

1 ENVIRONMENT, PARKS & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
2
3 OF THE
4
5 SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
6
7 MINUTES
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9 A meeting of the Environment, Parks & Agriculture Committee of the
10 Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Maxine S. Postal
11 Legislative Auditorium of the Evans K. Griffing Building, 300
12 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York on February 27, 2023.
13

14 Members Present:

15 Legislator Anthony Piccirillo, Chairman
16 Legislator Bridget Fleming
17 Legislator Leslie Kennedy
18 Legislator Kara Hahn
19 Legislator Nicholas Caracappa
20 Legislator Al Krupski
21

22 Not Present:

23 Legislator Robert Trotta - Excused Absence
24

25 Also in Attendance:

26 Presiding Officer Kevin McCaffrey - District No. 14
27 Legislator Dominick Thorne - District No. 7
28 Bill Duffy - Counsel/Suffolk County Legislature
29 Frank Tassone - Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
30 Hope Clark - Acting Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
31 Chris Deluca - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey
32 Ali Nazir - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey
33 Bob Martinez - Aide to Legislator Caracappa
34 Jason Smagin - Commissioner/Suffolk County Parks
35 Sarah Lansdale - Commissioner/Economic Development and Planning
36 Mikael Kerr - Economic Development and Planning
37 Ed Romaine - Supervisor/Town of Brookhaven
38 Desiree Benn - Coindre Hall Park Community
39 Lois Hayn - Coindre Hall Park Community
40 William Jakob - Montauk Surfcasters Association
41 Kate Fullam - Executive Director/East End Food Institute
42 Bikram Chadha - Director/PFM Asset Management
43 Stephen Searl - Executive Director/Sylvester Manor
44 Kathy Hallock
45 Mary Eisenstein
46 Catherine Kent
47 George Blume
48 Laura Blume
49 Daniel Karpen
50 All other interested parties
51

52 Minutes Taken By:

53 Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer
54

55 Minutes Transcribed By:

56 Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary

(*The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.*)

CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Monday morning meeting of the EPA Committee for February 27th, 2023. If we could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, and stay standing for a moment of silence, led by Presiding Officer McCaffrey.

Pledge of Allegiance

(Moment of Silence Observed)

CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:

Good morning, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK TASSONE:

Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:

Roll call.

(*Roll Called by Frank Tassone - Clerk*)

CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:

Present.

LEG. TROTТА:

(Not Present).

CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:

Legislator Trotta has an excused absence this morning.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Here.

LEG. FLEMING:

Present.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Here.

LEG. HAHN:

Here.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Here.

P.O. MCCAFFREY:

Here.

CLERK TASSONE:

Seven.

CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Any correspondence?

1 **CLERK TASSONE:**

2 All correspondence have been distributed accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

5 Thank you very much. We do have a pretty lengthy agenda today. We
6 have a full speaker page here, so we're going to start with public
7 speakers. We'll show some professional courtesy to the Supervisor
8 from Brookhaven who is here today. Mr. Romaine, are you here? You
9 have three minutes, sir.

10:09AM 10
11 **SUPERVISOR ROMAINE:**

12 Thanks for allowing me to speak about I.R. 1059, appropriating
13 funds in connection with preserving farmland for the future.
14 Although agriculture is an essential element of Long Island's
15 economy and cultural heritage, Long Island is also home to some of
16 the most threatened farmland in the United States. That's why I'm
17 supporting Introductory Resolution 1059 of 2023, which would
18 authorize the issuance of \$10 million in County serial bonds for
19 the preservation of farmland.

10:10AM 20
21 Currently, 560 farms in the County employ over 4600 people and
22 generate \$226 million in sales and help promote tourism. In 1974,
23 Suffolk County created the first in the nation Farmland
24 Preservation Development Rights, PDRs. Since it started, Suffolk
25 County has preserved over 11,000 acres and 9,000 acres in
26 partnerships with towns such as my own and villages and land
27 trusts. I.R. 1059 will provide the funding to acquire an
28 additional 10,000 acres.

10:10AM 29
30 Farmland, and I know this as Al does, you need -- there's a
31 critical mass of farmland you have to have that if you don't have,
32 farmland as an industry in this County will shrink and fade. I
33 don't want to see that. I could go on, I'll leave the statement
34 with the Clerk.

35
36 But the question I raise, while I am supporting this serial bond,
37 last fall the voters of this State voted \$400 billion for the
38 preservation of farmland, open space, sewers, water projects,
39 etcetera. Suffolk makes up eight percent of the State's budget --
10:11AM 40 of the State's population. If we got eight percent of that money
41 that would be \$32 billion. Do I think for one moment that we're
42 going to get that much? Absolutely not. We have to start raising
43 our voices because Suffolk for a long time in transportation, aid
44 and Medicaid aid, in aid for farmland preservation, for open space,
45 for sewers, has been shortchanged. I'm supporting this because I
46 know if we don't support some funding mechanism for farming we're
47 going to see farming shrink and shrink and shrink, and it's an
48 important point of our cultural heritage and our founding. Look at
49 the symbol of the Legislature behind you; it's the plow.

10:12AM 50
51 Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'll leave this statement with
52 the Clerk. Have a good day.

53
54 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

55 Thank you, Mr. Supervisor. Good to see you and thank you for your
56 advocacy. Thank you. Next up is Desiree Benn. Miss Benn, good

1 morning. How are you? Thank you for coming out. You have three
2 minutes, ma'am. Nice to see you.

3
4 **DESIREE BENN:**

5 Nice to see you. Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen of the
6 Legislature. Thank you for all the hard work you do here. It's
7 great to see you here today. I'd like to speak with regards to --
8 in reference to 1055-2023, though the previous speaker is a very
9 hard act to follow and I don't attempt to try to even match that,
10 it's amazing.

11
12 All projects usually begin with all stakeholders giving their input
13 and Mr. Nichols, prior to planning, in the case of Coindre Hall
14 this did not happen. Their advisory board was formed and comprises
15 primarily of the maritime and boating community and there are no
16 park goers on this board. So how do we include -- how do the park
17 goers include our ideas? We come to these meetings, we speak at
18 these meetings, every single meeting, that's how we have our goals
19 included and Resolution 1055-2023 demonstrates the fact that you
20 guys listen to us, so we're thankful. Thank you very much. The
21 gym of the -- the roof of the gymnasium is going to get some
22 funding, hopefully today, and that's great. Thank you for
23 listening.

24
25 You know, one thing I notice about this resolution is that the
26 environment is not included. Now, one of the things that's not
27 included that was mentioned that the seawall -- after reviewing the
28 permits for the seawall there's no PRB, permeable reactive barrier.
29 I was given the impression that there would be. That's a
30 biofiltration for nitrates. So perhaps we could have that added
31 in. I believe that was a conversation -- Legislator Fleming had
32 asked and we were told that was going to be in the piping, but I
33 believe that after speaking to an engineer they said that that's
34 not enough -- PRB in piping is not enough to filter the nitrogen
35 out. So could we include that perhaps in the future?

36
37 Also, an engineering of the upper main mansion is great, the gym
38 roof is being fixed, but what else basic things, you know, where
39 it's like we don't have the wheels on the bus. Like what in the
40 main mansion, what structural things in the main mansion need to be
41 done. I presented an exterior facade report and I'd like to
42 request an engineering report of the main mansion. Are there some
43 things that we're missing here that really need funding in the main
44 mansion?

45
46 Also, I'd like to request, and I have spoken to Commissioner
47 Smagin, who's been very helpful, in the environmental things like
48 deer fencing to protect the recovering wetlands in the lower
49 portion of Coindre Hall. It's been so degraded that it needs some
50 help because of extensive deer browsing.

51
52 Also, this might be a long shot but I'm going to go for it. You
53 know, how about starting a phase plan of putting Coindre Hall --
54 connecting it to sewers. It's a big property. It's not connected
55 to sewers. Can we start a 20-year plan to start that running
56 along?

1
2 So, you know, I really appreciate all of you listening. I
3 appreciate the barriers that we've all had to overcome and I see
4 the micro adjustments that are being made to this project to
5 include our input and that's -- and I want to thank you for all
6 your work that you do. Thank you very much.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

9 Thank you very much, Miss Benn.

10
11 **DESIREE BENN:**

12 I'd also like to invite you to the March first presentation at 7
13 p.m. at the Unitarian Church in Huntington. I sent you all a Zoom
14 link, I can send it to you again. It's the first ever ecological
15 presentation of Coindre Hall Park and it will be presented by
16 Ecologist David Jakim.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

19 Thank you very much. I'm going to put that on my calendar. Hold
20 on, we have a question for you. Legislator Krupski.

21
22 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

26 You're welcome.

27
28 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

29 So you mentioned the need for deer fencing down there and I haven't
10:16AM 30 heard that before and I haven't had that conversation with the
31 Commissioner, but if you do the traditional deer fencing that you
32 see out here, it's very effective because you can see through it
33 and so visually it's pretty compatible. It excludes the deer and
34 it allows for the passage of every other species of wildlife. I
35 mean, I've seen turtles go through it at the bottom. So you can
36 allow, you know, any kind of other -- other, you know, mammals,
37 wildlife, raccoons, possums, squirrels, cats, you name it, go right
38 through it. But it excludes deer only. So that's very -- that's
39 probably if you want to consider that at Coindre Hall, you know,
10:17AM 40 stay with that model.

41
42 **DESIREE BENN:**

43 Can you give me an address of a place where I can see that or maybe
44 I can contact your office after?

45
46 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

47 Yeah, we'll get that. Drive around here, you'll see it all over
48 the place around farm fields. But that's the -- people are putting
49 it around their backyards now to exclude the deer because visually
10:17AM 50 it's not -- it's not a solid wall. You can still see through it so
51 you don't lose that. You don't change the landscape that much.

52
53 **DESIREE BENN:**

54 Wonderful.

1 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
2 Okay. Thank you.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
5 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Thank you, Ms. Benn. Appreciate
6 it. Anyone else? Seeing none, Miss Hayne. Are you here, Miss
7 Hayne? Good morning. Thank you for taking the trip. Nice to see
8 you.

9
10 **LOIS HAYNE:**
11 Good morning.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
14 Go ahead, ma'am.

15
16 **LOIS HAYNE:**
17 Having read the Introductory Resolutions 1055 and 1065, I'd like to
18 make the following comments regarding the unclear path of the West
19 Neck Farms Project. First thing, it should be noted that the
10:18AM 20 Environmental Conservation Law Article 8, authorizing the
21 Legislature to approve the proposal, has stipulations that so far
22 have not been adhered to. Most specifically I mean the continual
23 reference to required environmental studies and SEQRA reviews that
24 have been systematically ignored. The proposal states that the
25 community is highly supportive of the restoration and maintenance
26 of this historic property.

27
28 I'm wondering what definition of restoration and maintenance is
29 being applied. Is destruction of 100 trees and the savaging of
10:18AM 30 terrain that has so far been carried out indicative of that
31 definition? What community is being referenced? So there are
32 2,200 signatures on a petition that supports the designation of the
33 lower portion of the park as a nature preserve. That plan has the
34 support of the Sierra Club, representing 7,000 environmentally
35 enlightened members. That's where the community support lies.
36 Where are the signatures of the special interest groups who
37 advocate for something else and what is that?

38
39 In the proposal it stated that the County has initiated a phased
10:19AM 40 project to restore the boathouse complex, currently condemned by
41 the way, and other areas of the park and that's confusing. People
42 have asked repeatedly to have access to and explanation of those
43 plans. The Advisory Board consistently indicates that there is no
44 actual plan. Residents have on numerous occasions requested to see
45 the projected total cost for the project and have been promised
46 them, but no such information has been forthcoming. Even one of
47 the Advisory Board members publicly decried moving forward with the
48 project in what he referred to as piecemeal style with no clear
49 picture of the ultimate process, expenses and results.

10:19AM 50
51 In the resolution references me to trespassing and unauthorized
52 activity. The boathouse is regularly vandalized and the property
53 is frequently trashed with litter that residents clean up because
54 the County does not have the resources to do so. It's suggested
55 that restoration of the park will result in reestablishing contact
56 with entities who will then use it which will help deter those

1 problems, and that is a very naive contention. Those entities are
2 not going to and should not be responsible to police the park,
3 especially not at night. No one seems to be taking into account
4 the realistic maintenance and security expenses that will be
5 incurred once the ambitious, costly projected is completed.
6 We do applaud your attention to the necessary repairs to the gym,
7 the mansion and the parking lot. That Coindre Hall Community Park
8 Association actually brought them to your attention. But we ask
9 that the approval of any funds having to do with unclear measures
10 for other aspects of the future of the park be delayed until such
11 time as a concrete, feasible and practical plan has be devised.

10:20AM

12
13 Lastly, I just want to bring up that lack of clarity seems to
14 plague every phase of the proposals presented to you today. The
15 rental property, for example. (Timer went off). That description
16 is very unclear and a price is not even indicated. Thank you.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

19 Thank you very much, Miss Hayne. Any questions? Seeing none,
20 thank you very much for your time this morning. Miss Gifford, are
21 you here? Good morning. Thank you for taking the trip out. We
22 appreciate it.

10:21AM

23
24 **DALE GIFFORD:**

25 It was a nice drive actually.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

28 That's what happens when you preserve farmland, it looks nice out
29 here, right.

30
31 **DALE GIFFORD:**

32 I used to come out here a lot.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

35 You have three minutes, ma'am. Thank you.

36
37 **MS. GIFFORD:**

38 Good morning. Introductory Resolution 1055 of 2023 is coming in
39 front of this committee today asking for more money for Coindre
40 Hall Park, this time for a further bond of \$600,000. In this bond,
41 amongst many various suggested allocations, there's a clear
42 description of some of that money being used to repair the roof of
43 the gym, which is part of the main mansion on top of the hill. Why
44 is this happening only now, almost two years after commencement of
45 this project? Why is mention of funds for fixing a parking lot
46 coming only now? We, the Coindre Hall Community Group, have been
47 coming before the County for a year and a half with photographic
48 and physical evidence of the desperate condition of the buildings
49 presently leased to and used by the public. We submitted a facade
50 report of the main building last year in an effort to stimulate an
51 engineering analysis and report. Frankly, a stroll around the
52 building and through the gym and classrooms could easily have
53 revealed the many problems and dangers posed to the public and a
54 part of the property that actually generates money and is heavily
55 used by the public.

10:21AM

10:22AM

1 It would appear that the idea of what to do with Coindre Hall Park
2 was launched without a close look at the nuts and bolts of what
3 that would actually entail. This entire venture still lacks
4 clarity and financial detail, particularly concerning the larger
5 picture of the future of the park in its entirety and what the
6 community, who actually goes there, wants within it.

7
8 We have presented data in the form of numbers, particularly over
9 2,200 people, a number that increases every day, have signed
10 petitions in approval of a nature preserve in the lower portion of
11 the park and disapproval of roads within its boundaries. This
12 Resolution, 1055, does not have high community support as is. The
13 Executive Committee of the Sierra Club and its 7,000 members do not
14 approve. Only with the designation of a Nature Preserve, thus
15 protecting the integrity of the freshwater wetlands ecosystem, will
16 this resolution gain widespread approval.

17
18 While we are really heartened by the recent flurry of work we have
19 observed around the classrooms and gym to repair the broken glass
20 and mildewed walls that we reported to you, thank you very much for
21 instigating that. We are very concerned that it took a group of
22 citizens to make that happen, and why issues plaguing the main
23 mansion are only now entering discussions surrounding money. They
24 should have been the very first things addressed by the County.

25
26 Before approval of yet another bond of a huge sum of money, some of
27 which might go towards micro pilings beneath the condemned building
28 in a flood zone that regularly floods, there must be a pause,
29 minimally language describing the projected costs of what at
30 present is still a rather nebulous project really must be produced.
31 Optimally, we would like to see protection of the freshwater
32 wetlands in the lower portion of the park included in any further
33 bond discussions. Thank you.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

36 Thank you very much, Miss Gifford. Any questions? Seeing none,
37 thank you very much for your time today. Kathy Hallock. Miss
38 Hallock, are you here? Good morning. How are you? Thanks for
39 coming out this morning, we appreciate it. You have three minutes,
40 ma'am.

41
42 **KATHY HALLOCK:**

43 I just want to address some of the fees with the camping, such as
44 the lottery. They have a lottery every year, okay, and at the end
45 of the lottery they notify you and tell you. Well, this year
46 they've added a fee. If you don't accept your lottery pick they've
47 added a \$70 fee saying you made a reservation, when you never made
48 a reservation. This happened to me. I sent an e-mail to everybody
49 in the County. Where are they coming up with these fees? When you
50 look it up, the fee structure, there's nothing here for lottery
51 non-accepting fee. I'm just looking to get answers. I don't know.

52
53 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

54 I'll speak to the Commissioner and have that conversation with him.
55 Just leave your -- actually, I have your e-mail address.

1 **KATHY HALLOCK:**

2 Yes.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

5 And I'll e-mail you back with any answers I get from the
6 Commissioner.

7
8 **KATHY HALLOCK:**

10:26AM

9 Also, if we can get any updated information on whatever happened to
10 the North Fork County Preserve. I mean, they purchased it in 2013,
11 they came up with a plan in 2017. It's 2023 now.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

10:26AM

14 Just for everybody's edification. The County was essentially
15 bankrupt, right, when COVID hit, so we're mulling through this
16 now. We have Federal funds that we've put away. We're in a lot
17 better shape than we've been in almost two decades. So, you know,
18 we're trying to get all these projects -- there's a lot of projects
19 to do. We have to make sure the funding is there, we have to make
20 sure our bills are paid, but we are getting to everything, but it's
21 going to take time. I don't want to overpromise and under deliver,
22 but, you know, things take time. We're working on them one at a
23 time.

24
25 **KATHY HALLOCK:**

26 Okay. Thank you.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

10:27AM

29 You're welcome. Thank you very much. Any questions? Seeing none,
30 thank you. Next up, Herb Strobel. Mr. Strobel. I'd say thanks
31 for coming out but this is a short ride for you today.

32
33 **HERB STROBEL:**

34 And I appreciate that.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

37 You're welcome.

38
39 **HERB STROBEL:**

10:27AM

40 So, first of all, thank you very much. And, Legislator Piccirillo,
41 you've just indicated that it is a short ride for me, and so I
42 appreciate the fact that the Legislature in their wisdom has
43 meetings out here occasionally, keeping in mind that about 200,000
44 people, more or less, live east of William Floyd Parkway. So that
45 is much appreciated.

10:27AM

46
47 First of all, I'm here as a resident obviously first of all, but
48 also as a Director for the Long Island Farm Bureau. Normally
49 there'd be a lot more farmers in the audience but they -- a bunch
50 of our board members are up in Albany speaking with our State
51 Legislators for the next couple of days.

52
53 I'm here to talk a little bit about 1059, which Supervisor Romaine
54 already outlined and detailed and I just -- I'm not going to -- he
55 went over a lot of things that I would have said anyway. But one
56 of my very first memories of coming to the Legislature was when I

1 was about nine years old. It was -- I think it was August of 1972,
2 where then County -- I'm sorry, John Klein was the County Exec.
3 There were about 150 farmers in the room and that was the kickoff
4 in essence of the Farmland Preservation Program. As Supervisor
5 Romaine indicated, we're coming up on 50 years.

6
7 A lot of progress has been made in those 50 years. Obviously
8 there's more to be done and I really hope that this Legislature
9 approves the bond funding for the ten million to push us towards
10 that finish line of getting that last 10,000 acres preserved. It's
11 a tremendous economic engine throughout the County for that matter.
12 I know there's been some talk about well, all the farmland is being
13 preserved out east, so to speak, keeping in mind that as a member
14 of the County Farmland Preservation Committee I can assure you that
15 we very carefully consider projects from all around the County.
16 Whether it's from Babylon through East Hampton, from Huntington
17 through the eastern part of Southold Town. So, you know, it's
18 certainly the majority of the farmland is currently located -- or
19 is located on the East End and that's where most of the projects
20 are coming from, but again, we look at projects throughout the
21 County.

22
23 And then also I just want to put a little plug in for Legislator
24 Krupski. I believe you're up for reappointment this morning for
25 the Soil and Water Conservation District, I.R. 1022.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

28 We'll see if we have the votes, Al.

29
30 **HERB STROBEL:**

31 I hope that passes. He obviously has a tremendous amount of
32 expertise to bring to that particular board. So thank you very
33 much again for coming out here to Riverhead. It is much
34 appreciated and I hope you find it within your powers to push 1059
35 on to the full Legislature. Thank you.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

38 Thank you, Mr. Strobel. Legislator Fleming has a question for you.
39 Legislator Fleming.

40
41 **LEG. FLEMING:**

42 Hi, Herb. Thank you for coming. Thank you for your leadership. I
43 had two questions -- well, one clarification. I've heard from --
44 we've heard from Supervisor Romaine in a number of contacts. He
45 keeps saying that there's a \$400 billion environmental bond that
46 was just passed. I just want to clarify. I believe it was four
47 billion, not 400 billion.

48
49 **HERB STROBEL:**

50 I'd have to take a look back. It was four point -- this is a
51 statewide bond act that was approved by State residents for 4.2
52 billion if memory serves correct. And out of that 4.2 billion I
53 believe somewhere in the neighborhood of about 350 million hasn't
54 been allocated but is planned for open space and farmland
55 preservation across the State. Keeping in mind that -- and as
56 Supervisor Romaine did indicate, Long Island deserves it fair

1 share, there's no doubt about that. One of the issues, however,
2 down here is the obviously tremendously high land prices compared
3 to the rest of the State. Whereas, just to give you folks some
4 context, whereas let's say Upstate farmland, if you bought farmland
5 Upstate it would be anywhere from let's say, oh, three to \$10,000
6 per acre; down here, bare minimum of \$100,000 per acre.

7
8 That all being said, we obviously deserve our fair share, but I
9 would also say that the individual towns, including Brookhaven
10 where I'm located, have partnered with the County. That means
11 County funds go further. I think that's a great thing and so we do
12 certainly appreciate the support on 1059.

13
14 **LEG. FLEMING:**

15 Thank you and thank you for clarifying the record on that. Second,
16 and you're very thorough. The second question I have, having
17 served on the Southampton Town Board for many years, we used to
18 compare prices to the North Fork and the North Fork was far less
19 expensive than the South Fork, but now the North Fork is also
20 extraordinarily expensive. And so I think one of the reasons why
21 we've been so successful is we've seen, for instance, the five East
22 End towns pass legislation where folks tax themselves on the
23 Peconic tax, the two percent transfer, now higher than that,
24 transfer tax on land transfers, property -- real property
25 transfers. And that's one of the reasons why we're in such good
26 shape. Brookhaven doesn't have that, but there are little bits and
27 pieces of open space and farmland that we do try to prioritize.

28
29 I just wondered, does Long Island Farm Bureau have a priority list
30 like, you know, many of the agencies have priority lists in terms
31 of acquisitions. Do you have a list of western agricultural land
32 that's still available where we might have willing sellers? I know
33 it's few and far between, but I think it might be helpful to us if
34 you had something like that to guide our deliberations to make sure
35 the western part, we save what's left sort of thing.

36
37 **HERB STROBEL:**

38 So to answer your question directly, the Farm Bureau itself does
39 not have a priority list. We're, you know, for the last 50 years
40 it's a purely voluntary program, so if a farmland owner wants to
41 come to the County, or to an individual town for that matter, and
42 offer up their development rights they're certainly encouraged to
43 do that, but it's up to them. So we don't maintain a priority
44 list.

45
46 That being said, Legislator, if your office contacted Rob Carpenter
47 at Farm Bureau or myself we'd be happy to try to compile a list of
48 unpreserved properties. I will say Director Lansdale --
49 Commissioner Lansdale's office a number of years ago put together a
50 very comprehensive agricultural protection plan where they
51 inventoried farmland across the County including, again, from
52 Babylon all the way out to Montauk and Orient, and so that's a
53 tremendous resource as well. But we'd be happy to have those
54 follow up discussions with you or anybody else around the horseshoe
55 here who so desires.

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 Yeah, I think it would be valuable even with GIS just to identify
3 open space, and I know then Director Lansdale was part of that
4 effort, maybe led that effort. She's now the Commissioner of
5 Economic Development. So I would welcome the opportunity to try to
6 target western parcels and if you could work with us I think that
7 would be great.

8
9 **HERB STROBEL:**

10 Absolutely. We'd be happy to.

11
12 **LEG. FLEMING:**

13 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

16 Thank you, Legislator Fleming, appreciate that. Any other
17 questions? Seeing none, next is Mary Eisenstein. Miss Eisenstein,
18 good morning. You have three minutes, ma'am.

19
20 **MARY EISENSTEIN:**

21 Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am here as an individual who
22 lives in Mattituck to support I.R. 1059, and the most important
23 word there is the future. So I am asking you to specifically today
24 purchase the farmland on the East End and here are the reasons why.

25
26 As we are looking and facing climate disruptions we need to
27 preserve as much farmland as possible to be self-reliant and grow
28 our own food for the benefit of the people of Suffolk County. Our
29 soils are considered by some as miracle soil and if that is paved
30 over it is gone for good. Also, the farms of the East End are an
31 economic engine for the East End as well as Suffolk County.

32
33 As someone who has grown up in Suffolk County, I have witnessed
34 farms being sold. The most visible one for me was the pumpkin farm
35 off of Exit 49 of the Long Island Expressway. And instead of the
36 farmland, what is there today is the Canon Headquarters. And,
37 certainly, when you'd be driving on the Long Island Expressway and
38 you would see the seasons changing and looking at that farmland, it
39 did something for us. And that's what open space and farmland does
40 for us as individual citizens, but it is also absolutely critical
41 that we understand how to protect that farmland for the future. So
42 I thank you all so very, very much for considering it and please
43 take that money for the East End farms. Thank you.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

46 Thank you very much for your advocacy today. Thank you. Any
47 questions? Seeing none, thank you. Miss Kent? Good morning.

48
49 **CATHERINE KENT:**

50 Good morning. I'm Catherine Kent from the Hamlet of Baiting Hollow
51 in the Township of Riverhead. I grew up off of historic Sound
52 Avenue on my family property, which is nestled between local farms.
53 I'm here this morning to speak in support of Resolution 1059,
54 appropriating funds in connection with preserving farmland for the
55 future. Thank you for understanding as leaders how vitally
56 important it is to preserve farmland properties so that they can

1 continue to be used for agricultural uses rather than developed for
2 commercial and residential use. Such measures not only protect our
3 quality of life, but they allow our farm families to retain their
4 farms and continue their life's work.

5
6 On the East End in particular it is the beautiful vistas of
7 surrounding farm fields that drew us to this area and that keeps us
8 here, but aesthetic beauty is not the only benefit of preserving
9 agricultural lands. The local agricultural industry boosts
10 economic growth by providing jobs, generating tourism dollars as
11 well as supporting other local businesses and services. And as
12 consumers we reap the great benefits of their wonderful produce. I
13 urge you to continue the proud agricultural heritage of our region
14 by moving forward and supporting Resolution 1059. Thank you for
15 your time this morning.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

18 Thank you very much, Ms. Kent. Any questions? Seeing none, thank
19 you very much for your time. Next up, George Blume. Mr. Blume.
20 Good morning. Thank you, sir.

21
22 **GEORGE BLUME:**

23 Good morning.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

26 You have three minutes.

27
28 **GEORGE BLUME:**

29 Thank you very much. I didn't really come to speak, I came to
30 observe. But one thing that occurs to me, and maybe a little
31 different perspective on all of this, is as I drive around Long
32 Island, and many times in Suffolk County, I see the ravages and the
33 derelict buildings and the empty strip malls and the result of very
34 quick, fast development that doesn't really have any regard for the
35 future. It doesn't take into consideration that there's a longer
36 haul to everything we're doing. There's a bigger consequence.
37 Business moves fast, development moves fast. They're a well-oiled
38 machine and they are very well equipped with all types of people.

39
40 We need to move fast. We need to move faster. We need to preserve
41 our land because in the long-term what's happening is our land and
42 our areas are being devastated. And as you drive around Long
43 Island, you can see the results of it already. And there's no
44 coming back from that, so it's very important that what we have we
45 get a grip on and keep for as long as we possibly can and we fight
46 against any momentum to take it away. Thank you.

47
48 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

49 Thank you very much. Any questions? Seeing none, thank you, sir.
50 Laura Blume. Good morning. You have three minutes, ma'am. Thank
51 you.

52
53 **LAURA BLUME:**

54 I probably won't need all three. I'm just here to support the I.R.
55 1059. I am a resident of Southold. My husband just spoke. I
56 think he put it well as did the earlier speakers and I just want to

1 go on record as also supporting their ideas. Thank you.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

4 Thank you very much. Appreciate your time today. Thank you. Mr.
5 Karpen. There you are. Good morning. I didn't know we were going
6 to get the variety show today.

7
8 **DANIEL KARPEN:**

9 Good morning. My name is Daniel Karpen. I'm a licensed
10 professional engineer. I reside at 3 Harbor Hill Drive,
11 Huntington, N.Y. Welcome to the Daniel Karpen Show direct from
12 the Suffolk County Legislature.

13
14 My remarks today are simply off -- simply I don't have a formal
15 speech, but someone did mention North Fork Preserve. I was at the
16 North Fork Preserve three years ago on a walk with the North Shore
17 Land Alliance led by Eric Lamont. Eric Lamont is one of Long
18 Island's best naturalists. This north portion of the North Fork
19 Preserve has a number of small vernal ponds that tend to dry up,
20 but around these ponds, to my surprise, is old growth Black Tupelo
21 trees, some of which may be 300 to 600 years old. This is a gem of
22 a nature preserve, particularly in the north end, but the Suffolk
23 County Parks Department in conjunction with a destructive Public
24 Works Department destroyed part of the forests on the north end of
25 the preserve. Eric Lamont pointed out the destruction that was
26 done and we've got to be very, very careful managing these nature
27 preserves, because my observations of what the Suffolk County Parks
28 Department has been doing in the last several years is not very
29 good. And I do mention that these preserves need to be fully
30 understood what they are.

31
32 And what the Suffolk County Parks Department did down in Browns
33 River was simply allow nine acres of parkland to be destroyed for a
34 dredging spoils site illegally in violation of State Environmental
35 Quality Review Act. And it seems as though the Suffolk County
36 Parks Department doesn't care about the State Environmental Quality
37 Review Act and its implications. And the fact of the matter is
38 that there's too much illegal segmentation being done. For Coindre
39 Hall there should be a generic EIS that will spell out what the
40 future of this park will be, including all the maintenance work to
41 be done. Thank you. Any questions from any Legislators?

42
43 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

44 Thank you, sir. Any questions? Seeing none, thank you, sir.
45 William Jakob. Good morning. Thank you for coming, sir.

46
47 **WILLIAM JAKOB:**

48 Thank you. I am representing the Montauk Surfcasters Association.
49 Last year or two years prior to that we were working on a --
50 camping on outer beach on Cedar Point Park, County Park, with Kara,
51 Patricia Fleming. Al I spoke to and I think I spoke to you, Tony.
52 But anyway, I'm trying to get this back on track. We had COVID,
53 elections coming into place. We did all the legwork, we met all
54 their objections except for one, which was the Park Superintendent,
55 and I just hope to get that back on track. I look forward to
56 speaking with you and everybody out in the district. We also have

1 approval from that South Shore area, the Trustees. We were at
2 those Trustees meetings, so.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
5 Great work.

6
7 **WILLIAM JAKOB:**
8 Thank you.

9
10:45AM 10 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
11 Great job. Thank you, sir. I don't see anyone else on the list.
12 Do we have anyone else in the audience that would like to address
13 the committee? Yes, ma'am. Come on up. Just fill out a card with
14 the Clerk when you're finished. Just state your name for the
15 record. Thank you. You're welcome. Good morning.

16
17 **KATE FULLAM:**
18 Good morning.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
21 You have three minutes.

22
23 **KATE FULLAM:**
24 I'm Kate Fullam. I'm the Executive Director for East End Food
25 Institute, an emerging food hub just down the road here in
26 Riverhead and just wanted to support the I.R. 1059 for preservation
27 of farmland, you know, not only for the reasons that others have
28 shared here, but also that during the pandemic our organization saw
29 quadrupling of our budget and demand for our services to supply
10:45AM 30 Long Island with food. That's the reason that we're now coming
31 forward to build out a food hub infrastructure for aggregation,
32 processing and distribution of local foods. And considering that
33 Long Island is geographically isolated, we really need to preserve
34 the lands that we have to not only maintain our economy, our
35 environment, equitable access to local food, but resiliency in
36 times of emergency. So I ask for your support of I.R. 1059 and
37 appreciate your time today. Thanks.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
10:46AM 40 Thank you very much for your advocacy. We appreciate it. Any
41 questions? Thank you, ma'am. Would anyone else like to address
42 the committee? Seeing none, thank you very much, folks, for your
43 time today.

44
45 We do have an **Appointment Resolution**. We'll start there first.
46 Appointment Resolution *I.R. 1022 - Reappointing Albert Krupski as a*
47 *member of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District*
48 *(Presiding Officer McCaffrey).*

49
10:46AM 50 I'll make that motion. Second by Legislator Fleming. Anyone on
51 the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
52 Abstentions?

53
54 **CLERK TASSONE:**
55 Seven.

1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

2 1022 is approved. *(Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
3 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote).* Congratulations,
4 Legislator Krupski.

5
6 **LEG. FLEMING:**

7 Mr. Chair, may I just -- I didn't jump in quick enough. Can I just
8 --

9
10 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

11 Legislator Fleming.

12
13 **LEG. FLEMING:**

14 -- publicly thank Legislator Krupski for doing this. It's a lot of
15 work, it's very important, and he's been there all the time for it.
16 So thank you, Al.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

19 Thank you, Legislator Fleming. Legislator Krupski.

20
21 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

22 On a different topic, not on this, thank you. Thank you for your
23 support for that resolution. I just want to thank Chairman
24 Piccirillo, I want to thank Presiding Officer McCaffrey. You can
25 see having committees out here really -- it's really welcomed by
26 the community. You can see there's one big issue today with the
27 farmland bill, but there's other issues that people can come and
28 engage with their government, and it's really important. So I want
29 to thank you for making this effort. It's been a few years, it's
30 understandable, but I think you deserve credit for making this
31 effort, for making this happen. I know it takes work to get
32 everybody out here and it's a little more disruptive, you know,
33 mechanically within the government, but, you know, we represent
34 everyone and it's welcome, so thanks.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

37 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. I heard you were buying lunch
38 today, that's why I came out here.

39
40 **P.O. MCCAFFREY:**

41 If I may, Mr. Chair. I just want to say -- I have to say, it's a
42 nice change of pace, you know, to come out here. As you say, it's
43 a little disruptive in terms of our normal way we do business, we
44 have to move out and everything else, but I think it, as you said
45 before, it's important that we make sure we represent this whole
46 County, as it is a very big County, so we're happy to be here.

47
48 **LEG. FLEMING:**

49 May I also mention that even if we don't hear from everybody in
50 public, you know, in public portion, there are folks here for
51 different things on the agenda that are happy to be here in person
52 and listen to the deliberations and weigh in if they have to. They
53 might not, but there are folks here who are following the agenda,
54 so thank you on their behalf as well.

1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

2 Thank you, Legislator Fleming. Okay. We have a presentation this
3 morning by Bikram Chadha, Director of Multi-Asset Class Management,
4 to give a presentation on the Trust Fund's performance of the
5 Vanderbilt Museum Endowment. You can sit right at the table. Nice
6 to see you again. It's our yearly soiree here. Good morning.
7 Nice to see you. Just state your name for the record and you can
8 go right into your presentation. I just don't know if we're going
9 to have access to a PowerPoint.

10
11 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

12 And, Legislator Piccirillo, just a time check.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

15 Take your time. Do what you got to do.

16
17 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

18 Okay.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

21 That's only for you.

22
23 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

24 Fair enough. All right. Well, good morning to the Legislature.
25 Thank you for having me today. I appreciate the time on the
26 agenda. My name is Bikram Chadha. I'm a Director at PFM Asset
27 Management. We serve as investment advisor on behalf of the
28 Vanderbilt University -- Vanderbilt Museum Endowment. Today I just
29 want to provide an update on the portfolio as of the end of the
30 year 2022. I'll also touch on where markets have moved thus far
31 into 2023. Taking a look at the markets overall -- I want to make
32 sure folks can see this. Better?

33
34 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

35 Yeah, I can make it out now.

36
37 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

38 Okay. Well, the theme for last year, when we take a look at
39 markets as a whole, domestic markets, international markets,
40 volatility was present. We experienced historic sell-off last year
41 across capital markets broadly as a result of the Fed tightening
42 and raising interest rates trying to abate inflation and other
43 headwinds that they were faced with. And you couple that with
44 geopolitical risks that ensued overseas between Russia and Ukraine
45 and risks related to recession in Europe, we ended up seeing in
46 domestic markets down roughly 19% for the year. International
47 markets were down roughly 16% for the year, fixed income markets
48 down roughly 13%.

49
50 Thematically, too, what we saw last year was diversification break
51 down. You know, the whole idea of diversification is to invest in
52 equities when equities are doing well. Typically fixed income
53 doesn't do as well, but when equities sell-off and the environment
54 is risk-off, you typically will see fixed income perform well. And
55 in a year like last year we saw all of that break down. And
56 outside of really owning commodities and cash there was really no

1 place to hide and that was reflected in the portfolio as well. And
2 even when you think about cash, net of inflation is still negative
3 real return for the year.

4
5 So when we take a look at the portfolio, so overall portfolio
6 assets ended the year at \$13.877 million, certainly off their high
7 when I met with the committee last year where values of the
8 endowment were ahead of \$17 million. You can see for 2022 returns
9 were down about 16%, just over 16%.

10:52AM

10 We did trail the benchmark slightly as well. So at PFM, you know,
11 we do two things. We try to tactically allocate into different
12 areas of the market to take advantage of market upswings when they
13 present themselves, but also to protect on the downside as markets
14 sell-off. We had accomplished that in 2020. In 2021 we
15 outperformed meaningfully. Last year, given the breadth of the
16 sell-off and just the mere fact that there was no place to hide,
17 our allocation calls were roughly neutral, but some of the managers
18 within the portfolio underperformed their benchmark, which is the
19 reason for the underperformance overall. But I think importantly
20 when we think about the endowment, these are long-term assets.
21 These are being invested into perpetuity to support the museum.
22 And if we take a look at the two-year return, three year, five year
23 and since inception, since my firm has had the opportunity to
24 partner with the County, the return since inception has been 6 1/2%
25 on an annualized basis if we factor in even last year's return, and
26 that is ahead of the market benchmark of 5.86%.

10:53AM

27
28
29 The silver lining in all of this is that with the repricing of the
30 markets last year and the fact that fixed income now is yielding
31 income with interest rates finally up, a 50/50 portfolio, which is
32 the strategy for this endowment portfolio over the next five years,
33 is expected to yield stronger returns than where we were this time
34 last year. And so the silver lining in all of this is that the
35 hope is projecting forward that the endowment fund will be able to
36 support itself with regard to distributions into the enterprise
37 fund and it's mission to support the museum as a whole.

10:53AM

38
39 And I just want to provide a summary here of where we are by way of
40 allocation. So last year our positioning, we looked to try to be
41 as defensive as we could be. You can see that we held about an 8%,
42 7.7% allocation to cash by the end of the year. We were
43 underweight fixed income and we were roughly at target for
44 equities. That cash position we actually have redeployed into the
45 market this year given where valuations are and given the fact that
46 the fourth quarter of last year markets were performing well. The
47 risk for recession and some further guidance in the market as to
48 where the Fed is going to be going with regard to rates reached
49 some clarity.

10:54AM

50
51 And so where we are today, roughly, with regard to allocation is
52 domestic and international equity we're roughly at target. Fixed
53 income we're slightly underweight at about 47% versus a target of
54 50%, and we're holding on to about 2 1/2% in cash. We do expect to
55 maintain that in the sideline.

10:54AM

1 And I'll close, last remark just with an updated balance where the
2 endowment fund is as of last Friday. So balance is \$14,318,274, so
3 up roughly 3.8% into this year. It was up roughly 5.8% last
4 quarter. So up roughly, I'm saying roughly a lot, but all
5 estimates, but about 8 1/2% or so when we think about where they
6 were at the end of September of last year and where they are today.

7
8 And then the last page here, and I won't go through this, but I'll
9 close, just a summary of the steps that we took during last year to
10 try to protect capital, on the downside mitigate some of the
11 volatility as we all dealt with on certain markets. So with that,
12 I will close my remarks and open it up to the Legislature committee
13 for any questions you may have.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

16 Thank you, Mr. Chadha, sure. I'll recognize Legislator Krupski.

17
18 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

19 Thank you, Chairman Piccirillo. So I know I'm just an armchair
20 quarterback here, but if you see these or do you see, and it's kind
21 of a policy question for the Vanderbilt Board and for the
22 Legislature, if you see more economic headwinds in the market
23 related to things that are outside of your control certainly, would
24 you advise for taking more money out of the market to fix things to
25 use things at the museum, you know, capital projects based on,
26 based on, you know, current conditions there. So in other words,
27 kind of accelerate the programs at the museum with money that will
28 be spent in today's dollars as opposed to, you know, inflationary
29 dollars of tomorrow and risking not making more than that, keeping
30 up with inflation in the market.

31
32 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

33 Yeah, that's a good question. So when we think about this
34 portfolio and deploying assets -- so the question, and I just want
35 to make sure I captured the essence of it, is using capital within
36 the fund today to benefit the museum for then its own economic
37 growth as opposed to keeping it in the portfolio. So my thought
38 there would be that when we're taking a look at the portfolio
39 today, the purpose of these assets is to support the capital needs
40 for the museum, not just now, but 50 years from now and a hundred
41 years from now. And so we need to be mindful with -- you want to
42 -- you want to use as much capital as you prudently can, but we do
43 also want to ensure that we allow for growth within the portfolio,
44 because as you have mentioned, when we think ten years from now,
45 inflation is going to have an effect and take away purchasing
46 power.

47
48 So when we think about the portfolio today, and this is part of the
49 modeling that we go through with Lance and Laura, is looking at
50 what our expectations are for returns. And looking at the
51 portfolio 50/50, you know, we project right now low 5% return on an
52 annualized basis over the next five years. And so we would say
53 okay, well, if our inflation expectation of the long-term is 2
54 1/2%, you can absolutely take 2 to 2 1/2% out of the portfolio and
55 use that toward capital improvements and allow for growth over the
56 long-term.

1 Now, when you start to get into greater percentages than that
2 consistently -- I know last year, you know, there were some funds
3 taken out, but if you get into that consistently you'll start to
4 draw onto the corpus over the long-term and, you know, there's a
5 requirement there not to pierce that \$8.2 million mark. Longwinded
6 response.

7
8 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

9 No, thank you. No, it's complicated but you're looking at a
10 long-term commitment for maintaining that facility. So thank you.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

13 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Legislator Fleming.

14
15 **LEG. FLEMING:**

16 Thank you. Good afternoon -- or good morning. Thank you for being
17 here and for doing your good work in difficult times as well as
18 good times. You pretty much answered the question. You know, in
19 January of '21 the County began requiring a 2% distribution from
20 the endowment into the enterprise fund. Last year we started
21 dealing with some capital concerns that were very significant, the
22 planetarium roof, the facade falling, you know, literally
23 crumbling. So the question just being with those concerns in mind,
24 are you, first of all, confident that that requirement of now the
25 2% contribution from the trust is prudent. Is that a fair
26 statement?

27
28 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

29 Yes, Legislator Fleming, that would be a fair statement. So the
30 way that we've structured the portfolio with a 50% allocation to
31 equities, 50% allocation to fixed income, over the next five years
32 we do expect that a 2% draw plus factoring in inflation, long-term
33 inflation, not necessarily that of today, that you're able to
34 achieve that goal and that mandate.

35
36 **LEG. FLEMING:**

37 And would you -- would you say that the 2% is a fair number to
38 require, you know, when we're balancing the strain on the County
39 capital funds, you know, that are presented by this very old
40 structure and structures and the problems that it has. Obviously
41 considering strain on the County budget --

42
43 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

44 Sure.

45
46 **LEG. FLEMING:**

47 -- it would always be helpful to be able to pull more from the
48 trust if that's possible, to build that enterprise fund. Just
49 wondering what your thoughts are on that.

50
51 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

52 Yeah. So if there is a desire to draw greater than a 2% draw each
53 year from the endowment fund but continue to maintain the goal of
54 growing the endowment with inflation, over time we would have to
55 consider dialing up the risk as far as its allocation. You know,
56 when you think about return equities are your return engine. Fixed

1 income provides income. Fifty-fifty right now for a long-term
2 endowment is a fairly conservative allocation, but it worked
3 historically because the hotel/motel tax helped the museum and
4 draws from the portfolio were minimal. But if there's now a
5 discussion around obviously 2%, and that could be supported with
6 50/50, but if you were to come to me next year or the year after
7 and say, you know, Bikram, we'd like to raise that to 3 1/2% or 4%
8 or 4 1/2%, that's possible over the long-term because capital
9 markets, if you look at balanced portfolios, whether 60/40, 70/30,
10 80/20, you can achieve 6, 7, 7 1/2% returns depending on your
11 allocation. The question, though, is does the Legislature want to
12 take more risk with the funds in order to achieve that higher
13 return, in order to also allow for a greater percentage spend from
14 the portfolio. So it is a strategic conversation. Yes, it can
15 happen, but it can't happen at 50/50.

11:02AM

16
17 **LEG. FLEMING:**

18 But it sounds like after last year's results this might not be the
19 best time to increase risk or am I wrong about that. And the
20 reason why I ask the question is we are being asked to consider
21 raising taxes on small hotels and motels, particularly on the East
22 End of Long Island, in order to support all kinds of stuff that's
23 happening, whether it's a convention center or continued support
24 for Vanderbilt. And so the question I have is as you are so
25 professionally guiding this endowment, is it possible to take some
26 of the pressure off these small businesses by not requiring quite
27 as much money getting sucked out of them and being put into the
28 planetarium at the Vanderbilt.

11:03AM

29
30 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

31 So we would actually suggest the opposite. With what happened last
32 year, we saw equity markets reprice and valuations come down to
33 historical averages. And it's actually because of that, coupled
34 with the fact that fixed income is now yielding income, that we're
35 expecting a greater return out of capital markets than we were this
36 time last year. Last year valuations, you know, in the large-cap
37 space and mid-cap space, were at 20, 22, 25 times future earnings.
38 Valuations now are at 16 times, and so any long-term prudent
39 investor will say why wouldn't I want to buy a deal. And so we're
40 starting to see, and part of what we're seeing this year in the
41 market so far is a result of investors recognizing value in the
42 marketplace.

11:03AM

11:04AM

43
44 So long-term, when we look out, you know, 25, 30 years, our
45 expectations for a 50/50 portfolio, 60/40, 70/30 are roughly the
46 same, because over the long-term you have economic cycles, ups and
47 downs. And so when we take a look at those numbers they haven't
48 changed much as compared to last year, but our expectations for the
49 next five years have changed meaningfully. And, actually, the more
50 risk you take, the greater return you're going to earn, and when
51 you compare those numbers today versus last year, they're higher.

11:04AM

52
53 So considering more risk now is something that you actually might
54 get something for as opposed to buying markets when they were
55 topped out. But when I think about a 2% draw, a 3% draw, 4% draw,
56 once again, in the context of this portfolio, given its long-term

1 nature and the fact that the hope and goal is that Vanderbilt
2 Museum goes nowhere, is that we want to make those decisions for
3 the long-term. And so while the next five years our numbers are
4 saying one thing, any decision I would encourage the Legislature to
5 look at a longer-term horizon. And we would be happy to run those
6 numbers and scenarios, if it is a conversation, just to allow for
7 more informed discussions.

8
9 **LEG. FLEMING:**

11:05AM 10 Well, I appreciate that. And with the goal, of course, being to
11 maintain this magnificent part of Suffolk County history, it sounds
12 to me as though a conversation about maybe increasing the
13 requirement might make sense at this point.

14
15 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

16 Yep, as long as it is within the context of the return that can be
17 earned with the portfolio. If, you know, we start to go higher
18 than that then a discussion has to be had on well, do you want to
19 add risk to the portfolio or not and what that means. So it's a --
11:06AM 20 it would require a comprehensive conversation just to ensure,
21 right, all sides are considered, but that would -- it's possible.

22
23 **LEG. FLEMING:**

24 Great. Well, I will follow up offline. Thank you very much.
25 Appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

28 Thank you, Legislator Fleming. The Chair recognizes the Presiding
29 Officer.

30
31 **P.O. MCCAFFREY:**

32 Thank you. Hi, how are you?

33
34 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

35 Doing well. How are you?

36
37 **P.O. MCCAFFREY:**

38 Good, good. I sit through these multiple times a year, as you
39 know. Just going back to I think what you had stated properly was
11:06AM 40 that the mission that we've given to you is that we want be a
41 long-term strategic investor, not a market timer and steady Eddie.
42 I mean, since 2009 I think the returns have been pretty good in the
43 market, in the equity market, but over time I think, you know,
44 water finds its own level and I think this year it did, suprisingly
45 in that there was no place to hide in fixed income as well as
46 equities. But I sleep better at night knowing that we're looking
47 at a lower return at a 50/50 kind of allocation, you know, because
48 we can't afford to lose that. And it appears as though we're going
49 to be having some more money going to the Vanderbilt in terms of
11:07AM 50 the hotel/motel tax, if that is ultimately approved, that we're
51 going to be able to further inject more capital in there outside of
52 these investments. So I think we're in a good place where we are
53 and I think you feel better about where we are in terms of the
54 needs of the Vanderbilt.

1 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**
2 I would agree with that, yep.

3
4 **P.O. MCCAFFREY:**
5 Very good, thank you.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
8 Thank you very much. Any other questions? I just have a couple.
9 So I remember our conversation a year ago and it was pretty
10 extensive, and a lot of what we had talked about actually played
11 out in the market. So, you know, when you saw things going
12 sideways as far as the Fed, the interest rates, real estate kind of
13 crescendoed and then came back down. You know, where was your head
14 at that point? I know because you said you had gone into some real
15 estate. Did you pull out of that and go into something else or did
16 you kind of try to wait out the storm.

11:08AM

17
18 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**
19 So, Legislator Piccirillo, we did hold onto that real estate for a
20 period of time. We did actually move out of that real estate later
21 in the year. I'm just going back to the portfolio. So under the
22 international equity allocation there was that allocation real
23 estate that we held but we did -- we did move out of it. At that
24 time, too, we were also holding onto commodities, listed
25 commodities, to hedge for rising inflation and we've also moved out
26 of that allocation as well. Those, I think, were the two tactical
27 allocations that we had at the time to try to take some pressure
28 off the portfolio based on what was happening in the markets based
29 on dynamics.

11:08AM

30
31 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
32 And what commodities were you holding?

33
34 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**
35 So the commodities we were holding, listed commodities though two
36 fund managers, Pimco and Invesco. They were well diversified
37 strategies invested in agriculture, precious metals, energy.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
40 Gold? You didn't take my suggestion I guess.

11:09AM

41
42 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**
43 Well, maybe -- I guess precious metals, somewhere it was there.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
46 I'm a gold bug. I try, I can't help myself.

47
48 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**
49 But they were well diversified and they served their purpose,
50 actually, really well. And given that inflation peaked sometime
51 midsummer, you know, those commodity allocations serve well when
52 inflation is rising, but once it peaks and starts to fall you want
53 to move out, so.

11:09AM

54
55 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
56 Absolutely. And now where do you see yourself as far as the next

1 two years with inflation? I mean, the Feds just raised rates
2 again.

3
4 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**
5 Yep.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
8 It seems like they're going to continue on this trend for the
9 foreseeable future.

11:09AM 10

11 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**
12 Yeah, it's been interesting to try to, you know, portend what the
13 market's going to lead to. And, you know, when we take a look at
14 what happened this year, there was a lot of clarity that perhaps
15 the Fed was at the later innings of this whole rate hike cycle to
16 keep rates higher for longer, but not continue to raise them at the
17 clip they had been. Obviously, with the inflation number that came
18 in last week and the jobs report that came in a couple of weeks
19 prior to that, markets are questioning it a little bit more, you
20 know, does the Fed need to continue to raise rates into January as
21 well.

11:10AM

22
23 So where we are right now, we had talked about strategic targets,
24 but we're roughly neutral. So I have on the page here we're
25 reviewing asset classes. And, you know, where historically we've
26 been risk on and overweight equities and that's been helpful for
27 the museum, and in 2020 and 2022 we were defensive underweight
28 equities and fixed income in overweight cash, right now we're
29 roughly at a neutral stance. Because, once again, we recognize the
30 uncertainties that exist and we know that they're not going
31 anywhere. But at the same time, you know, we also believe that
32 investors in some ways should be rational and recognize the value
33 of the market and that's what we're starting to see a little bit
34 now. It's been a bit sideways over the last couple of weeks but
35 over the long-term we're expecting this year to play out a little
36 bit better than last.

11:10AM

37
38 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
39 Yeah, I feel like retail investors have kind of come back faster
40 than I thought they were going to come back.

41
42 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**
43 Yeah, absolutely.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
46 And I don't know where they're getting the cash but I guess it's
47 out there.

48
49 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**
50 You know, I guess it's just a sideline, the sideline money and --
51 yeah.

11:11AM

52
53 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
54 Very shocking to me. Thank you for your work. We appreciate it.
55 Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you so much.

1 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

2 Thank you.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

5 We appreciate your time today.

6

7 **BIKRAM CHADHA:**

8 Appreciate the time.

9

10 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

11 All right, folks, we're going to go into our agenda. We have two
12 Tabled Resolutions. Tabled Resolution *I.R. 1731-22 - Authorizing*
13 *appraisal of land under the Suffolk County Drinking Water*
14 *Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007, Sylvester*
15 *Manor Educational Farm, Inc. - Town of Shelter Island (SCTM Nos.*
16 *0700-007.00-07.00-016.000 and 0700-008.00-01.00-005.010*
17 *p/o) (Fleming).*

18

19 **LEG. FLEMING:**

11:12AM 20 Motion to approve.

21

22 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

23 Motion to approve by Legislator Fleming.

24

25 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

26 Second.

27

28 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

29 Second by Legislator Krupski. Anyone on the motion? Legislator
30 Fleming.

31

32 **LEG. FLEMING:**

33 I just note that the Executive Director of Sylvester Manor is here
34 if anybody has any questions. Thank Legislator Trotta for coming
35 on the tour and Legislator Krupski and I hope you'll support it.
36 It's an exciting opportunity to work with historic educational
37 institution. Also, we were just talking about Vanderbilt.
38 Sylvester Manor is a very important educational institution that
39 reflects centuries of history here in Suffolk County and we're
11:12AM 40 working with them. And I want to thank Mikael Kerr in the Real
41 Estate for working so hard on this really thoughtful and effective
42 transfer of rights in order to make sure that the goals of the
43 Shelter Island Educational Farm are met. So, thank you.

44

45 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

46 Thank you, Legislator Fleming. Anyone else on the motion? Seeing
47 none, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed?
48 Abstentions?

49

50 **CLERK TASSONE:**

51 Seven.

52

53 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

54 1731 is approved. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
55 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote).*

56

1 Tabled Resolution *I.R. 1921-22 - Authorizing the appraisal of land*
2 *under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as*
3 *amended by Local Law No. 24-2007, 2384 Belmont Ave., LLC property -*
4 *Town of Brookhaven (SCTM Nos. 0200-159.00-02.00-008.002 and*
5 *0200-159.00-02.00-008.003) (Hahn).*

6
7 Motion by Legislator Hahn -- motion to approve, Legislator Hahn or
8 do you want to keep it tabled?

9
10 **LEG. HAHN:**

11 That one we need to table.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

14 Motion to table by Legislator Hahn. Second by myself. Anyone on
15 the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
16 Abstentions?

17
18 **CLERK TASSONE:**

19 Seven.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

22 1921 is tabled. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
23 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote).*

24
25 Introductory Resolutions. *I.R. 1009 - Authorizing the acquisition*
26 *of land under the New Suffolk County ¼% Drinking Water Protection*
27 *Program (effective December 1, 2007) – Open Space Component - for*
28 *the Deitrich Liberti property – Ram Island Spit (Town of Shelter*
29 *Island – SCTM No. 0700-004.00-01.00-007.000) (County Executive).*

30
31 **LEG. FLEMING:**

32 Motion to approve.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

35 Motion by Legislator Fleming. Second by Legislator Krupski.
36 Anyone on the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
37 Abstentions?

38
39 **CLERK TASSONE:**

40 Seven.

41
42 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

43 I'm sorry, on the motion.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

46 On the motion, Legislator Krupski.

47
48 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

49 I believe that is a -- that's a financial collaboration with the
50 Town of Shelter Island, a partnership. Thank you.

51
52 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

53 Go ahead, Mr. Kerr. Unless you just want to get your steps in.

54
55 **MR. KERR:**

56 That is correct. It is a partnership, a 50/50 partnership with the

1 town. So it will be 500,000 for the County, a total one million
2 dollar sales price.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
5 Perfect. Thank you very much.

6
7 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
8 Thank you.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
11 1009 was approved. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
12 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

13
14 *I.R. 1012 - Authorizing use of Blydenburgh County Park in Smithtown*
15 *by Elitefeats, Inc., for the Last Chance Run 5K event (Co. Exec).*

16
17 Motion by Legislator Kennedy, second by myself. Anyone on the
18 motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions.

19
20 **CLERK TASSONE:**
21 Seven.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
24 1012 is approved. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
25 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

26
27 *I.R. 1014 - Authorizing use of Blydenburgh County Park in Smithtown*
28 *by Elitefeats, Inc., for the Lemonade Run 5K event (Co. Exec.).*

29 Same motion, same second, same vote.

30
31 **CLERK TASSONE:**
32 Seven.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
35 1014 is approved. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
36 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

37
38 *I.R. 1015 - Authorizing use of Cathedral Pines County Park in*
39 *Middle Island by Suffolk Committee for Camping, Inc., for its*
40 *Annual Camping Rally (County Executive).*

41
42 Motion by Legislator Caracappa, second by Legislator Hahn. Anyone
43 on the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
44 Abstentions?

45
46 **CLERK TASSONE:**
47 Seven.

48
49 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
50 1015 is approved. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
51 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

52
53 *I.R. 1023 - Authorizing use of Smith Point County Park property by*
54 *Mastic Beach Ambulance Company for "Help Us Save You Program"*
55 *(Mazzarella).*

1 Motion by Legislator Kennedy, second by Legislator Caracappa.
2 Anyone on the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
3 Abstentions?

4
5 **CLERK TASSONE:**
6 Seven.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
9 1023 is approved. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
10 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

11
12 *I.R. 1024 - Authorizing use of Smith Point Park property by Getco*
13 *Company and Event Power, Long Island, for a Triathlon (Mazzarella).*

14
15 Motion by Legislator Kennedy, second by Legislator Caracappa.
16 Anyone on the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
17 Abstentions?

18
19 **CLERK TASSONE:**
20 Seven.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
23 1024 is approved. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
24 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

25
26 *I.R. 1035 - Authorizing use of Smith Point County Park by the*
27 *Community Family Literacy Project, Inc. (Mazzarella).*

28
29 Motion by Legislator Caracappa, second by Legislator Kennedy.
30 Anyone on the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
31 Abstentions?

32
33 **CLERK TASSONE:**
34 Seven.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
37 1035 is approved. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
38 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

39
40 *I.R. 1036 - Authorizing appraisal of land under the Suffolk County*
41 *Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No.*
42 *24-2007, Interstate Home Loan Center - Town of Brookhaven (SCTM No.*
43 *0200-973.10-02.00-036.000) (Thorne).*

44
45 Motion by myself, second by the Presiding Officer. Anyone on the
46 motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

47
48 **CLERK TASSONE:**
49 Seven.

50
51 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
52 1036 is approved. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
53 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

54
55 *I.R. 1037 - Authorizing appraisal of land under the Suffolk County*
56 *Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No.*

1 **24-2007, Artistic Lake Group, LLC parcels - Town of Brookhaven**
2 **(SCTM Nos. 0200-379.00-02.00-039.001 and**
3 **0200-379.00-02.00-006.000) (Thorne).**

4
5 I'll make the motion, second by the Presiding Officer. Anyone on
6 the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
7 Abstentions?

8
9 **CLERK TASSONE:**

10 Seven.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

13 I.R. 1037 is approved. *(Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator*
14 *Trotta. P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote).*

15
16 **I.R. 1055 - Appropriating funds in connection with Restoration of**
17 **West Neck Farm (a/k/a Coindre Hall), Huntington (CP 7096) (County**
18 **Executive).**

19
20 Motion by the Presiding Officer, second by Legislator Hahn. Anyone
21 on the motion? Legislator Krupski, Legislator Fleming and then
22 Legislator Hahn. Al, you're up.

23
24 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

25 Thank you. I have a question for the Commissioner.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

28 Commissioner Smagin, thank you for joining us today.

29
30 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

31 So you've heard from the -- I have two questions. One, you've
32 heard from the community about the, you know, the condition of the
33 building and the boathouse and I don't have any problem with, you
34 know, with spending money to fix up our buildings. But someone
35 brought up the possibility of deer fencing there and I just wanted
36 to make sure if we're going to put up deer fencing that we put up
37 the kind that allows for the passage wildlife as opposed to some
38 sort of solid fence that is an impediment and not that attractive
39 for that matter.

40
41 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

42 Yeah, no, absolutely. I had spoken to the person prior to the
43 public portion and requested that she submit the request to Parks
44 for us to evaluate because even though they are requesting it, it
45 may be something that we are opposed to, so we'd have to evaluate.

46
47 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

48 I'm not, you know, advocating for fencing. I'm just saying that if
49 you are going to, in fact, include fencing in that park, that to do
50 it for the type that's going to be the least intrusive.

51
52 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

53 Absolutely.

54
55 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

56 Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

3 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Legislator Fleming.
4

5 **LEG. FLEMING:**

6 Thank you. Good morning, Commissioner. I noticed in the
7 resolution, I think it's the 12th or 13th WHEREAS clause says that
8 the community is highly supportive of the restoration of this
9 facility. Just wondering with regard to all the opposition that we
10 hear from if you think that's really a fair characterization. And
11 I guess if you could answer that question in the context of the
12 resolution itself, which lists not only the boathouse, although
13 certainly does emphasize the boathouse, but also talks about the
14 gymnasium and the parking lot. Wondering when we're asked to
15 confirm that the community is highly supportive of the restoration,
16 does that mean that the community, including those folks who oppose
17 what's happening with the Advisory Committee, are going to have a
18 say in the way the 600,000 is distributed?
19

20 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

21 So in regards to saying that the community is supportive, I do
22 believe that is an accurate statement. We recently did a town hall
23 meeting there and explained kind of factually actually what was
24 happening there, what the phased kind of approach was going to be
25 towards the rehabilitation of not only the lower portion boathouse,
26 but also the gymnasium and the parking lot and the kind of years
27 that these items were happening and the boating here. And I could
28 say that the building was probably had 150 to 200 members of the
29 public there and there were multiple rounds of applause that the
30 County Parks Division received based on what was actually
31 presented.
32

33 So I do believe the community is very supportive, and the Advisory
34 Board itself is made up of community members. That was the purpose
35 of the Advisory Board and they're very supportive of the
36 stabilization of the boathouse, which is something that, you know,
37 the -- when this property was acquired, it was acquired, as we
38 know, at first it was acquired, it was held in Real Estate because
39 there was a potential to be sold and used for other things. It was
40 eventually transferred into Parks to be preserved for its
41 historical recognition, and the entities that were involved at that
42 time, and continue to be involved, would like to see these things
43 preserved like how it was when it was acquired and, you know, those
44 were things that were presented on. So I do believe that to be
45 factual.
46

47 This money here, the half of -- the 600,000. So 100,000 was the
48 money -- it's actually a two phase money. It's the money that
49 Legislator Bontempi had put into the budget for -- to go towards
50 the parking lot. So 100,000 is going towards that. There's also
51 going to be money for 2024 to go to that project as well. The half
52 million is actually going to the gymnasium roof and we have a quote
53 from our outside vendor to repair that at 496,000. So the money
54 that we currently have is being used to do the underpinning and the
55 stabilization of the actual boathouse. This money is being used
56 for the roof and the hundred thousand for the park.

1
2 **LEG. FLEMING:**

3 That's good to know. And I wanted to also just applaud your
4 hands-on approach to your work. I know this is a long drive for
5 you and you're here because this is an important project and we've
6 heard a lot at the Legislature from folks who are not happy with
7 the way it's proceeding, so I appreciate your presences here this
8 morning.

9
10 11:22AM Was there a presentation that you gave at the meeting you're
11 referencing that broke out what specific funding is going to be
12 spent on what specific parts of the project?

13
14 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

15 Yeah. So the items that I just laid out in regards to the 600,000
16 for this year going toward the gymnasium roof, that was laid out,
17 the money that was currently there for the stabilization of the
18 boathouse. We had DPW there.

19
20 11:22AM **LEG. FLEMING:**

21 By the way, I'm sorry, how much was -- is budgeted already for the
22 boathouse?

23
24 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

25 So it's around two million for the stabilization and the
26 underpinning of that structure. We had DPW there to kind of
27 explain the details of what exactly that means. And, you know,
28 again, it was kind of most definitely a very successful
29 presentation.

30
31 11:23AM **LEG. FLEMING:**

32 I don't want to belabor this but I did note Legislator Bontempi has
33 done some public speaking about this, and I did note that there
34 were plans to make the seawall, the bulkhead, which is made of
35 cement, permeable in some way by drilling holes in it. Is that a
36 practice -- well, first of all, am I right about that? Is that
37 what's happening?

38
39 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

40 11:23AM Yeah, so the project with the seawall is still happening and that's
41 a portion of it. Again, DPW is the project manager. They would be
42 the best to kind of speak of the exact reasons why they're using
43 that, but the vendor is still there and the project is ongoing.

44
45 **LEG. FLEMING:**

46 Understood. It was my impression that there may have been an
47 attempt to continue to make that exchange breathable, you know,
48 that that -- and that may, in fact, be helpful to the upland parts
49 of the parcel that the community wants preserved. So I did observe
50 that and I think that's part of what's already underway. I think
51 that is in some way responsive to those who want preservation
52 there. But is it possible for us to get a copy of that
53 presentation that lays out before the General Meeting on Tuesday.

54
55 11:24AM **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

56 Yeah, the thing is that the presentation might not include all of

1 the information you're looking for. A lot of that was kind of just
2 presented by the individuals, but we can absolutely send over the
3 PowerPoint. But one of the items that was discussed at the town
4 hall meeting was the fact that the wetlands that are continuously
5 being described and discussed, it is -- a portion of the wetlands
6 is already mapped by the DEC, therefore, it's protected. The other
7 portion is underway of being mapped and DEC has sent us
8 notification saying treat this as if it is mapped already. So if
9 we ever want to do any work there we'd have to apply to the DEC for
10 things like that. So the property itself in this wetlands area is
11 preserved and protected under the DEC.

11:25AM

12
13 **LEG. FLEMING:**

14 And I guess my question was just with regard to the construction at
15 the boathouse and on the seawall. I'm getting the impression that
16 it is being done with a view towards coastal resiliency and the
17 breathability of that shoreline to a certain extent, like what's
18 possible in terms of engineering. Am I mistaken about that?

11:25AM

19
20 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

21 No, I believe that would but, again, I would say that DPW would be
22 the best -- the architects from DPW would be the best to describe
23 the exact -- the exact kind of work being done there and why it's
24 being done in that way.

25
26 **LEG. FLEMING:**

27 But, again, that work that's being done is being done with money
28 that's already been allocated within the capital program, and these
29 additional 600,000 are for the parking lot and the gymnasium roof.
30 Is that accurate?

11:26AM

31
32 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

33 Yes. This 600,000 that we're -- for 1055, that's what the money is
34 allocated for or hope to allocate it for.

35
36 **LEG. FLEMING:**

37 Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

40 Thank you, Legislator Fleming. Anyone else? Legislator Krupski.

11:26AM

41
42 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

43 Thank you. So there was mention of a permeable reactive barrier
44 being placed behind there and it would be, and if you did put or
45 the contractor put weep holes in the wall it would be kind of an
46 easy test site for the treatment. Is there any -- any thoughts on
47 doing that?

48
49 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

50 Oh, no, we've absolutely held out that we are looking to do our PRB
51 system from the kind of hardscaped pond and kind of run that
52 through the piping --

11:26AM

53
54 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

55 Okay.

1 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

2 -- that currently exists. So I know they're evaluating and seeing
3 if it could be done with the current vendor and the money being
4 used or whether that would have to be kind of a future project on
5 its own.

6
7 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

8 Would you use that as a demonstration or would you just do it,
9 because I know there's a lot of demonstration projects out there
10 for PRBs and I just wondered if you'd do that in conjunction with
11 that or just put it in.

12
13 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

14 So I don't know if it's been discussed of using it as a
15 demonstration site. One of the things we'd be looking to do at the
16 boathouse is actually kind of clean water exhibits, hopefully
17 working with an entity like Cornell like we have at Cedar Beach.
18 We think that would be a wonderful asset to have at that boathouse
19 location as well. That's definitely an interesting thought to have
11:27AM 20 that, you know, kind of whether it's described what exists on the
21 property, you know, just showing something like that.

22
23 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

24 That'd be great. Thank you.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

27 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Legislator Caracappa.

28
29 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

11:27AM 30 Good morning, Commissioner. How are you?

31
32 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

33 Good morning.

34
35 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

36 I know Coindre Hall has been a hot topic for quite a few months
37 now, both from the public's side and from the governmental side. I
38 just wanted to say thank you and I appreciate the time you took to
39 give me the tour of the place. I wanted to get better informed on
11:28AM 40 what was being brought to the attention of this body from the
41 public and also from Legislator Bontempi in that area, so I think
42 it was best for me to get my eyes on this place. And, again, I
43 appreciate the tour. What a magnificent facility and asset to the
44 County, remarkable actually. And not only do we have a portion of
45 it being rented out by a vendor, but we also have a not-for-profit
46 in there that does excellent work for kids with the murals. What's
47 the name of that?

48
49 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

50 Splashes of Hope.

51
52 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

53 Splashes of Hope. Yes, absolutely beautiful. But I toured
54 everything from the seawall to the boathouse, to the premises, to
55 the gymnasium, he showed me everything. And I know a lot of this
56 stuff you were already working on prior to, you know, the public

1 coming forward. I think it's excellent that the County is
2 committed to bringing this location back up to snuff. It's a
3 beautiful, beautiful park and I hope it remains or gets back to
4 probably not its original form, but as close to possible. And that
5 the whole -- our entire County can access this park and see just
6 how wonderful it really is. It's an asset, it really is, and I'd
7 hate to have to limit it any way, shape or form of accessibility
8 from an accessibility standpoint from any of our County residents,
9 whether they be capable or handicapable, whatever it may be. So I
10 just wanted to say thank you for all your work you and your
11 department are doing on this project and I look forward to seeing
12 an updated version, tour, very soon. Thanks.

11:29AM

13
14 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**
15 Thank you.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
18 Thank you, Legislator Caracappa. Anyone else? Legislator Hahn.

11:30AM

19
20 **LEG. HAHN:**
21 Most of my questions have already been answered, but I'm very
22 grateful for all the work that your department does with very
23 little funding, not enough staff. This facility being on the
24 historic register, you know, has quite a few needs and I know
25 having been chair of this committee for a number of years you've
26 been slowly trying to address those needs and, you know, we're
27 grateful for your dedication and your continued work to finally
28 address the boathouse, the parking lot, the roof, you know, all
29 things that I remember being part of the capital project for many
30 years now and it takes a long time. You know, our capital --
31 government capital budget process is not swift and so we're, you
32 know, we're grateful for this forward progress on something that
33 really is a gem in the Town of Huntington. And ditto to what my
34 colleague, Majority Leader Caracappa, mentioned about access for
35 all Suffolk residents. That's critically important to me as well.
36 And I'm grateful for all your hard work and that of your staff.
37 Thank you.

11:31AM

38
39 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
40 Thank you, Legislator Hahn. Okay. We have a motion and a second.
41 All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

11:31AM

42
43 **CLERK TASSONE:**
44 Seven.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
47 1055 is approved. *(Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
48 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote).*

49
50 ***I.R. 1057 - Authorizing the acquisition of land under the New***
51 ***Suffolk County ¼% Drinking Water Protection Program (effective***
52 ***December 1, 2007) - Open Space Component - for the Baratta Property***
53 ***- Moriches Bay County Park addition (Town of Brookhaven - SCTM Nos.***
54 ***0200-917.00-03.00-016.000 and 0200-917.00-03.00-017.000) (County***
55 ***Executive).***

1 I'll make that motion. Second by Legislator Krupski. Does anybody
2 want to speak on this? Thank you, Mr. Kerr.

3
4 **MR. KERR:**

5 So this is a 2.3 acre parcel contained in Moriches, Island Road in
6 East Moriches. It is on the Master List and the acquisition price
7 will be \$6,000.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

10 Any questions? Seeing none, we have a motion and a second. All
11 those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

12
13 **CLERK TASSONE:**

14 Seven.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

17 1057 is approved. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
18 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

19
20 *I.R. 1058 - Authorizing the acquisition of land under the New*
21 *Suffolk County ¼% Drinking Water Protection Program (effective*
22 *December 1, 2007) - Open Space Component - for the Sabet Property -*
23 *Forge River addition (Town of Brookhaven - SCTM NOs.*
24 *0200-750.00-03.00-019.001, 0200-750.00-03.0-019.002,*
25 *0200-750.00-03.00-019.003, 0200-750.00-03.00-019.004,*
26 *0200-750.00-03.00-019.005, 0200-750.00-03.00-019.006 and*
27 *0200-750.00-03.00-019.007) (County Executive).*

28
29 Motion by Legislator Caracappa, second by Legislator Hahn. Anyone
30 on the motion? Mr. Kerr.

31
32 **MR. KERR:**

33 So this is a one acre parcel in the Hamlet of Mastic. It's part of
34 the Forge River County Park assemblage where the County owns
35 approximately 247 acres already and the acquisition price will be
36 \$45,000.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

39 Thank you, sir. We have a motion and a second. Anyone on the
40 motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

41
42 **CLERK TASSONE:**

43 Seven.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

46 1058 is approved. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
47 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

48
49 *I.R. 1059 - Appropriating funds in connection with Preserving*
50 *Farmland for the Future (CP 8701) (County Executive).*

51
52 Motion by myself, second by Legislator Krupski.

53
54 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

55 Cosponsor.

11:33AM

1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
2 Anyone on the motion? Legislator Krupski.

3
4 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
5 First of all, I'd like to thank everyone for supporting this.
6 Thank you for having the meeting today in Riverhead so people could
7 come out and speak on it. I would like to ask -- oh, there's
8 Commissioner Lansdale. I would like to ask Commissioner Lansdale,
9 do you have an update on the acreage that's available for
10 preservation?

11:34AM

11
12 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**
13 For farmland?

14
15 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
16 For farmland throughout the County.

17
18 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**
19 Roughly 10,000 acres of farmland is unprotected in Suffolk County.

11:34AM

20
21 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
22 And how is that -- what -- what can the County do to apply, and
23 Herb Strobel laid it out very well about the difficulties of
24 getting that State bond money for Long Island and for Suffolk
25 County because of the difference in value of Upstate land versus
26 Suffolk County land. What could the County do to reach out to the
27 State to convince them this is the place they should be preserving
28 farmland.

11:34AM

29
30 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**
31 Well, one of the things that we could do is work with our town
32 partners and make a case for farmland preservation. One of the
33 things that we've started doing is having quarterly meetings with
34 our town partners in preservation, both for open space and farmland
35 protection. So we have an upcoming coordination call on March 9th
36 and we could raise this idea about creating that case for farmland
37 preservation in Suffolk County. Because we were the first farmland
38 preservation program in the United States so continuing that
39 effort, I think, makes a lot of sense.

11:35AM

40
41 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
42 Thank you. I appreciate that, and it's probably out of the
43 question to ask for some of that money from the Vanderbilt to go
44 towards farmland preservation, we could work that in maybe as a
45 percentage, but we could always hope. Thank you.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**
48 Thank you. I do have a list. Legislator Thorne, I'll put you on
49 -- excuse me. Legislator Caracappa and then Legislator Thorne,
50 then Legislator Fleming.

11:35AM

51
52 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**
53 Yes, good morning, Legislator -- Commissioner Lansdale. Now, I
54 just had a few questions regarding this whole bill. Now, our
55 voting record up here would definitely reflect that we were in
56 favor of farmland protection and open space protection. I know

1 this bill calls for a 25-year general obligation serial bond, which
2 in essence would cost the County about just roughly over \$6 million
3 in interest over its lifespan. Now, do you see or foresee any
4 movement as far as farmland that we can move on to acquire sooner
5 rather than later and maybe not have this serial bond last 25
6 years? Is there a way we do that or?

7
8 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

9 Right. Well, we have a number of farms in the queue to preserve
10 right now. There is a need to have this money available to us
11 sooner rather than later. We do have right now four approved,
12 legislatively approved, planning steps for farms totaling 190.8
13 acres. So -- and with the average purchase of development rights
14 acquisition ranging from between 60,000 and 90,000 for the
15 development rights, we're, you know, at an estimated cost of 75,000
16 per acre, it would cost about 14.3 million to acquire all 190.8
17 acres of farms that are in the queue. And we do have an acceptance
18 rate of about 75% of farms.

19
20 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

21 And we make offers on these properties, correct, on these farms?

22
23 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

24 That's correct, after the Legislature approves that.

25
26 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

27 Right. Now, once the County purchases these properties, the
28 families are still permitted to do farming, their business, on a
29 daily basis?

30
31 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

32 The family still owns the underlying fee so it's still privately
33 owned --

34
35 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

36 And they're still responsible for property taxes and everything
37 else even though we own the property.

38
39 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

40 That's correct.

41
42 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

43 Okay. That's great, that's fair. So now there was some
44 conversation earlier, and I think my colleague Legislator Fleming
45 brought it up, about the -- I'm not sure it's 2% or 2.5%
46 transaction fees from real property exchanges, Southampton and East
47 Hampton. So is there an updated balance on those two funds and are
48 we eyeballing any farm properties out there while they have access
49 to these funds?

50
51 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

52 The farms that we're looking at right now that are in our queue are
53 all in the Town of Riverhead, not in Southampton.

54
55 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

56 The Town of Riverhead. I think I sparked interest over here. I

1 saw a lot of shuffling as soon as I brought that up, so if they
2 have any questions I would love to hear, because this 2% fee for
3 the transactions of real property, I think it's great what they
4 have been able to do so far in those two towns. I wish there was
5 someone here I can speak to or maybe you know more about it, Al,
6 about what's the future plans with those funds.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

9 I'll recognize Legislator Krupski.

10
11 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

12 Thank you, I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13
14 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

15 Thank you. That was passed about 20 years ago, 2% transfer tax.
16 The five East End towns have collected almost two billion dollars
17 and spent all that money. And the way it's done is it's split up
18 by towns, though. So the two South Fork towns collect and spend
19 about 85% of that, just the way the property values go and the
20 transfers go. So Shelter Island, Southold and Riverhead, they all
21 have what they, you know, what they get out of their towns. It's
22 split up town by town. So while there is -- they've had great
23 success in using it not only for farmland preservation but also for
24 open space, there's still a need for a lot more money because
25 there's still a lot of, as Commissioner Lansdale said, there's
26 still 10,000 acres of farmland in the County that hasn't been
27 protected.

28
29 I don't think -- because the program is so successful in East
30 Hampton and Southampton, I don't think we preserved any farmland as
31 a County in those two towns in a long time.

32
33 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

34 I agree with you.

35
36 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

37 And you can see on the agendas it's been a long time since the
38 money has been spent there. It's the other towns that don't have
39 the, you know, the income, for that --

40
41 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

42 The resources for that, yeah.

43
44 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

45 -- that need help going forward.

46
47 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

48 I agree with that. I think we've done a great job up here
49 collectively of getting what we could when we could. I just had
50 questions as to -- this is a learning process for me as well. I'm
51 still learning and I was learning from the best so, you know,
52 you've done some incredible work out there, Al, and your passion
53 for the preservation of farmland is unsurpassed. So I just wanted
54 to learn more about the Southampton and the East Hampton, the
55 obligations of those funds. Are they dedicated to open space and
56 farmland, and you know what? I think you've answered that because

1 they've done a remarkable job on their own protecting it and we are
2 concentrating outside that realm right now so, and it was just
3 mentioned about Riverhead, so I think it's really important, so.

4
5 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

6 You want to ask anything about the South Fork towns?
7

8 **LEG. FLEMING:**

9 Well, I would say that, yes, the Peconic tax, transfer tax, has
10 been increased by the voters of the five East End towns to 2.5% on
11 all real estate transactions, not a first-time home buyer, and in
12 excess of \$2 million. So, you know, I think it's important to
13 understand the impact on the market, the impact on folks who are
14 trying to make a living of increasing the tax. It's a tax increase
15 that was voted because priorities have been in place to put your
16 money where your mouth is and, you know, to take that financial
17 step to have skin in the game when it comes to preserving open
18 space and farmland. And when you look at the difference between
19 the five towns that have agreed to tax themselves in this way and
20 the five towns who have not, you see a real impact. So it's not as
21 though this money just happens to be out there. The money is out
22 there because of a political effort to prioritize the environment.
23

24 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

25 Yeah, no, I get that.
26

27 **LEG. FLEMING:**

28 And that's why you see -- so it worries me that we continue to
29 hear, you know, implications that even as we're talking about, for
30 instance, the hotel/motel tax, that there's so much money out there
31 and that's why, you know, we should look to spend County funds up
32 West. The money is there because the folks have been making the
33 effort over all these years and the property values are what the
34 property values are is because the data has shown since 1998, when
35 this first went into place, you know, property values increase when
36 you are in the midst of preserved farmland and open space. And
37 that's what we see, and we see the water quality is better, we see,
38 you know, open space and vistas are beautiful. We also see
39 production of food happening in a way that you don't see up West.
40 I think we should continue to make the effort to try to find that,
41 but goodness gracious, let's ask the taxpayers in the Western part
42 of Suffolk to also step up and maybe we can get some more, you
43 know, environmental policy that we're -- you know, that takes
44 resources, because that's where the resources come from, they come
45 from the taxpayers of the East End and that's what we see in play
46 here.
47

48 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

49 So are you saying that the money that's collected out there is
50 going to any other properties outside of where the taxes are
51 collected? Is that what you're saying?
52

53 **LEG. FLEMING:**

54 Well, the five East End towns were given -- you know, Brookhaven
55 could have done this, Islip, Huntington, Smithtown, could have done
56 this and voted to tax property transfers and there was a discussion

1 of it, you know, back in the 1990's. They rejected it. The five
2 Western towns rejected it, the five Eastern towns adopted it. So,
3 yeah, it is certainly those resources have been in place.

4
5 I would just say for Riverhead, bear in mind that Riverhead does
6 not have the same kind of fund balance that the four other towns
7 do, but Riverhead has an extraordinary amount of unpreserved
8 farmland. We were asking folks earlier today about -- I was asking
9 about preserving whatever is left in the West End of the County and
10 I think we should make that a priority, but bear in mind that
11 Riverhead has a ton of unpreserved agricultural acreage. And they
12 do not -- even though they voted to tax themselves as the other
13 towns did, they don't have the fund balance that East Hampton,
14 Southampton, Shelter Island do, and Southold. So I would
15 definitely encourage us to continue to look for opportunities
16 there.

17
18 I would note, also, that the taxpayers of the East End towns have
19 also taken on housing in this Peconic tax and clean water. So
20 they've expanded the permissible of the real estate transfer tax to
21 now fund water quality projects and to fund affordable housing
22 efforts. That's brand new. So that's -- those funds are also
23 going to be drawn upon to continue to try to build the priorities
24 and the communities, you know, that the taxpayers out there want to
25 see. They're willing to put the skin in the game to achieve those
26 properties.

27
28 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

29 And that's commendable and no one is taking anything away from the
30 efforts of the taxpayers out in the five Eastern towns, so
31 congratulations on those efforts. And you mentioned about the
32 Western towns getting involved. Well, it may be too burdensome for
33 West End towns to take on the additional tax increases. I'm not
34 going to get into that debate with you, but I can tell you
35 historically, for the three years I've been here and if you go back
36 looking, this County has dedicated a tremendous amount of its
37 resources and assets to Eastern land protection, whether it be
38 farmland, open space. So the fact that -- I thank you for pointing
39 out that we should recognize more of the West End lands. I'm happy
40 to agree with you wholeheartedly on that. It is about time that
41 the Western towns get recognized and we start looking at more of
42 the properties out there.

43
44 So I'm not trying to get into a -- get into a match with you here.
45 I was just asking questions for my own edification and you always
46 seem to take it as an insult, and I don't know why. So I just
47 wanted to say, Al, thank you for all your help, because I know I've
48 come to you many times with questions about this stuff and you've
49 always been an open book of resources for me. So I'll continue to
50 ask my questions, I'll continue to bring my concerns to the tables,
51 and my opinion, as it is my right sitting in this seat. So I yield
52 back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

53
54 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

55 Thank you, Majority Leader Caracappa. Legislator Krupski.

1 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

2 And just to -- I don't need the last word, anyone can say anything
3 after this, but just to clarify. The, you know, being involved
4 with the Suffolk County Farmland Committee, the Farmland Committee
5 has always been -- it's made up of residents from throughout the
6 County and it's always been supportive of purchasing development
7 rights and farmland Countywide. So I don't know -- there's no --
8 there's really no division there when you look at a farm in
9 Huntington, whether you look at a farm in Orient. People aren't
10 like worried about its location. You are worried about the
11 productivity of the soils basically, can it support an agricultural
12 operation.

13
14 Now, the committee can make that recommendation to the County, we
15 can make the offer, it's up to the landowner to accept or decline
16 the offer. But offers are declined Countywide also. We've lost
17 -- I know we lost the one in Huntington a couple of years ago. We
18 also lost one in Baiting Hollow, we lost one on the main road in
19 Jamesport. There's a number that we can make the offer but -- so
20 Countywide I think it's -- the effort's there, but it's not always
21 -- we're not always successful everywhere, but it is kind of
22 evenhanded approach to it.

23
24 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

25 I'm just going to retort. And, listen, Legislator, no one is
26 saying the attempts haven't been there. Records will show that we
27 have invested a great deal, regardless of the reason, attempt or
28 not, I guess most -- a lot of offers were accepted on the East End
29 if that's how you want to put it, and we put our money where our
30 mouth was. We put those dollars into that farmland preservation.
31 So regardless of how we got there, we got there and that's the
32 important thing, right?

33
34 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

35 Thank you, folks. Legislator Thorne.

36
37 **LEG. THORNE:**

38 Thank you so much. As I don't sit on the committee, I certainly
39 appreciate the latitude. Excuse me. On a separate note in
40 reference to this bill, I have had the pure blessing, I was going
41 to different civic days in several different school districts, and
42 these kids come up with different civic projects they want to
43 attend. Some is repaving roads and they're not actually asking
44 for, you know, more days off or a longer holiday. You know what
45 they are asking for? Better food, better local food. It amazes me
46 that our high school and junior high students recognize the value
47 of having local grown food in their school districts. There are
48 several districts that are out there trying to, and being held back
49 a little bit by a problem with milk delivery, but bring local,
50 fresh food into their schools and I think that preserving our
51 farmland is paramount. It's paramount not only to bring fresh food
52 into our schools and fulfill our youth's desire to eat better,
53 which certainly was not my desire at that age. It's still not,
54 thank you, Legislator Caracappa.

1 But at the end of the day I just want to give my support to this.
2 I am a big open space guy. I am definitely an open space and
3 protection of farms and quality that we have here in Suffolk
4 County. So I appreciate the few minutes of latitude, Mr. Chairman,
5 but I, as a non-voting member of the committee but a voting member
6 of this Legislature, I certainly support 1059.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

9 Thank you very much. Legislator Hahn.

11:50AM

10
11 **LEG. HAHN:**

12 I just want to make sure Legislator Thorne knows about Suffolk's
13 Food Policy Council and Mr. Kerr --

14
15 **LEG. THORNE:**

16 I am aware. Thank you.

17
18 **LEG. HAHN:**

19 Excellent, good.

11:51AM

20
21 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

22 Mr. Chair. It's Matt Kapell is the Chair of the Food Policy
23 Council. Same initials.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

26 Would anyone else like to be heard on 1059? Seeing none, we have a
27 motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

28
29 **CLERK TASSONE:**

30 Seven.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

33 1059 is approved. *(Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.
34 P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote).*

35
36 The next four resolutions will be tabled. I spoke to the County
37 Executive's Office and that's their wishes on these four
38 resolutions. So *I.R. 1069 - Approving a License Agreement for a
39 County employee to reside at West Neck Farm County Park, 101 Browns
40 Road, Huntington, New York 11743 (County Executive).*

41
42 Motion to table, second by the Presiding Officer. Anyone on the
43 motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

44
45 **CLERK TASSONE:**

46 Seven.

47
48 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

49 1069 is tabled. *(Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.
50 P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote).*

51
52 *I.R. 1070 - Approving a License Agreement for a County employee to
53 reside Robert Cushman Murphy County Park, 294 Old River Road,
54 Manorville, New York (Co. Exec.).*

55
56 Same motion, same second, same vote.

1
2 **CLERK TASSONE:**

3 Seven.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

6 1070 is tabled. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
7 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

8
9 *I.R. 1071 - Approving a License Agreement for a County employee to*
10 *reside at Blydenburgh County Park, 795 Veterans Memorial Highway,*
11 *Smithtown, New York 11787 (Co. Exec.).*

12
13 Same motion, same second, same vote.

14
15 **CLERK TASSONE:**

16 Seven.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

19 1071 is tabled. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
20 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

21
22 *I.R. 1073 - Approving a License Agreement for a County employee to*
23 *reside in at Southaven County Park, 801 Sunrise Highway Service*
24 *Road, Yaphank, New York (County Executive).*

25
26 Same motion, same second, same vote same.

27
28 **CLERK TASSONE:**

29 Seven.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

32 1073 is tabled. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta.*
33 *P.O. McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

34
35 All right, that's our resolutions for today. We do have Executive
36 Session, so if you could please clear the room --

37
38 **CLERK TASSONE:**

39 Mr. Chairman?

40
41 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

42 -- and then we will go into Executive Session. Can I get a motion
43 by myself, second by the Presiding Officer. All those in favor?
44 Opposed? Abstentions?

45
46 **CLERK TASSONE:**

47 Seven. (*Vote: 7-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Trotta. P.O.*
48 *McCaffrey is included in the vote.*)

49
50 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

51 We are in Executive Session.

52
53 (*Executive Session was held from 11:51 a.m. to 12:09 p.m.*)

54
55 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

56 Legislators, please come to the horseshoe.

(Discussion held without Court Reporter present)

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.*)*

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