffolk County Legislature
Tom Vaughn, County Executive Assistant
Marie Berkoski, County Executive Assistant
Patrice Dlhopsky, Probation
Dr. Yvonne Milewski, Suffolk County Medical Examiner
Gerard Hardy, Deputy Inspectors, Suffolk County Police Department
Joe Williams, Commissioner, Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services
Jay Egan, Suffolk County FRES Commission
Anthony LaFerrera, Suffolk County FRES Commission
Robert Scharf, Suffolk County Police Department
Suzanne McBride, AME Police Emergency Unit
Keri Grace Najdzion, Representing Self
Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Lucia Braaten, Court Stenographer

Minutes Transcribed By:

Kim Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

(The meeting was called to order at 9:41 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Good morning. We will start the Public Safety Committee meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by our Counsel.

Salutation

And we just had Memorial Day this past weekend so if we could have a moment of silence for those men and women who give up their lives in defense of our country.

Moment of Silence

Thank you. Okay. Good morning. I don't see any cards. Do we have any cards?

MR. SHILLING:

No.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No? Okay. But if there is anyone in the room who would like to speak please come up, state your name and you can fill out a card. We didn't get any cards, Bill?

MR. SHILLING:

No.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Go ahead, state your name.

MS. NAJDZION:

My name is Keri Grace Najdzion. I'm in my 12th year as a dispatcher with the department. I resigned on May 21st. It was a decision set in motion some 14 months earlier when my command failed to expeditiously and adequately resolve a work related issue that was having a severe negative impact on my health. I suffer from chronic migraines that result in nausea, sensitivity to light, and blurry vision, which I have a prescription for, and one of the triggers of migraines is perfumes, air fresheners and colognes.

In March 2012, I began notifying the supervisors that there were coworkers whose perfumes were triggering my migraines and I was getting sick. On every occasion I was affected I told a supervisor. One said get a doctor's note and I did on May 21st. Still nothing was done. I continued to complain, I continued to be ignored. The COs, other supervisors and coworkers thought it was a joke. Some literally laughed and called me certifiably crazy. When I continued to complain I was told take one of your pills. Not only were my requests for some sort of accommodation ignored, but on one occasion after complaining on a mandate, PSC3 Ramirez attempted to move to a terminal which has the brightest light of all the dispatch stations and is never used. So he moved me to a spare terminal in the back and advised everyone to stay away from me and if I needed a break, they had to plug into another terminal. He made me feel like an outcast and a leper.

On that day my migraine was so severe I sat with my hooded sweatshirt pulled over my eyes because the glare from the computer was unbearable. They let me leave work without questioning if I was capable to drive, which I clearly wasn't, but I wanted out of there. So I called my unit president, who stayed on the phone for my 17 mile ride home to make sure I made it safety. I would like to emphasize not all the 3's were that crass. PS3 {Belgin} and Dunn did try to help, but

to no avail.

In November I started to experience symptoms that were not normal to my condition, and my doctor advised I was now overmedicating myself and suffering from dizziness and somnolence. He wrote another letter advising these conditions were to affect my job performance. You would think that would be a catalyst to a resolution, but no. Lieutenant Rohrer still did nothing.

I did my homework. I gave them articles and SOPs from other municipalities that have gone fragrance free. I gave them an article that described how fragrance free workplaces will be as normal as smoke free, that fragrances used today have some 14 secret chemicals not listed on the labels, 66% of which have never been tested for human safety, and that the CDC has had a fragrance free policy since 2009.

Do you know what it's like to worry every day that you're going to be subjected to something that makes you sick and then worrying if you can get home because you might lose your vision?

On January third I had enough and wrote a 42 to Lieutenant Rohrer letting him know that he had created a hostile work environment due to his inability to effectively resolve this workplace issue, that I was entitled to a healthy, safe work environment, and I didn't appreciate my medical condition or mental status being the subject of ridicule and fodder for the staff, and that there were no reprimands or repercussions when it happened. I asked him if I needed to collapse on the floor to be taken seriously. I then advised him I would no longer use sick time for a condition that clearly was a Workers Comp issue.

On January 11th they finally issued an order that perfumes are to be kept to a minimum and strong scents are not permitted, but this directive is almost useless, because on a next day, one month later, when a coworker saw me she said, "Shoot, had I known you'd been here I wouldn't have worn so much perfume." No one cares about it so it's not enforced. And I'm not the only one to complain. There are other 42s written from people with asthma who've had attacks.

So I think it's great that Legislators Cilmi and Browning are proposing that the department clearly notify you when their staffing is below 90% because clearly the leadership of the Communication Section has no clue what they're doing. You don't let your 911 personnel get this short staffed and you don't let them sit there suffering a medical condition that can be avoided. And I do have copies if anybody wants.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Thank you. Suzanne McBride.

MS. McBRIDE:

Good morning, Madam Chair, Legislators. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to speak. As you all know, I've been here just about every meeting since November to bring to light issues at the 911 Communication Center. I apologize today because I had planned on being prepared on giving you some numbers on where we stand now, however, unfortunately as I was preparing them yesterday they changed again because one of my members was forced to put herself out on a medical leave. So I sat down later last night to try again to prepare some numbers for you, but yet they changed again because one of my members resigned.

Right now as best I can tell, we have about 49 trained Dispatchers on staff. Four of those are now out on a medical leave, undetermined when they'll be back, as far as I know. We have five people training from the new hires from the SCINs that we've gotten between November and April, which will help eventually, but they can't be rushed. I know that, all my coworkers know that, we've all been there. We all remember our first time on the radio solo and having that officer scream in our

ear that they need help and being the one that they rely on to get the help. So these people cannot be rushed. There is no end in sight right now for our Dispatchers.

I'm coming to you today to support the bill that's being put forward by Legislator Cilmi and Legislator Browning. We do need to make sure our 911 Center is staffed at least to 90%. There has to be some accountability. I've spent the past few days trying to figure out exactly how we got to where we are today, how no one is accountable for the fact that we have 45 trained Dispatchers when we should have 68. The fact that we have to have at least 33 people per day working the radios, and I'm not even talking about the call takers because we're short staffed there, I'm not even talking about my POA Operators who work in teletype, because we are critically short staffed there as well. But how did we reach a level, how did this fall through the cracks, how is it that a dispatcher, the lowest rung in the food chain in this department, is the one that brought this to your attention? Whose job was it to make sure that this didn't happen? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you, Suzanne.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Madam Chair, can I ask her a quick question?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Go ahead.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Suzanne, thank you for being here. You and I had an opportunity to go ahead and exchange some e-mails and we were talking about some of the different things that are going on with individual members in the department there.

MS. McBRIDE:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

One of the issues I believe was a discussion about some family medical leave --

MS. McBRIDE:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

-- requests, and what appears to be something that's becoming an issue as to your trained personnel being able to be available without -- well, without the family medical leave then the individual apparently will be out.

MS. McBRIDE:

Well, that's the -- the one employee that I mentioned that put herself out on a medical leave yesterday. She was one of the employees involved who has been denied use of intermittent family leave, which means that she would take a day here and there when she needed it, an hour or two here or there, to attend to family medical needs as well as her own. She's been denied. Her doctor told her in no uncertain terms that she needed to put herself out of work and that's what she did yesterday. I do have two other members who are still fighting to get approved for family medical leave. I am working with the U.S. Department of Labor to try and find out exactly what their rights are and fix the situation. We have a grievance process in this County, unfortunately that grievance process takes years to figure out, and by that time it's no help to us.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. So just for my purposes, because we are talking about some personnel issues and, quite frankly, actually it's not my job to manage individual personnel, but I do want to know to whom is a family medical leave request presented and who would be the individual who would approve it? Who in your structure is the person in charge?

MS. McBRIDE:

The Family Medical Leave Act, those requests go straight to Labor Relations. They are not approved or disapproved within the department is my understanding. They go straight to Labor Relations and I am under the impression, and I could be wrong here, that it is the head of Labor Relations that has the final say.

LEG. KENNEDY:

All right. So then later on I'd like you to give me the names of the other two, and I will have a conversation with the Director of Personnel and Labor Relations.

As to the staffing issue, how soon will you have any of these newly hired individuals available to start taking on the job tasks?

MS. McBRIDE:

We had three -- I'm sorry. We had four Dispatchers that started I believe it was in April, around April 19th or something like that, so they're about a month-and-a-half into their training. Quite honestly, it's going to take them at least three to four months to be at a point where they can sit on a radio by themselves, but they still need to be monitored. There'll still be somebody standing in the back of the room listening either on one of our backup consoles or on a portable radio to make sure that when that officer starts screaming for help they know what they're doing. It's -- the training to become a dispatcher who is fully competent, who can be that lifeline when one of our officers who are putting their lives on the line every day calls for help, the training takes a while. You have to make sure that you have a competent, confident person on that radio. So these people, as great as they are, because they're all -- it's a great bunch of people we're getting in, but it's not going to be until after July, August that they're going to be on their own.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Are you a trainer? Do you actually train these new people coming in?

MS. McBRIDE:

I actually have been training people. I spent the past three days of my five 12 hour shifts with a trainee. She just started May 20th, last Monday, so she's very, very green. She's never even really seen a computer system, so we're basically starting from zero.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Two other things, then. Is this list then that these people come from, are there still additional individuals on there if there are additional SCINs that need to be signed, or does the test have to be given again?

MS. McBRIDE:

They did just give the test again, I believe it was back in the beginning of May. However, the list that is current does still have people on it. I am under the impression that they are going through the canvas process.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And last thing, you said you're five 12 hour shifts? You did a 60 hour week this week?

MS. McBRIDE:

Yes. I've done five 12 hour shifts and I am scheduled to work overtime on my day off.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, wait a minute, wait a minute. First of all, your workweek is a 35 or a 37 hour workweek.

MS. McBRIDE:

Thirty-five.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thirty-five hour workweek. So you have 25 you've done already and you're scheduled to do how many more hours?

MS. McBRIDE:

I'm scheduled for at least definitely another four on Friday night into Saturday. I'm also on the list, I will probably be called to go in at midnight to work the entire shift, most likely. If I can give an example, our squads, we're supposed to have at least a minimum of 12 people working as Dispatchers, this is just strictly Dispatchers, 12 dispatchers on at a time. One of our day shift squads now has eight working Dispatchers. They have 10 that are actually assigned to it, two of those are on sick leave. So the 12 person squad we're supposed to have, we have four shifts of overtime before anybody is out on vacation, before anybody else falls ill, before somebody's relative passes away that they need to take bereavement time, four before we even get off -- anything else.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MS. McBRIDE:

And that's just -- the midnights we have seven overtime spots almost every single night.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. All right, Suzanne. Thank you for being here and I'd like to see you come back again in two weeks.

MS. McBRIDE:

Thank you.

LEG. KENNEDY:

All right. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Thank you, John. I guess no more questions. And Mr. Vaughn, I know we spoke about the teletype issue and the operators being taken, yet it's not as high a grade as a 911 Operator. Do you have any answers or are we able to look into it at all? You can make it short.

MR. VAUGHN:

Good morning, Legislator Browning. How are you?

CHAIRMAN BROWNING:

Good morning.

MR. VAUGHN:

Yes, we are looking into it, and no, we have not signed an additional SCIN for that. But I would just say that we have, you know, just to reiterate, we have signed the 14 plus the original that we talked

about, for precisely all -- for precisely many of the reasons that Ms. McBride just enunciated. You know, we understand that there's a problem there, and believe me, we wish that we could get them up and running quicker, but I mean, I think that Ms. McBride knows as well as the committee now, as we're all becoming very well versed on this topic, that there is a -- that there is a training period and a quite lengthy training process.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I think we understand that, you know, people are not going to get up and run in as quickly as we'd like, and we respect that. The other issue, the Family Medical Leave Act. I know they talked that there's a grievance that has been filed and, you know, obviously I don't know why the grievance should take so long to resolve, because if there's a State law regarding Family Medical Leave Act I think it's a no-brainer and I hope that that can be resolved very quickly.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Kate, can I ask him one other thing?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure, go ahead, John.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Tom, I'm going to ask you to bring back one other thing, if you would please. Well, a question and a request. When Mr. Melito was here with the efficiency group, performance group, whatever it is, I don't know, I can never remember the name of it, I did make a request about detailing the workflow and the process associated with the three different entities that do dispatch, 911 at this point, between P.D., FRES, and Sheriffs. Can you ask them if they've started that or where they may be on that?

And secondly, I'm going to have a conversation with Commissioner Williams, but since we do have dispatch in FRES and we're hearing about dispatch here in P.D. that looks like it's coming apart at the seams, I'm going to ask about the possibility of individuals from FRES being temporarily assigned over to P.D. or vice versa, because, again, I'm going to go back to the fact that if a constituent calls and there's no individual available to answer the 911, they don't want to hear that there's people in FRES but not in P.D. or vice versa. A citizen wants a 911 call answered and that's ultimately our obligation and responsibility.

I don't know what the practicality of it is, but I do know the young lady keeps coming here and she's telling us she's just done a 60 hour week and she's eyeball to eyeball with another eight to 10 hours. That's insanity.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

John, I'd like to jump in a little bit. I mean, I think you know I used to work 911 myself --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- in the 999 system. But I don't know that it -- the training is very different between the 911 Operator and the FRES Dispatchers, so I don't know that they necessarily could crossover.

LEG. KENNEDY:

There may not be a direct correlation, but I'm willing to guess that the FRES Dispatchers have some knowledge associated with operations of the systems that the average citizen off the street doesn't. It's not my place to necessarily, you know, go back and forth here, but I am -- I am, and I believe

we all have an obligation to acknowledge at least when she's talking about every shift being 30 to 40% down when they start the shift.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right. And I can tell you the Dispatchers at FRES are somewhat the same as far as working overtime. Suzanne, I don't know if you want to jump in.

MS. McBRIDE:

I may be completely out of line here, but I can tell you I do appreciate the thought process, Legislator Kennedy. In a perfect world it would be a solution, however, I don't think we're in a perfect world and I don't see this as a solution. Our FRES Operators, from my understanding, are probably almost as short staffed as we are. I understand that some of them work 16 hour days and are working on their time off, on their days off. They have a similar computer system so, yes, they do have knowledge of the computer system. However, our process, our -- is completely different. They would have to go through the exact same training as our new hires. The only advantage would be they would have some familiarity with the system, but our codes, everything like that, is completely different. The codes -- I could not take myself and sit in a FRES chair and dispatch for them and would never attempt to, and I don't think that they would be able to come and sit in our chairs and do our job. It would take extensive training just like our new hires are going through. While they would be, you know, much more comfortable, I'm sure they would have the confidence level up, the procedures, the policies that they would have to learn would be extensive.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. So then let me go to the alternative, and oftentimes I will offer things that may in actuality not be implementable, but then let's go to the other side of the coin. What will make it better at this point? What will -- what is it that can be done that's going to make it less likely for each shift that you start to be 40 to 50% down with personnel?

MS. McBRIDE:

Honestly?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, honestly.

MS. McBRIDE:

I don't have an answer for you.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Right.

MS. McBRIDE:

I've wracked my head for the past seven months to try and find a solution. I think I've said it here before, there is no quick solution, we need new people, but you cannot, unless there's a way to clone the dispatchers that we already have and make them useable dispatchers like that or somebody has a magic wand, there is no quick solution. My people understand wholeheartedly that they are going to spend the summer working at least five 12 hour shifts probably, if not going to 16 hour shifts, which I see in our future within the next few weeks. Fourth of July we traditionally always bring in extra dispatchers, extra call takers, to handle the volume of calls that we get between fireworks and parties and everything else, all the people out on the boats. We don't have a pool to pull from anymore. We're basically at our -- everybody on board just for minimum staffing. So there is, unfortunately, no quick solution.

What I would ask is to find some way to make sure that my people are being treated humanely, that their needs are being taken into consideration if they have a family need, that they're not going to be disciplined for taking time off that they need for their family, that there be some consideration given to trying to schedule as much in advance as possible. These are all things I've already brought to the department, I'm waiting for answers on. I haven't gotten those answers. We have made suggestions to our command to try and make this a livable situation to ensure the public is protected the way they need to be. Unfortunately, it's a very slow process.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. One last question. Who signs your time sheet?

MS. McBRIDE:

I believe my time sheet is signed by Lieutenant Rohrer.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Lieutenant who?

MS. McBRIDE:

Rohrer. R-O-H-R-E-R.

LEG. KENNEDY:

All right. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay? Thank you. Where were we? I'm sorry, Mr. Vaughn, you're sitting there and we're trying -- okay. So I guess we'll continue to try and get an answer on teletype and how we can resolve that issue and not have to move 911 Operators into teletype as you see with the staffing issues, and I'm sure with teletype it's going to take time to train. I guess no more questions. What I will do is we have a representative from the Police Department. Do you have any issues that you need to bring to our attention? No?

Okay. Mr. Williams, our Commissioner, it's nice to see you back again. Do you have anything you'd like to bring to our attention? And I know we're working on July to have you come to talk about the upcoming hurricane season and how you're going to be prepared.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Yes. We're working with Legislator Browning's office, we're coming to the July meeting to give a full presentation to this body. But at this time I'd also like to let all the Legislators know is that the office now has started the normal presentation for hurricane preparedness to the citizens and residents of Suffolk County. If any of your offices would care to have that presentation given to anybody in your community or your district, contact us.

The only thing I would just like to comment on, the past discussion we just had. With all due respect to P.D. operators, all due respect to my own operators, back in December we received seven SCINs in my office for allocated spots for dispatchers. Those people are going off their training June 25th. My people have been working overtime just like the P.D. operators have. We anticipate some of that to be relieved on June 25th because what's happened is that the -- those seven spots actually bring me up to quota except for one or two dispatchers, which we'll always have an opening. We have vacations, so there will always be overtime, we have family sick leave also.

I'd just like to comment, too, on -- I know Legislator Kennedy is trying to solve a problem, but you can't take FRES dispatchers or Police Department dispatchers and intermingle them in the two departments. Right now we are going into our busy season, too. To take FRES dispatchers, which

will create more overtime in FRES, put more stress on them, and to bring them up the block, is just decimating one department to try to help another department. And I know there has to be a solution to it and I know you're trying that way.

As far as our quota, we are filled at this point. What we normally do during the summer season is increase our manpower on weekends, any type of storm situation, even a heavy tropical storm or a rainstorm we do increase it, which same thing with the Police Department. But I just wanted to go on record that, you know, right now with the seven SCINs we received in December it does bring us up to our quota, assigned quota. We never have 100% of the people there at any one time due to medical leave or anything. That's exactly where we are with FRES with the dispatch.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So how many would that be all together then, Joe? What's your full complement?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Our full complement I believe is 42 or 43 dispatchers.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Forty-two. Okay. So do you guys work in three shifts, you work eight hour shifts as well?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

We work at those eight hour shifts, we work three shifts. Also there is a safety system in the system which we work with the Suffolk County Police Department. It doesn't solve their problems but also Suffolk County FRES right is almost a rollover to any other PSAP in the County. If Babylon Central went down there's a system for us to receive their calls and also Suffolk County P.D., we do assist them with their calls. It doesn't help their problem, and I understand where they are coming from, but there is a system that FRES is actually already answering some 911 calls --

LEG. KENNEDY:

If there's ten calls that go in there and there's only eight operators, two are going to spill over and one of your guys will pick one up.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

No, it's not on a normal basis. I'm talking about during a real busy evening or a storm situation like that. We both assist each other. We assist them and they help us and we help them. When we experience that in any type of length of time it would be, you know, during major events we have that. On a normal basis it's a rarity that we received the 911 calls. They answer them up the block.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Again, I know your people are highly specialized and trained and, you know, you're the Commissioner, not I, just as is Commissioner Webber, and ultimately you folks will make the line decisions in order to go ahead and address the function. But, in the alternative, we've had, you know, direct testimony here now for the last six months that we have a recurring, ongoing systemic issue with our P.D. 911, and while we've got the new bodies that are being brought in, we've got this training curve that it's a complex job, I do get that, but nothing's getting better. As a matter of fact, it almost seems like it's getting worse. So forgive the -- you know, the somewhat basic suggestion. I guess if it really was a fix you guys would have brought it to the table much earlier. But, you know, in my mind, in a layman's mind, it's 911 whether it's, you know, the heart attack or the house on fire or what have you. It's still a citizen with an emergency call. That's where I'm looking for the platform and the similarities.

COMMISSION WILLIAMS:

I understand it 100%, but I have to agree with the lady who spoke before from the P.D., is that even if they do similar jobs, it's completely different. If we took a P.D. operator down to our office they would have to do the same six months training that our new people do to learn that system.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

It would be very difficult vice versa to put somebody in -- today you're a FRES Operator, tomorrow you're a P.D. Operator even just to -- you know, we've recently got somebody in our department who came through Nassau County, and even the fire codes in Nassau County that the fire departments are using are completely different, so we see that sometimes. I appreciate your idea and everything else, but I just wanted to let you know.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Kara, you had a question?

LEG. HAHN:

Yes. I'm going to start with Tom. I don't think anyone asked about -- we had talked previously about taking away the Headquarters, just general information calls that go to Headquarters from the center. Has there been movement on that?

MR. VAUGHN:

Aside from us looking into that there hasn't been movement on it. My understanding is that that might require some type of capital funding to do that, but it's still being looked at. It's not an option that's been in any way taken off the table. It just hasn't been implemented yet.

LEG. HAHN:

Okay. And now I want to change the subject, if that's okay. Commissioner Williams, do you have any update on the online training for the firefighter training at the Firefighter Academy?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

My last discussion with the Fire Academy is that they have been working with our IT Department. I would have to admit it's not being done, no fault to either party, as fast as we'd like to see it, but they are updating the computer. I know IT has been working with them to try to get this online. They're still in the process, as far as I've been told the last time, trying to identify which classes they want to put on line. We're going through, you know, the current Director of the Fire Academy is retiring this month, in June. The new Director is coming in. So that was the last thing, discussion I had, my last discussion was that they were still identifying it. IT was waiting to get back to them on some things, they were waiting for IT to get back on some things.

LEG. HAHN:

Yeah. What I had heard was that they were basically done with the haz mat recerts and they were working on the Firefighter I. But, you know, my understanding was they were basically done with the haz mat recertification online class, but maybe I misunderstood. Yeah, no, I look forward to hearing more, though.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

If you'd like, at the next meeting I can invite the Fire Academy in.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

We can invite IT in also and give a little presentation exactly where they are on that.

LEG. HAHN:

Great.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

I don't know all the story on that and I apologize for that.

LEG. HAHN:

No, that's all right. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWNING:

Okay. No more questions? No. And thank you, Joe. And I know we have -- Mike Sharkey is here. Do you have anything you'd like to report?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

No, just on the resolution coming up later.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Patrice.

MS. DHLOPOLSKY:

No thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Thank you. Nothing to report. I think I got everybody covered. So with that, we'll go to the agenda. Oh, Dr. Milewski, I didn't see you here.

DR. MILEWSKI:

Hi, how are you?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I guess you're here for a resolution.

DR. MILEWSKI:

Yes, I'm here for the resolution.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Thank you. Okay. Tabled resolutions.

Tabled Resolutions

2014-12 - Directing the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to study the effectiveness of the County's Alternative to Incarceration Programs (Hahn).

LEG. HAHN:

That was stricken.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, it was *stricken*. Okay, so pass two. *(2014-12 and 2088-12 - stricken)*.

1185-13 - Appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of heavy duty equipment for Sheriff's Office (CP 3047) (Co. Exec). Actually, Mike, I know you said there was another resolution coming in. Do we have that? Where is it? Oh, is that the 1412? No?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, okay. Okay. So I guess I'll make a motion to table subject to call. Do we have a second?

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It is tabled subject to call. *(VOTE: 7-0-0-0)*. Okay. Sorry about that.

1197-13 - Adopting Local Law No. -2013, A Charter Law to provide for fair and equitable distribution of public safety sales and compensating use tax revenues (Schneiderman). I'll make that motion to table.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. GREGORY:

Opposed.

LEG. SPENCER:

Abstain -- opposed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

We have one opposition, Doc Spencer and abstain?

LEG. GREGORY:

Two oppositions.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, two oppositions, and Legislator Gregory. It is tabled. *(VOTE: 5-2-0-0 Opposed: Legislators Gregory and Spencer)*

1250-13 - Adopting Local Law No. -2013, A Local Law to enhance and improve Suffolk County's E-911 Service (Kennedy).

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm going to make a motion to approve, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Motion to approve, Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. MURATORE:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Muratore. I guess Mr. Vaughn wants to say something.

MR. VAUGHN:

Thank you very much, Legislator Browning. We would ask that the committee please entertain a tabling motion on this, and our reason for it is not that this is unwarranted, not that PSAPs are not performing a vital and -- a vital function as well as doing an outstanding job providing that function, but our concern is simply the financial one. We -- in the State budget process we had money that was -- that's traditionally been coming to us that's been reduced by about \$700,000, so we're already going to have a gap as we go into next year, which means more money being made up from the operating fund. And on top of that, it's our understanding that this bill would have about a \$435,000 impact. So that brings the entire -- the entirety of the impact to a little bit over a million dollars. The hope would be that the committee would entertain a tabling motion and then seek to deal with this through the budget process this year as when one can begin to look at the entirety of the budget situation, rather than this isolated piece of it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, I just would like to ask a question. I know we have not received the 700,000. Are we not receiving it at all or are we just going to be receiving it later on in the year?

MR. VAUGHN:

We have been told -- I've asked the same exact question. We've been told that we're not getting it and that we're not going to be getting it going forward and that this is going to put a \$700,000 hole into our --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So I guess maybe --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Madam Chair, can I?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Tom, my research, and I guess I'm going to ask John Ortiz to weigh in on this, too. The formula aid that you're speaking about, I do believe that the State elected to go ahead and abandon the formula aid, but to take that 700,000 and fold it into what will now be a competitive grant program that 911 operations throughout the State will be eligible to apply for.

Further, there is about a 24 month latency period between receipt of the operating aid and the budget approval. So the categorical aid that we would be expecting to receive is actually from the '11-'12 State budget year, and the '12-'13 State budget did include categorical aid as well. So while I'll agree with you that '13-'14 it no longer exists in that separate category, but instead is being folded into the Statewide grant app process. There are basically 24 months worth of categorical aid that is hanging out there that we can expect that we would be receiving.

MR. VAUGHN:

Legislator Kennedy, maybe, and maybe that's correct, but the information that I've received directly from the Police Department, and this is directly from a number that I got, is this will be an additional shortfall of \$730,000 of revenue starting with the 2014 budget. So as of next year, which is also exactly when this additional 20% aid is supposed to kick in, we're looking at about \$1.1 million short of where we are this year.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, you know, here's the other thing that I guess I'm going to suggest to you that, you know, the Administration is asking us to go ahead and not act on this, and actually allow us to address this in the budget process, which would put it all the way over to 2014. But the very real consequence that our constituents are realizing, who are residents in PSAPs, be they the Babylon district, the Smithtown district or any of the other eight PSAPs, are that they are sustaining increased property tax levies because the function has to occur. There's no opportunity for them to elect to say, "Well, we have a revenue issue here, so we're just not going to pick up the phone." We just spent a half an hour associated with what's basically a crisis in our own 911 capabilities, and yet when we're looking at trying to stabilize what's another 20% of Countywide volume of call, the Administration is saying, "Well, no, let's not deal with that now. We're going to put that over to 2014."

MR. VAUGHN:

Legislator Kennedy, though, and pardon me for interrupting, sir. But your own bill puts us over to 2014. So I'm not sure, and I also understand that, you know, we month after month, week after week, you know, we speak about the 911 Operators, but we're talking about taking \$400,000 that goes to that fund. So we're robbing Peter to pay Paul, and my only point is that, you know, this million -- this \$1.1 million that we're talking about, by the virtue of the way the bill is drafted, unless I'm completely missing something, it's not applicable to 2014 anyway. The only thing that we're saying is maybe this would be something better addressed in the budget when you're looking at the entirety of what the whole situation is rather than, you know, picking and choosing that this goes to the front of the line.

LEG. KENNEDY:

It is applicable to the process that will go on in 2013 that is establishing the 2014 fire district budgets. If we let the balance of time go, in essence what we will guarantee is, is that no local district sees any benefit from this action until 2015. That means my constituents in Nesconset, and all of the residents in the Township of Smithtown, will sustain yet another property tax increase for our failure to act and to address what's a clear inequity. So quite -- I couldn't disagree with you more on this one, Tom, that there's not going to be any consequence if we allow the time to move forward. Quite frankly, there's going to be a direct dollar and cent consequence that our constituents are going to bear in their property tax levy. I would, you know, say absolutely we have to act on this, and the \$18 million that comes into Fund 102 at this point we're going to have to take a hard look at for the operations of 911 across the board.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Go ahead, Mr. Vaughn.

MR. VAUGHN:

And, Legislator Kennedy, while I certainly understand what you're saying and the points that you're bringing up, I would just remind this entire body that no one has more PSAPs than the County Executive. The County Executive is responsible for the entire County, so it's not just Suffolk -- it's not just Smithtown and it's not just Babylon and it's not just Riverhead or East Hampton or Southold or any of the other places that this money would go to. And not that any of this is not extremely laudable or necessary or fixing an inequity or any of those things, but the fact remains we have a gigantic budget hole and now we're talking about exacerbating that problem. We're talking about

taking another \$400,000 out that what we'll have to do is put that money in from the General Fund. This is taking this problem in the wrong direction and that's our concern.

LEG. KENNEDY:

When the voiceover was first created, Tom, it was before the current Administration. You may recall in a previous Administration.

MR. VAUGHN:

Yes, sir, I do.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And what happened was we established the surcharge on the cell phones as a pilot. The voiceover went in without any local share whatsoever. All we're doing at this point is providing parity. We're also putting very important mileposts and providing some concrete regularity with this bill, all brought to the forefront by our Comptroller, Comptroller Sawicki. I absolutely believe that this bill needs to be put in place now. It is critical that we get some clarity and clear lines of following the money and where the money is remitted and, quite frankly, putting some clear accountability in place with the providers and absolutely we need to do this now. I would say to my colleagues we need to move the bill.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I know we have a couple of more questions. Legislator Hahn, you had a question or comment?

LEG. HAHN:

I wanted sort of a definition of what this -- what this did, because I didn't -- I couldn't quite really follow from reading it, so if you don't mind.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure. I'll try to give you the --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Do we want to let Counsel respond first or and if you want to follow?

LEG. KENNEDY:

George, I'll take the first swipe at it and then why don't you pick up from me? What the bill does, Legislator Hahn, is actually codify a number of the recommendations that came from the Comptroller's report. First of all, you'll see a quarterly remittance of the funds that are collected. As of right now, funding is only passed down to the PSAPs once per year. It's actually 15 months after Verizon writes the check to the County of Suffolk does the County of Suffolk then write the check to Babylon or Smithtown. No reason whatsoever for us to sit on those funds for that long because they're paying their personnel and incurring the costs. This bill would now make it a quarterly distribution after it's tried up. It would put a central point of remittance, that being the P.D. I believe, because as of right now, cell phone carriers write checks to the Police Department, they write checks to Angie Carpenter, they write checks to Joe Sawicki. They write checks all over. It's as if basically we're allowing a -- well, not those checks, I haven't seen those checks. It is a fairly inconsistent and somewhat chaotic process, so we would get specificity within the bill as to whom carriers would remit. It would for the first time put into place a 20% distribution for the voiceover internet, which is, as anybody knows who has I guess Optimum or whatever they are, I don't have it, but an alternative form for, you know, telephonic communications and make them subject to the same type of remittance for our PSAP carriers. What else, George? I get challenged after three items.

MR. NOLAN:

It requires, in addition to what Legislator Kennedy just spelled out, it requires that 20% of the surcharge revenues related to the VOIP service be allocated to the ten non-county PSAPs, and clarifies that FRES should not receive a share of the revenue that's specifically allocated to the non-county PSAPs. And I should note that in terms of the funding provisions, they go into effect next year.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And this is the surcharge that's on the cell phones.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

That's that money?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

How much is that right now? John, do you want to -- how much money are we generating out of that cell phone surcharge?

MR. ORTIZ:

This is voiceover internet, not the cell line revenue, and for 2013 we're estimating 1.8 million, so 20% would be 360,000. Ten non-county PSAPs would be 36,000 each.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Legislator Horsley?

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Let me just -- let's backup to some of the comments that Mr. Vaughn just said, that this is Peter to pay Paul. You know, no one has -- is as sympathetic to the plight of the finances of this County as the County Legislature.

MR. VAUGHN:

I would agree with that.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

We're all in this together. But when we make the comment this is Peter to pay Paul, what you're basically saying is that the PSAPs are not part of the system. The system itself is based on the redundancy of the PSAPs, and in many cases like Smithtown and Babylon, they are the call center for emergency 911 calls, so they are part of the system. So when you say Peter to pay Paul, what you're saying is I'm taking out Paul and just giving it to Peter. And so I think that that is -- we could argue this, and I'll give you a shot. So that's the beginning -- that's the beginning statement.

But the -- the idea is when we are given a certain amount of monies from the State collected by whether it's the landlines or it's the wireless or now in this case VOIP, that the -- that it is a total dollar figure. All we're saying, out of that total dollar figure, whatever it may be, whatever it may be, we will take for the PSAPs because it's fair that they would get 20%. They're -- we're not dictating the amount of money that the State is giving us, all we're saying is that the voiceover internet protocol should have 20% taken out also to make the PSAPs whole in the long run.

The reality is that over the last 10 years, or whatever number years it's been, is that the PSAPs have been shortchanged. And we are trying to bring fairness back to the system, which is our system, which is our volunteer fire department system. We are all in this together that they should get their fair share so that they cannot have to go back to the villages and say, "Okay, Village of Lindenhurst, you've got to kick in another 90,000 because our system can't run anymore", which is part of the County 911 system. So this is only bringing fairness to the system. I think that this is important for 12 PSAPs that are across the County, and if we want the 911 system to run as it should run with redundancy and make -- and be assured that our ambulances come to our front doors when needed, you've got to be and we've got to be in this together and work with our local fire departments in making sure that the PSAP runs as it should. This is a good bill.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. No more comments? I think, Mr. Vaughn, you're losing this battle, but go ahead.

MR. VAUGHN:

I can count. I think I'm going to lose it too, but that's okay. Legislator Horsley, the first thing that I would say is Peter and Paul were both apostles so they were still part of the same group, so I don't think that -- I don't think stealing from one to pay the other --

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

We can't exclude one.

MR. VAUGHN:

I don't think that --

LEG. KENNEDY:

You're not walking on water, pal.

MR. VAUGHN:

No, I'm not. I could be drowning, but that's fine.

*(*Laughter*)*

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Fair enough. As an historian, I'm a modern world historian, I get confused.

MR. VAUGHN:

I was a former Sunday School teacher, so. No, no one disagrees. I don't think that we disagree with almost anything that you just said. No one doubts the importance of the PSAP, no one doubts the need for redundancy, no one disagrees with any of that. The concern, though, is -- and it's not even that this is a bad bill. Legislator Kennedy brought up a number of good points that this bill does, a number of things that should be in place right now that I think that this bill is going to put in place, but I think that the problem is this: We have a dire budget hole, and you are correct, sir. This Legislature is fully aware of it and has been fully committed to it and has taken a number of very difficult and very challenging votes to try and address that problem, and there's probably -- there definitely is way more work that needs to be done on that issue, and we all acknowledge that.

The concern is just simply this: That this is going in the wrong direction financially. This is another \$400,000 that doesn't go to solving this problem, but goes in the opposite direction, and when you compound that with the actions that the State has taken, which are not our fault and beyond our control, that that makes it a \$1.1 million dollar problem. And again, not that this is a bad bill, not that the redundancy is not needed and not that the work the PSAPs do is not incredibly laudable and

necessary. Vital I would even say. But the concern is just for the direction that this is taking us in.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, you know, we have a couple of people in the back of the room from our fire departments that I believe have PSAPs, and I don't know what -- if any of you guys want to make any comments, but what happens if you don't get that money? My guess is, is you would have to raise taxes. Anybody want to say anything? I mean, you're more than welcome to come up and comment.

MR. EGAN:

Good morning. My name is Jay Egan. I am the Chairman of the Suffolk County FRES Commission.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Jay, you don't -- you're in Yaphank so you don't have a PSAP.

MR. EGAN:

No, I'm in Selden, my district is Selden.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sorry.

MR. EGAN:

We man our own dispatch 24/7. We take the initial call from County, they cad it to us and we take it from there. So that's how it's full. The PSAP money doesn't directly affect us, directly. It will affect us if FRES doesn't get their piece and they have to start cutting back.

The issue that I just wanted to talk about quick is we're talking about 700 and some odd thousand dollars that the State doesn't want to send us. This is a repeating problem that reverts right back to the Fire Academy as well, where they had hundreds of thousands of dollars that the State had through the education program, which the Fire Academy never got. Take that down, it filtered down, budget cuts came, they didn't get it, they meaning the Fire Academy, because being an entity of themselves sued New York State and lost. Never received the money. All right? Well, they won, but they still never received the money. That's losing for me. And what they did then in turn is just change the language to kind of eliminate the process or how much money it would get and it's starting to sound like New York State may be doing the same thing with this PSAP money and maybe it's something that the County as a whole needs to look at and let the attorneys that they are start looking at it better and addressing this with New York State to eliminate the problem before it gets any further than it is.

The money that comes in for everybody is duly needed, whether it be P.D., FRES, Babylon, Smithtown, East Hampton, because they're a part of that, Riverhead is part of that, there's a bunch of groups that do that. If you had any kind of consolidation to try to do that you'd never have enough money without adding any kind of PSAP money, let alone doing the money that we have right now. Tony can give you the better avenue because he kind of represents Babylon Town and knows the Babylon Town system as well.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You know, the bottom line is, as I believe John said, it would be 36,000 per PSAP, so I mean, what do you do when you don't have that money?

MR. EGAN:

Turn it over to the bank and let them take my house. I mean, that's kind of what we're looking at, and if we don't pay there's things that have to be done in order for everything to work correct, whether it be the duplication of services to make sure you have the continued service, if there's a

breakdown or something missing that we know that the calls get answered. I'm a very large advocate, as Ms. Browning knows, for the public safety system. And no matter what it is, whether it's P.D. dispatchers, FRES dispatchers, the P.D. helicopter, all the things like that all relate to public safety but to keep getting pushed back and keep getting pushed back and pushed back to the point that the money gets used -- I'm not going to use the Peter to Paul theme, it gets used for something else. When it's slated for something it really should stay that way.

And I agree with Legislator Horsley, that if it is slated for something we need to keep it that way. Start moving it around, that's when it gets lost and it doesn't make it -- you lose transparency that way, you lose what the money was originally set for and you lose the project as a whole usually because it goes down. It goes down two years, three years, four years. Supposed to forget about it except for the people like me who it's always instilled in because the public safety of this County should be number one.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Anthony, you have something to say?

MR. LaFERRERA:

Good morning. Anthony LaFerrera, Co-Chairman, FRES Commission. You know, I've been here long enough preaching about the PSAP monies. I think Comptroller Sawicki's report really nailed it on the head and what has been broken for a long time, what has not been accounted for to this day, and if this doesn't happen between Smithtown and Babylon, each department who pays into the corporations, they'll probably have to give in an additional 20 to \$30,000 per department, and that in turn goes back to the residents then, because then those departments are going to have to ask for money from the residents to help pay their budgets which pay into the corporations. So it flows down, but this should be able to bring up the PSAPs to where they were back in 1997, one hundred, \$110,000, which they use for infrastructure and so on and so forth, training, equipment, like I said. But I can't see how it's a losing proposition, how it's been for the past 12 years, 14 years, whatever it's been. But it's just -- it's just a shame. The money's got to be going somewhere that we've been receiving. This is just going to make it accountable for all of us and hopefully bring us back to where we need to be with both dispatch centers. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Thank you, Anthony. Any more questions? No? Okay. So we did have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. HAHN:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Opposed, Legislator Hahn. I guess motion carries. **(VOTE: 6-1-0-0 Opposed: Legislator Hahn)**

Introductory Resolutions

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Introductory Resolutions. **1381-13 - Adopting Local Law No. -2013, A Local Law to strengthen the "Prepared To Protect Our Most Vulnerable Citizens Act" (Stern)**. Oh, I'll make a motion to table for public hearing. Second, Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled for public hearing. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0)**

1395-13 - Appropriating planning funds in connection with Countywide System Enhancements to the 800 MHz Radio Communication System (CP 3241) (Co. Exec.). I'll

make a motion to approve. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
It's approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0)**

1399-13 - Appropriating funds for the purchase of equipment for Medical, Legal Investigations and Forensic Sciences (CP 1132) (Pres. Off.). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. MURATORE:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And second. Who said that? Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0)**

1401-13 - Amending the 2013 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the Purchase of Marine and Helicopter Equipment (CP 3513).

LEG. MURATORE:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion, Legislator Muratore. I'll second.

LEG. CALARCO:

Kate, on the issue.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, I was going to ask. Is there anybody who can give us comment on what the equipment is?

LEG. MURATORE:

For the helicopters.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Really? To put what? It's for new bells and whistles, okay?

LEG. MURATORE:

They can land on water.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, yes, that's what it is. Go ahead.

MR. HARDY:

Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the committee. I'm Captain Gerard Hardy, Chief of Department's Office and I brought with me Lieutenant Robert Scharf, who would be more than happy to answer any questions related to this issue.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Legislator Muratore mentioned they can land on water. This is for the A-Stars?

MR. SCHARF:

Lieutenant Robert Scharf. Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Can you move the mike in a little closer to you and make sure it's on.

MR. SCHARF:

Our helicopter number one, single engine, one of three, is approximately 14 years old. The emergency floats that are fixed to the bottom of the helicopter, in this case they were when we purchased it 14 years ago, are only good for 13 years before needing to be replaced. So since approximately October, this particular helicopter has not been able to fly over water. It has only been allowed to fly over land until we secured the funds to buy these two emergency floats, one for each side of the bottom of the helicopter. They're made by Zodiac, the same people that make the inflatable boats if you're familiar with those. And again, only for emergencies. We don't deploy them for any reason unless it's an emergency.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So now if we approve this, how long is it going to take for you to actually get them, the new ones, put on?

MR. SCHARF:

Relatively quickly, it's a purchase and our own aviation mechanics would then install them on the helicopter.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So you'll have them up and running for the summer?

MR. SCHARF:

I would -- my prediction would be that they would definitely be done before the summer is over. You know, the purchasing process is really going to be what determines that. They'll be installed immediately upon our receipt of them.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Legislator Calarco has a question.

LEG. CALARCO:

Thank you. I just have a couple of quick questions, one relating to the bill itself. The microwave replacement, which is the offset, is that part of the communications network?

MR. SCHARF:

Yes, it is, and that project actually still stands but it is going to be covered by a grant, so the \$50,000 that would have gone to planning this year, we are offsetting to pay for the emergency floats. That's our request.

LEG. CALARCO:

Okay, great. Now, on the helicopters themselves, how many do we have in the County right now up and running?

MR. SCHARF:

We have four; three single engines, one double engine. The double --

LEG. CALARCO:

The three are the A-Stars?

MR. SCHARF:

The three are the A-Stars. The double engine does not require these emergency floats because it has a second engine in case of such an emergency out over water. The three single engines do, but we should not need to replace the floats on any of the remaining single engines for five to eight years.

LEG. CALARCO:

I know one of the -- over the course of the last few years we've had this discussion about helicopters a number of times, and it was always my understanding the County was moving in the direction of getting two of the MedEvac helicopters because the A-Stars require us to take the passenger seat out if we need to do a medical evacuation. Are we still looking to move in that direction? Are we going to be trading in one of these old A-Stars for our new, I think we have the Eurocopters, the MedEvac we have now?

MR. SCHARF:

The money for a second twin engine is actually appropriated. Whether that will move forward at this time, I don't have that information for you.

LEG. CALARCO:

Okay. So you have the money, just not sure what the Administration plans to do. I see BRO kind of waving over there.

MR. ORTIZ:

During our review of the Capital Program that question -- I asked that question to the Police Department, it was Capital Project 3111. There's about \$11 million in there and we were going to buy that helicopter I think three or four years ago, but we decided not to turn in the A-Star and had it basically reequipped and recertified for I think about \$700,000 instead of spending the 11 on a new helicopter.

LEG. CALARCO:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Any more questions? No? Okay. Jokingly I said I heard the NYPD is selling a helicopter. Maybe they'll work out a good deal for you. But, anyway, I guess no more questions?

LEG. CALARCO:

I'm sorry, I have one more quick question. Where's the MedEvac currently stationed?

MR. SCHARF:

The MedEvac is on the west end in MacArthur.

LEG. CALARCO:

At MacArthur. How long does it take to get a MedEvac out to points east if we needed to? Say there was an incident in one of the beaches out in the Hamptons, something along those lines, an accident out by Riverhead. What's the timeframe it takes to get the chopper from Islip out to the East End? I know that's why we always wanted to put one at Gabreski there.

MR. SCHARF:

My understanding now, you know, we have one at MacArthur and then we have another aviation hangar in Gabreski Airport. My understanding it's approximately 20 minutes from MacArthur to Gabreski, so that would be the additional time.

LEG. CALARCO:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I guess no more questions. We made a motion and a second?

MR. SHILLING:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0)**

MR. SCHARF:

Thank you.

1412-13 - Authorizing the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office to incorporate motor vehicles obtained at no cost to the County through the Federal Surplus Property Program into the existing fleet (Co. Exec).

I guess, Mr. Sharkey, this is the replacement of the other bill, right? This is not an addition to the fleet, this is a temporary --

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Temporary.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right, and it's -- this was done through asset forfeiture money, right? Do you want to come up?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

It's done through the Federal Surplus Property Program so anything obtained through their program is at no cost to the County. The language that we used in this resolution was modeled after the language that we had actually crafted some years ago with multiple layers of restrictions in it as far as temporary increase, no cost to the County and no replacement unless it's free to the County through the same process.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So with that, I guess I'll make a motion to approve, second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0)**

1413-13 - Accepting and appropriating a grant as pass-through funding from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to the Suffolk County Department of Probation for the Stop Violence Against Women Act Program with 100% support (Co. Exec.).

LEG. MURATORE:

Motion.

LEG. HAHN:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Legislator Hahn made the 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. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-0)**

1427-13 - To ensure adequate emergency response services to Suffolk County Residents (Cilmi). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. HAHN:

Second.

LEG. MURATORE:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It is approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0)**

So with that we have no more on the agenda. I'll make a motion to adjourn, second by Legislator Calarco, and we're adjourned.

(The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.)

{ } Denoted spelled phonetically