

JOINT CAPITAL BUDGET & PROGRAM COMMITTEE

June 28, 2023

PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY COMMITTEE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & HOUSING COMMITTEE/GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL, IT & DIVERSITY COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENT, PARKS & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

OF THE

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

A special meeting of the above-mentioned committees was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York to discuss the matter of the 2024-2026 Capital Budget & Program on June 28, 2023.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

***Presiding Officer Kevin McCaffrey*** - 14th Legislative District  
Ex-Officio Member on all committees

***D.P.O. Steven J. Flotteron*** - 11th Legislative District  
Member/Government Operations, Personnel, IT & Diversity

***Leg. Anthony Piccirillo, Chair - Capital Budget & Program Committee***  
***Chair/Environment, Planning & Agriculture***  
***Chair/Government Operations, Personnel, IT & Diversity***

***Leg. Robert Trotta, Vice-Chair/Public Works, Transportation & Energy***  
***Vice Chair/Environment, Planning & Agriculture***

***Leg. Al Krupski, Member/Environment, Planning & Agriculture***  
***Member/Public Works, Transportation & Energy***

***Leg. Dominick Thorne, Member/Public Works, Transportation & Energy***

***Leg. Bridget Fleming, Member/Public Works, Transportation & Energy***  
***Member/Environment, Planning & Agriculture***

***Leg. James F. Mazzarella, Chair/Economic Development, Planning***  
***& Housing***  
***Member/Government Operations, Personnel, IT & Diversity***

***Leg. Samuel Gonzalez, Member/Government Operations, Personnel,***  
***IT & Diversity***

***Leg. Jason Richberg, Member/Economic Development, Planning***  
***& Housing***  
***Member/Government Operations, Personnel, IT & Diversity***

1 **Leg. Nicholas Caracappa, Chair/Public Works, Transportation & Energy**  
2 **Member/Environment, Planning & Agriculture**

3  
4 **Leg. Trish Bergin, Vice Chair/Government Operations, Personnel,**  
5 **IT & Diversity**  
6 **Vice Chair/Economic Development, Planning &**  
7 **Housing Committee**

8  
9 **Leg. Kara Hahn, Member/Environment, Planning & Agriculture**  
10 **Member/Economic Development, Planning**  
11 **& Housing Committee**

12  
13 **Leg. Leslie Kennedy, Member/Environment, Planning & Agriculture**

14  
15 **Leg. Sarah Anker, Member/Public Works, Transportation & Energy**

16  
17 **ALSO PRESENT:**

18 **Hope Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk, Legislature**

19 **Lisa Black, Chief Deputy County Executive**

20 **Jon Kaiman, Deputy County Executive**

21 **Joe Brown, Commissioner/Department of Public Works**

22 **Darnell Tyson, Deputy Commissioner/Department of Public Works**

23 **Bill Hillman, Chief Engineer/Department of Public Works**

24 **Moses Cucura, Vector Control/Department of Public Works**

25 **Scott Mastellon, Commissioner/Department Information Technology**

26 **Ari McKenzie, Deputy Commissioner/Dept of Information Technology**

27 **John Kennedy, Suffolk County Comptroller**

28 **Jason Smagin, Commissioner/Parks Department**

29 **Don McKay, Deputy Commissioner/Parks Department**

30 **Terry Maccarrone, Parks Department**

31 **Catherine Kent, Public speaker**

32 **Sid Bail, Public speaker**

33 **Chris Gonzalez, Chief Deputy Commissioner/Economic Development**  
34 **& Planning**

35 **Elyse Dreyer, Director of Finance/Economic Development & Planning**

36 **Alisa Pika, Deputy Commissioner/Economic Development & Planning**

37 **Joshua Smith, Manager/Suffolk County Gabreski Airport**

38 **Jonathan Keyes, Director/Downtown & Transit Oriented Development**

39 **Stephanie Rosen, Director/Community Development & Affordable Housg**

40 **Mikael Kerr, Farmland & Open Space Supervisor/Economic Development**  
41 **& Planning**

42 **Michael Brown, Land Acquisition Supervisor/Economic Development**  
43 **& Planning**

44 **All Other Interested Parties**

45  
46 **MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

47 **Gabrielle Severs, Lucia Braaten, Diana Flesher**  
48 **& Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographers**

49  
50 **MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:**

51 **Gabrielle Severs, Diana Flesher &**  
52 **Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographers**  
53 **Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary**

11:23AM

1 (The following minutes were taken and transcribed by  
2 Gabrielle Severs, Court Stenographer)

3  
4 **PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY**

5  
6 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

7 Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Public Works,  
8 Transportation and Energy Capital Budget Working Group.  
9 It will come to order. (*Banged Gavel*).

09:42AM 10

11 If we could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and stay  
12 standing for a moment of silence led by Legislator Fleming.

13  
14 **(Pledge of Allegiance)**

15  
16 **(Moment of Silence Observed)**

17  
18 Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Clerk. Good morning, Madam Clerk.

19  
20 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**  
21 Good morning.

22  
23 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
24 Roll call, please.

25  
26 *(\*The roll was called by Chief Deputy Clerk Clark\*)*

27  
28 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**  
29 Present.

09:42AM 30

31 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
32 Here.

33  
34 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
35 Here.

36  
37 **LEG. FLEMING:**  
38 Present. And I like Krupski's sunflowers there.

09:43AM 40

41 **LEG. ANKER:**  
42 Here.

43 **LEG. THORNE:**  
44 (Not Present)

45  
46 **LEG. TROTTA:**  
47 Here.

09:43AM 50

49 **LEG. THORNE:**  
50 (Not Present)

51  
52 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**  
53 Six.

54  
55 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
56 Thank you. Any correspondence?

1 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

2 All correspondence have been distributed accordingly.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

5 Thank you. Do we have anyone who would like to address the  
6 Legislature this morning? I have no cards in front of me. Anyone  
7 in the audience outside of anyone coming up to the table? Okay.  
8 Seeing none, we're going to go right into the committee work. Is  
9 Commissioner Brown here? Come right up to the table, Commissioner.  
09:43AM 10 We'll go through these one by one. Come on up, as many as you can  
11 fit. Good morning, Gentlemen.

12  
13 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

14 Good morning.

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

17 So how we did this yesterday and how I'd like to proceed today is  
18 just go through each project, state the capital number first, and  
19 then we'll take it from there. Okay. And just state your names  
09:44AM 20 for the record.

21  
22 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

23 Joe Brown, Commissioner of Public Works, Suffolk County.

24  
25 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TYSON:**

26 Darnell Tyson, Chief Deputy Commissioner of Department of Public  
27 Works, Suffolk County.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

09:45AM 30 Thank you for being here. So if you just want to go through the  
31 Capital Projects that you've asked for, you know, we'll go one at a  
32 time here.

33  
34 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

35 Yeah, and I'll start with one that was sort of near and dear to my  
36 heart. I don't have the CP number. Perhaps we have it. I'm  
37 looking at Joe. 1838 is a new CP that I proposed working with Tom  
38 Ronayne to maintain our memorials. And we're finding a lot of  
39 cracks and some other damage in the memorials in front of -- in  
09:45AM 40 front of the Dennison Building in particular that were sort of  
41 beyond our ability to repair and fix. The woman's memorial is  
42 cracked all the way through at the base, for instance, and, you  
43 know, so something that, you know, probably should have been done  
44 in the past, so we propose that that be added to the budget.

45  
46 We're always called in at Public Works at the last minute to sort  
47 of deal with those situations to clean up, to fix anything. They  
48 wanted us to, you know, blast all of the surfaces. And half of the  
49 surfaces we couldn't blast because there's some loose lettering and  
09:46AM 50 so forth in advance of the Armed Services Day. So we proposed that  
51 and we're glad that it was added to the budget. It's not your  
52 typical DPW project but one that was very important to me as a  
53 veteran; and, you know, seeing the future of what those memorials  
54 are going to be like when we have events in the future. That was  
55 very important.

1 Moving on, I'll tell you, I don't have a lot of comments in general  
2 about the budget. We like the budget. We have more projects going  
3 in Public Works than we've had in many years. Many of the projects  
4 that have been put on hold during Covid are all back and running.  
5 We're finding a tough time keeping up staff-wise. We had 670  
6 people last year. We're now up to about 750. It was in the budget  
7 to get up to about 803. The last 50 titles or so, we're struggling  
8 with a little bit. A lot of earmarking, a lot of changing of  
9 titles, a lot of frozen titles. There's a lot of paperwork  
09:47AM 10 involved in that. We've had a a great deal of assistance from all  
11 the other departments that provide support in that regard, so. And  
12 a great credit to Darnell who really took the lead on that hiring  
13 effort. We wanted to hit it hard and fast. As you may know, when  
14 it comes to hiring civil servants in Public Works, we lose -- can  
15 lose half of them in the course of two years or a third of them.  
16 So we realize that some of the positions we're going to go after,  
17 we'd have to go after again. So to gear up to handle all of that  
18 additional work that we're doing in Public Works, we needed that  
19 staff to manage those projects, to be able to do as much in house  
09:47AM 20 as possible and to move forward.

21  
22 Also to keep up with, you know, what the Legislature is asking us  
23 to do as far as reporting on the specifics of where we're doing the  
24 work, which is very important. So all of that is very important.  
25 So it's really kudos to Darnell and the team and the division  
26 directors that we've been able to do that. We developed a new  
27 relationship with SUNY Farmingdale so that we could hire from them  
28 directly. Changes civil service rules. We couldn't hire their  
29 students as engineers previously. We were able to change those  
09:48AM 30 rules, and we got our chief engineer Bill Hillman on the board of  
31 the engineering school. They asked for volunteers, and one second  
32 later, Bill volunteered. He jumped right in where there was a  
33 void, so there's certain relationships going forward that are very  
34 important to be able to keep up with all of this work, so we're  
35 making many strides in those areas.

36  
37 I'll tell you, you know, Smith Point Bridge is a very important  
38 project to us coming out next year. It's on schedule. Design will  
39 be done shortly, and then we have to work with FHWA and with also  
09:49AM 40 New York State DOT, our funding partners. Generally, their review  
41 takes six months. We're going to try to speed that up if possible,  
42 but it is a complicated big bridge, biggest bridge on Long Island  
43 that's happening in the next few years. We do not have any  
44 infrastructure law money attached to that. We'd like to attach  
45 some to that. We've met with Schumer, we've met with congressmen,  
46 we've met with anybody that will listen. The County Executive went  
47 down to Washington a couple of weeks ago to also make the case that  
48 we need more infrastructure law money.

49  
09:49AM 50 I'll just say in general, Suffolk and Nassau make up about one  
51 percent of the population of the United States, and we are not  
52 getting anywhere near one percent of the funding from the  
53 infrastructure law. That money has gone to these gigantic  
54 projects. A lot of it went to Connecticut, so -- to Amtrak, to the  
55 Army Corps of Engineers. We put in for two grants. I established  
56 a new grants office in DPW. Previously, we relied on other

1 departments to provide that assistance. Led by Laura Imperiale who  
2 brought on from -- used to work for Tully Construction and worked  
3 in the industry and had her own company. We brought her in to sort  
4 of go after those grants. So there's two infrastructural law  
5 grants that we're proactively going after now in addition to what  
6 we're seeking for funding for the Smith Point Bridge. So, in  
7 general, we're trying to leverage as much money as possible. You  
8 know, we think that'll change in the future and that hopefully  
9 Suffolk and Nassau will get more of their share of the  
09:50AM 10 infrastructure law money going forward.

11  
12 That said, I don't have really any specific comments on the  
13 projects. I think they're well-funded. I think we're moving as  
14 fast as we can. We're making strides to do things faster than  
15 ever. I really have to thank the well experienced division  
16 directors for their leadership and ability to change gears. I  
17 think in our county architect, the number of projects doubled in  
18 the last three years, so they really -- we've been trying to get  
19 them more people; brought in some drafters and junior architects.  
09:51AM 20 In that division in particular, a lot of extra work, so we are  
21 doing our best. The condition of our roadways is good. If you  
22 compare it to the towns and to the state, we are in good shape.  
23 Went back and looked at the funding for the last 10 years. Half of  
24 that money came from the county. The county has really put a lot  
25 of money into the roads, so we appreciate that. The other half  
26 came from FHWA, New York State DOT, and generally other sources  
27 like that, maybe some FTA. So we'd like to see that continue.  
28 We're proud of our roads and the condition they're in. There's a  
29 good program there that really needs to go forward the way it's  
09:51AM 30 gone in the past. We've kind of been the leader in that regard, I  
31 feel, in the county and on Long Island as far as how we do things,  
32 so.

33  
34 There are a lot of projects. I think we have -- at one point,  
35 somebody said we had a thousand projects. I think we have 2 or 300  
36 that are ongoing. You know, more than a billion dollars-worth of  
37 work in between design, construction, planning, so it's a lot that  
38 we're handling, but I think we're headed in the right direction.  
39 That said, if you have any questions particularly.

09:52AM 40  
41 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

42 The Chair recognizes Legislator Krupski for questions, and then  
43 we're going to recognize Legislator Caracappa. Legislator Krupski.

44  
45 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Commissioner Brown. I just  
47 want to thank -- you have got your whole team here assembled, and I  
48 just want to thank them because, you know, whether it's roadwork --  
49 you mentioned the roadwork being in good shape, the challenges of  
09:52AM 50 dredging our waterways. I hate to -- I'd be remiss if I didn't  
51 mention the transportation issues that Darnell has worked on for a  
52 long time, so I just want to thank your whole team for their hard  
53 work and attention to detail. I know Eric's in the back there.  
54 You know, he was with us with all our struggles with our building  
55 there at 423 Griffing.

1 The question I have is Capital Project number 5384, this resiliency  
2 planning for Suffolk County. And I have to thank Legislator  
3 Fleming. This is a great effort, and it's really -- I mean, to  
4 address it in this fashion, it really provides kind of like a  
5 wake-up call for all of us. And I know, Commissioner, you and I  
6 talked about what was called a "priority list," the top 10 and  
7 additional 15 of projects that was recommended here. And I know  
8 there's a meeting coming up to try to take a look at this, but the  
9 roadway work -- and I had a conversation with the town engineer  
09:53AM 10 about the roadway work yesterday because I know how long it takes  
11 to do one of these road projects, especially something that's going  
12 to be this impactful for a community. And you're looking at not  
13 only storm events where, obviously, if a lot of the top priority  
14 assets are flooded in a nor'easter, if you have two feet of water  
15 at -- oh, I'll pick one out here -- Corey Creek West, okay, no one  
16 should be there during a nor'easter. If you have two feet of water  
17 on County Route 48, it's a big problem. And then, of course, the  
18 normal sunny day flooding that's going to occur more and more on  
19 our roadways, of course one of the big assets here is also Bergen  
09:54AM 20 Point Treatment Plant, so these are long-term projects that really  
21 need a lot of funding and a lot of attention to detail, and they  
22 are countywide, the county infrastructure that needs to be  
23 elevated.

24  
25 So what's the plan from your standpoint to address these projects,  
26 the assets, you know, the marine bureau, the Shinnecock pump house,  
27 and all the roadways that are listed here that are going to be  
28 impacted soon unfortunately?

29  
09:55AM 30 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

31 Yeah. Legislator, that's a good question. We've talked about  
32 this, and I saw that same list of priorities. We met with the  
33 consultant, the resiliency consultant that the county has. I  
34 called them to task on that as they listed the roadways last. I  
35 was assured that that's not priority order. It may be -- the list  
36 is titled "priority," so it gives you that impression, and I  
37 believe the roadway projects were 8, 9, and 10 on that list, but  
38 the 10 are not in priority order I'm told, which is good. And,  
39 you know, I think they need to change the document to make that  
09:55AM 40 more clear that they're not necessarily in priority order.

41  
42 We have some experience with this in Nassau Expressway where we  
43 raised the roadway near JFK by more than four feet and two  
44 evacuation routes go on that roadway, one from the Rockaways, one  
45 from Long Beach; is a key and vital connection to JFK, but it's not  
46 cheap, you know, to raise those roadways. And in that case, they  
47 put in piles so there'd be no future settlement of the roadway also  
48 like you see on Meadowbrook Parkway with the dips, and a new  
49 shared-use path, so it was a great project. Those are things that  
09:56AM 50 can be considered for these roads in the future. I don't think we  
51 need piles but to raise them especially if they're in evacuation  
52 routes. You know, as you know, on Long Island, we don't evacuate  
53 everybody. It takes seven days to evacuate Long Island, so it's  
54 all localized evacuations mainly from the south shore and low-lying  
55 areas on the north shore during hurricanes but -- so anything that  
56 is on evacuation route, you know, should take precedence as well

1 when they're looking at resiliency.

2  
3 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

4 Do we have a plan to address the assets, one, like Bergen Point and  
5 the police marine bureau and the roadways that are listed? They  
6 are critical evacuation routes and critical roadways for all county  
7 residents.

8  
9 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

09:57AM 10 Yeah, and I think there's great opportunity for infrastructure law  
11 money and these projects as well. They fit, you know, many of the  
12 categories. You know, to say that we've got them all planned out,  
13 we don't. We're looking at them. You know, I have had  
14 conversations with our chief engineer and others in the department  
15 and in the County Executive's office about this, but, you know,  
16 I'll say there's great opportunity, and we do have some low-lying  
17 roads that we can, not just from a resiliency standpoint but from a  
18 general flooding standpoint, a safety standpoint, we can make some  
19 improvements that are all sort of tied together.

09:57AM 20  
21 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

22 So the Capital Project is, as stated, I think is \$500,000 a year  
23 for that line, so how is that going to be used? Obviously, the  
24 priority is -- the priority list, which is not a priority, that's  
25 numbered one through 10, which is not a priority, how does that get  
26 addressed when you've got these -- you know, how is it going to be  
27 addressed next year or the year after and the year after? I guess  
28 that's a question that --

29  
09:58AM 30 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

31 I believe those are good questions, and Darnell just reminded me  
32 this is our -- you know, not our project. It is EDPs; so, you  
33 know, perhaps that's something that can be -- we can address, you  
34 know, in their budget meeting as well. You know, some of those  
35 more direct questions are really better suited for them.

36  
37 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

38 Did you want to answer that?

39  
40 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:**

41 I was just going to clarify that's EDP's project.

42  
43 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

44 Okay, okay. But obviously you'd be doing, I would think, doing the  
45 -- you'd be part of the team, I would hope.

46  
47 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

48 Yes, especially lately they've brought us in and have asked our  
49 opinion. We had a meeting with the consultant recently. And  
09:59AM 50 that's where -- I pointed out the same thing that was obvious to  
51 you and maybe others is that perhaps with this list, the priorities  
52 need to be changed.

53  
54 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

55 Thank you. I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.



1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

2 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Recognize the Majority Leader,  
3 Legislator Caracappa.

4  
5 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Commissioner. I appreciate  
7 you and your team coming down as I appreciate all the departments  
8 coming in particularly yesterday and looking forward to today.  
9 Very articulate and put together with their plans for the future of  
10 Suffolk County here, and it's very important work that we're all  
11 doing, so I appreciate it. Joe, can you just say again, you  
12 started off with a project that was near and dear to you, that's  
13 the memorials. Was there a number attached to that?

14  
15 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

16 There was; 1838.

17  
18 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

19 1838. And what were you saying, just some of the monuments there  
20 are just --

21  
22 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

23 Yeah. If you do any sort of close sort of forensic evaluation of  
24 those monuments, you'll find there's some cracks. There's some  
25 future problems. I mentioned the women in the military memorial.

26  
27 **LEG. CARCAPPA:**

28 Yes. Huge crack right down the middle of it.

29  
30 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

31 It goes all the way through both sides, which is kind of odd to us.  
32 This is something we need, you know, to study, to come in and  
33 really look over all of them, have an expert at this come in and  
34 look at these; and then in the future be able to put out a couple  
35 of repair projects, you know, every year to keep them sustainable,  
36 to keep them in the same state of repair they are or have been in  
37 the past. I think the Armed Forces Plaza where the flags are --

38  
39 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

40 Yes.

41  
42 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

43 I forget the name of that memorial. That, in particular, has a lot  
44 of settling that's going on behind it that you can see. So we were  
45 very uncomfortable, you know, spraying all of those memorials. We  
46 sort of did half of them to clean them up. The others, we were  
47 worried about damaging, quite frankly. Some of the lettering looks  
48 like it could be loose, some of the plaques. So these are all  
49 things that we really need somebody to take a look at, and, you  
50 know, keeping those memorials around for a long time. We also have  
51 the new transportation workers for the -- I forget the exact name  
52 of that memorial.

53  
54 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TYSON:**

55 Transportation Workers.

1 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**  
2 Transportation Workers Memorial, yeah --

3  
4 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
5 That's brand new, yep.

6  
7 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**  
8 -- over out in front of the Dennison Building. That's another one  
9 of those. That's a newer -- but in general, those memorials we  
10 want to protect and in addition to a couple memorials at the  
11 Riverhead Complex.

12  
13 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
14 I would add to that the Vietnam Memorial at Bald Hill. If you take  
15 a walk up there, as I recently did, you'll see there is a  
16 significant amount of settling in the concrete going down and down  
17 and down. You know, I meant to reach out to you earlier, but if  
18 you could send someone to take a look at that in engineering to see  
19 what we can assess on that project. I'm not sure if it's dangerous  
20 or not, but, you know, after being up there Memorial Day Weekend  
21 with the group, you couldn't help but notice it. And I want to  
22 thank Commissioner Smagin in the Parks Department for cleaning that  
23 memorial up. It's really important to keep the upkeep on these  
24 projects, especially these memorials that mean a lot to so many  
25 people across Suffolk County, to keep them in good shape, so I  
26 appreciate that.

27  
28 And I'm just going to say, you know, being chair of Public Works,  
29 Commissioner, you and I worked very closely together the last  
30 couple years and Darnell as well and your whole team, Bill, Eric,  
31 you know, when it comes to sewer agencies, road projects, whatever  
32 it may be, I just want to thank you and your department for your  
33 diligence. You know, we may have a couple of run-ins once in a  
34 while because you know how we're looking to change things up, but  
35 you seem to always come through. You have a great professional  
36 manner, you and your team, so Suffolk County is in great hands with  
37 you and your department.

38  
39 I did have questions about the 83 renovation project, though.  
40 When do you expect that to happen? We're talking about this for  
41 probably 18 months now, and, you know, I just want to know what  
42 their prognosis or --

43  
44 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**  
45 Which project is that?

46  
47 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
48 The County Road 83.

49  
50 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**  
51 Oh, County Road 83.

52  
53 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
54 Slated for pavement, the guardrails. It's just way overdue.

1 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

2 Yes. Probably better to have the chief engineer come up and tell  
3 the whole story on that.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

6 Come on down, Mr. Hillman. You could sit at the table, you can  
7 stand at the podium, whatever you like.

8  
9 **MR. HILLMAN:**

10:04AM 10 Good morning, everyone. Bill Hillman, Chief Engineer of Suffolk  
11 County. I believe the question was County Road 83. Probably the  
12 federally-aided project is what you're referring to, Legislator.  
13 That was recently let. Construction should begin probably within a  
14 few -- it takes about six months to get processed through the  
15 state, so towards the end of the year, you should see construction  
16 beginning.

17  
18 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

19 Within a year, you said?

10:04AM 20  
21 **MR. HILLMAN:**

22 Within the end of the year.

23  
24 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

25 Oh, within the end of the year. That's great. Yeah, that's --  
26 we've been up and down there a couple times. We still have the  
27 issue with the turnaround. We still have these temporary barriers  
28 there. What's the plan with that? How are we going to eliminate  
29 that?

10:04AM 30  
31 **MR. HILLMAN:**

32 Yeah, That's included in the project. Guide rail will be installed  
33 to permanently close that turnaround.

34  
35 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

36 That's good news. And we are all set with the monument parking  
37 lot, that additional funding that we had transferred over  
38 hopefully?

10:04AM 39  
40 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

41 Yes, Legislator.

42  
43 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

44 That's all good to go. All right. Well, listen, I'm going to have  
45 a bunch of questions coming up, but as it reflects now, if you're  
46 happy with the way everything is in the budget, you know, we'll  
47 take everything into consideration, as always, but we appreciate  
48 you, Commissioner, and I'll be in touch for sure. Thank you.

10:05AM 49  
50 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

51 Chair, there's something I neglected to mention before if I could  
52 add it?

53  
54 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

55 Go ahead, please.

1 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

2 And that's the electric vehicle program and the funding for that.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

5 You had to start, huh, Joe?

6  
7 (Laughter)

8  
9 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

10 Trying to avoid that. I didn't even bring it up.

11  
12 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

13 Yeah. So, you know, we put a lot of effort into this, as you know.  
14 We had an award-winning plan that was presented in Washington, and,  
15 you know, I believe there's a lot of value in moving forward.  
16 We've debated this, you know, many times, and we've done, you know,  
17 lots of presentations, lots of meetings about this to try to answer  
18 questions, so we are available. We've done a lot of research. You  
19 know, we're ready to give a presentation to the committee, you  
20 know, when that time is right and feel it's really in the best  
21 interest of the county to pursue that.

22  
23 What we're looking at, I think, was 2.5 million, you know, going  
24 forward with that this year and then what's in the budget for  
25 future years, which was less than what we had asked for. You know,  
26 we spend I think 200 million on vehicles so it's a small drop in  
27 the bucket, and kind of in line with the percentages we are seeing  
28 around the county which are pretty high and growing fast with  
29 electric vehicles. So, just to make that statement. Jon Kaiman is  
30 here as well to provide support so if he wants to add anything  
31 or --

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

34 We're good right now. Legislator Caracappa has the floor.

35  
36 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

37 Let me interject for a second. I mean, in all due respect, it's  
38 been two or three cycles already. And we have requested from your  
39 office and the County Executive's office certain information, data,  
40 and we keep getting the message that, you know, if we could just  
41 table it, table it, table it. So it's not from the committee  
42 standpoint that we are holding this up. We have just not received  
43 the information requested for how many months now. I don't know if  
44 Michelle is here, but we've been working in tandem with the County  
45 Executive's office and requesting and re-requesting and  
46 re-requesting this information just to be told, *listen, we're not  
47 prepared yet, we're not ready yet, so please table it and we will  
48 be ready next time.*

49  
50 Well, next time has come and gone a few times already,  
51 Commissioner, so, you know, we'll be prepared to move forward when  
52 we're prepared with the information to move forward. I mean, you  
53 can say whatever you want, Jon, you can add whatever you want at  
54 this point; that's fine. But until we have the information  
55 requested in front of us and we see that presentation, we have,  
56 you know, an educated informed decision process to make -- you

1 know, it's just not going to happen until we have that. So coming  
2 up here and asking again like we've been delaying the process,  
3 that's not -- I don't want to mislead anybody.

4  
5 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

6 I didn't want to suggest that.

7  
8 **DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE KAIMAN:**

9 Can I just add -- Jon Kaiman, Deputy County Executive.

10  
11 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

12 Good morning, Jon.

13  
14 **DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE KAIMAN:**

15 If we could set up this week, we'll follow up and get you the  
16 information and follow up. Obviously, it's not necessary to go  
17 through it here, and I understand you have a lot of other issues to  
18 cover, but certainly I'll talk to the Commissioner and try to make  
19 sure that from our offices at least we're getting everything that  
10:08AM 20 you need to at least have an understanding of where we're coming  
21 from and get you the information you need. We could do that next  
22 week before you work on the actual capital plan, that would be  
23 helpful, I suppose.

24  
25 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

26 Well, I appreciate the information where you're coming from, but we  
27 need more information, and that's the data we requested. So just  
28 bring it all at one time so we don't have to keep going through the  
29 same old routine we've been going through for three months. I  
10:08AM 30 think I put my thoughts on the record. I think I was perfectly  
31 clear with that. I don't want to uphold progress here in Suffolk  
32 County because the only ones that, you know, lose out here are the  
33 residents, so let's work together. We're a team here, Suffolk  
34 County. Let's just get the information needed so we can move  
35 forward, and that's all we've been asking for quite some time now.  
36 That's the bottom line. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

39 Thank you, Legislator Caracappa. The Chair recognizes Legislator  
10:09AM 40 Fleming.

41  
42 **LEG. FLEMING:**

43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and for your leadership on the Capital  
44 Budget. I remember when I first was elected to this position, I  
45 asked Assemblyman Fred Thiel how do you best serve your communities  
46 in a county legislature, and he said through the Capital Projects.  
47 So this is very important work, and thank you for everything you do  
48 as well, Commissioner.

49  
10:09AM 50 Just a few questions. I did -- if you don't mind, Anthony, I'd  
51 just like to follow up just for a moment on Al's questions with  
52 regard to the coastal resiliency. I will note that the spending,  
53 which is only \$250,000 per year at this point in addition to the  
54 200,000 from legislative funding that's currently being expended,  
55 that that money will act as a match. So this is extremely  
56 expensive work. I mean, if we're talking about shore hardening or

1 resilience for the Bergen Point septic treatment plan, that is  
2 enormously expensive and also critically, critically important to  
3 water supply and the safety of the residents there. So that 250  
4 will act as matching for a lot of grant funding. And as a matter  
5 of fact, the engineers who were awarded the RFP included in their  
6 bid expertise on grant funding works so they're good at it, and we  
7 need to support them with this limited funding.

8  
9 I will say that Moody's Analytics earlier this year issued a report  
10 that put Long Island fourth in the nation at risk for climate  
11 change impacts. That's on a metric that includes heat, sea level  
12 rise, and water stress. We're fourth in the nation, so that's a  
13 big, big deal, and I'm glad we see now a commitment to fixing it,  
14 so thanks for the little speech.

15  
16 I will say that also we are just now in the running for a NOAA  
17 grant. It's a program \$575 million program, and the grants will be  
18 between 15 and \$75 million. Those are going to communities that  
19 already have coastal resiliency planning in place, so this project  
20 gives us the ability to really leverage these dollars in an  
21 exciting way and important to the safety of our communities.

22  
23 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

24 Is there a question, though?

25  
26 **LEG. FLEMING:**

27 Yeah, no, I just said if you would indulge me for a moment because  
28 I wanted to clarify the record for Al's questions about it. This  
29 is a hugely important thing. Thank you for that moment.

30  
31 I do have a couple questions with regard to deferred funding. One  
32 being 5569, which is at 264 on the BRO report. It's improvements  
33 to County Road 80 in Montauk Highway in Westhampton. I noted,  
34 Commissioner, that there is -- there's a recommendation by the  
35 department that was adopted by the administration to defer funding  
36 on that project because of eminent domain or some kind of other, I  
37 don't know, title research. Could you talk a little bit about what  
38 is actually happening? That's an important project. I'm surprised  
39 to see the funding deferred.

40  
41 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

42 Yeah. Again, we have a couple of projects on this road. It would  
43 be good for Bill Hillman to address this one particularly.

44  
45 **LEG. FLEMING:**

46 I would like to say there's a lot of great work happening in my  
47 district, so I appreciate that. I just wonder -- I just hope that  
48 the work continues that's spelled out here even if the Legislature  
49 doesn't sort of define its priorities by giving you funding on it.

50  
51 **MR. HILLMAN:**

52 I'm sorry. I was involved with something else. What was the  
53 question?

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 It's Montauk Highway County Road 80 in Westhampton. It's 5569, and  
3 the department -- in the BRO report, it's noted that the department  
4 recommended deferring the funding into subsequent years for this  
5 project because of ongoing, I guess, title work.

6  
7 **MR. HILLMAN:**

8 Yes. So this project was generated by, first, a request due to the  
9 installation of a park on Montauk -- a very, very small passive --  
10 somewhat passive park on Montauk Highway by the town. So a request  
11 was made for the installation of sidewalk. People were going --  
12 the original proposal was for people to park at, I think, a  
13 facility in downtown Eastport and sidewalk which is on the west  
14 side of the dam, I'll call it.

15  
16 **LEG. FLEMING:**

17 This is -- I'm sorry. I think we're on two different projects.  
18 I'm talking about 5569. It's Westhampton. It's the airport road  
19 and Montauk Highway.

20  
21 **MR. HILLMAN:**

22 Oh.

23  
24 **LEG. FLEMING:**

25 And what the department notes is that the department anticipates a  
26 need for eminent domain for land acquisition, and so that the  
27 deferral requested is appropriate. My question is is that work  
28 happening, or would we be more effective in putting funding in the  
29 budget so that you would have what you needed to do that work  
30 rather than just pushing this off into subsequent years?

31  
32 **MR. HILLMAN:**

33 If land acquisition is required, we would need funding to do that;  
34 however, the process takes several years to map; first determine  
35 the limits that you need, go to public hearings on the acquisition,  
36 and then formally acquire the property. That usually takes about  
37 three years.

38  
39 **LEG. FLEMING:**

40 I recognize that and it does seem reasonable. My question is we  
41 hear so frequently about your staffing issues. Is someone actually  
42 working on this, is my question, or would putting it further up in  
43 the budget be more effective in terms of getting the work done?

44  
45 **MR. HILLMAN:**

46 I'd have to get back to you on the specifics of it.

47  
48 **LEG. FLEMING:**

49 Okay. I'd appreciate that. Thank you. And I'll get back to the  
50 Capital Budget committee once I hear from the department on that.

51  
52 **MR. HILLMAN:**

53 Absolutely.

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 And then the only other one I have on that question of being  
3 deferred is about Vector Control, Commissioner. I don't see  
4 Director Iwanejko here, but it's 8739, to control environmental  
5 impact project. Again, this work is being deferred in the budget  
6 and critically important. I actually sit on a statewide  
7 legislative committee to try to get funding for us for --to  
8 control, but we're just seeing epidemic proportions of tickborne  
9 illness, and this was a project that was initiated in order to test  
10 management techniques. And we can't go forward with implementing  
11 management techniques without SEQRA so we need -- oh, we do have  
12 Moses Cucara, so, Mr. Chair, if I could ask Mr. Cucara.

10:16AM

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

15 The floor is yours, Legislator Fleming.

16  
17 **LEG. FLEMING:**

18 Thank you, Moses. So I note in the budget that the funding is  
19 deferred. Just wondering where we are on that project and whether  
20 a full commitment to resolving or attacking tickborne disease here  
21 and the epidemic that we're facing whether that's reflected in the  
22 way this funding is being changed.

10:17AM

23  
24 **MR. CUCURA:**

25 Yes. Currently, the first round of funding we have is for the  
26 consulting side of the project. So with those current funds that  
27 have already been appropriated, we will be going into Indian Island  
28 Park and basically be implementing a full-fledged mapping of the  
29 vegetation. So we will be identifying the trees; identifying all  
30 the invasive species. And that will be our base layer for building  
31 the tech management program within the park. That will also allow  
32 us to develop a, hopefully, a long-term management program for that  
33 particular park that can possibly be applied to other parks moving  
34 forward.

10:17AM

35  
36 **LEG. FLEMING:**

37 But do you have the current funding to be doing the work actively  
38 now?

39  
40 **MR. CUCURA:**

41 That's what the 2023 request was that is specific to the equipment  
42 that we require for actually starting the control side of things.

10:18AM

43  
44 **LEG. FLEMING:**

45 I'm sorry. So that's under 8738 or 8739. So 38 is asking for the  
46 vehicle equipment and then 39 is that project that we've worked on  
47 for so many years to do the management assessment, right?

48  
49 **MR. CUCURA:**

50 Yes. So 39 is Indian Island. And then 38 is our general vector  
51 management program, specifically the saltwater marsh work.

10:18AM

52  
53 **LEG. FLEMING:**

54 So just going back to 39 for a second, that work is -- you're able  
55 to continue at a good pace with that work with the '23 funding; is  
56 that what I'm hearing?



1 **MR. CUCURA:**

2 Yes.

3  
4 **LEG. FLEMING:**

5 And that's why the department recommends deferring the '24 funding?

6  
7 **MR. CUCURA:**

8 Correct. Because as we have not purchased the equipment yet, we  
9 don't have a great sense of what additional costs we will be  
10 looking at in 2024. And we would like to get farther into the  
11 project so we can properly -- provide a properly-informed request.

12  
13 **LEG. FLEMING:**

14 I appreciate that, and I just needed to get that on the record  
15 because statewide, region wide, folks are watching this project  
16 so it's urgent. We have, you know, a real uptick, and new ticks  
17 coming every day with climate change. So, thank you. We have an  
18 uptick; that's what Al says. (Laughter)

19  
20 8738, though, I note is just about the vehicles for the salt marsh  
21 restoration; you know, that's happening now, and kudos to Director  
22 Iwanejko for really taking the bull by the horns and doing  
23 fantastic work on that effort. But I guess there's a significant  
24 portion of the funding that's being deferred. And the only thing  
25 you're asking for is the equipment. And I'm just wondering again,  
26 you know, we have restoration happening now at Accabonac Harbor.  
27 You just did these three huge projects on the south shore. There's  
28 more to come. Is this truly reflective of the commitment to this  
29 -- the importance of wetlands restoration for pesticide reduction  
30 not just for coastal resiliency? Do you have the funding based on  
31 this to continue this work with real urgency?

32  
33 **MR. CUCURA:**

34 Well, at this time, we've largely finished up all of our existing  
35 grants that have allowed us to do the marsh management work. So  
36 the request we have out currently for vehicles is to replace some  
37 of our ageing vehicles that will allow us further utility. As for  
38 specifics to the marsh equipment, as we don't have additional marsh  
39 management projects lined up down the road currently, we do have  
40 applications in the works; however, we don't know specifically what  
41 we may need at this point.

42  
43 **LEG. FLEMING:**

44 So the grant applications that you have probably require match  
45 funding, correct?

46  
47 **MR. CUCURA:**

48 That would be through Water Quality.

49  
50 **LEG. FLEMING:**

51 I see. Well, I guess if you could get, or, Commissioner, if you  
52 could get back to me on that, I think what we just -- what I'd like  
53 to hear is some reassurance that by deferring the significant  
54 portion of the funding on this, we're still holding on to our  
55 ability to capture these grants with the match funding we need.  
56 So I think the vehicle funding serves as match funding for a lot of

1 these grant applications. I just want to make sure that doesn't  
2 fall off the table because there's a lot of pressure on this budget  
3 and this is a critical -- the pesticide reduction and the tick work  
4 is a huge part of county work, and it's being watched regionally.  
5 I just want to make sure that we don't lose the commitment to that.  
6 So thank you, Moses, and thank you to the director as well for  
7 their hard work. Thank you, Commissioner. And I don't have any  
8 further questions.

10:22AM

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

11 Thank you, Legislator Fleming. Very important work. We appreciate  
12 it. Legislator Trotta.

13  
14 **LEG. TROTТА:**

15 Two quick questions. I mean, that monument over there is not that  
16 old, and I remember going there maybe a couple years ago. It  
17 hadn't been mowed. The weeds were, like, three feet high. You  
18 know, it's all about maintenance. And I just want to make sure  
19 that you're spending money on maintaining these things. Because,  
20 you know, these things shouldn't crack. Even if they're 20 years  
21 old, they shouldn't crack and they shouldn't settle like that.  
22 Because we're paying prevailing wage to have this work done. Do  
23 you go back to the original people and say, "wait, what happened  
24 here?"

10:22AM

25  
26 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

27 I mean, that's a possibility, Legislator. I had more experience at  
28 the state doing that going back to contractors who, over time, had  
29 poor performing products. Not easy when you're going back that  
30 for. I'll say some of the stuff is in the foundation. I'll be  
31 glad to take a walk over there with you.

10:23AM

32  
33 **LEG. TROTТА:**

34 Because if it's settling -- if we're paying prevailing wage, we  
35 should not have settling. We shouldn't, you know, it should be  
36 done correctly.

37  
38 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

39 Yeah, agreed, agreed.

40  
41 **LEG. TROTТА:**

42 Because we're paying top dollar for it.

43  
44 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

45 That's part of the reason we want to bring in an expert to inspect  
46 them.

47  
48 **LEG. TROTТА:**

49 If you think back, now you weren't there, but we hired an expert.  
50 We paid a fortune for planning and design, and all of a sudden it  
51 falls down. It's just not right.

10:23AM

52  
53 Brief thing about dredging. The Nissequoque River, I know you do  
54 it like every four years or something like that. You don't go back  
55 far enough. I'm getting a lot of complaints that, you know,  
56 they're going to be building a state marina back there. Are you

1 coordinating with the state to make sure that it gets all the way  
2 back around the corner there? And, you know, the people are  
3 complaining that it's a foot deep now.

4  
5 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

6 Yeah. Within the, you know, channel that's our responsibility, we  
7 are coordinating. I can't speak to exactly how far back it goes  
8 because I know this question has come up before. Bill Hillman  
9 could speak to that more directly, but the dredging program is  
10 functioning very well as far as coordination at all levels of  
11 government, even the federal government.

12  
13 An example of that is Legislator Bergin had asked about Champlin's  
14 Creek a month ago. And we already have the permits to do that work  
15 when some boats started to bottom out, and we had planned to do  
16 that work perhaps next year. And now we're ready to do it first  
17 thing this fall. So that's, you know, permits from the state; it's  
18 permits from the feds. They all have to be subsequent permits, so  
19 it's three permits that'll have to go one after another. You can't  
20 get them out of order. They don't allow that. So, really kudos to  
21 his team to do that. They are very sort of good at understanding  
22 where the limits of everything is and who's responsible for what  
23 and building that coalition, you know, from the town to the county  
24 to the state to the --

25  
26 **LEG. TROTTA:**

27 I just want to make sure that we don't bring a dredge in and they  
28 build it and then two weeks later, we have to bring another dredge  
29 in and -- well, given the fact that yesterday's paper had a \$36  
30 billion shortfall, maybe we won't have a marina back there.

31  
32 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

33 They'll do a thorough job in the channel. That's our  
34 responsibility.

35  
36 **LEG. TROTTA:**

37 I just want to make sure it's coordinated. All right. That's all.  
38 Thanks.

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

41 Thank you, Legislator Trotta. The chair recognizes Deputy  
42 Presiding Officer Flotteron.

43  
44 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

45 Good morning. My questions are maybe sometimes it's other  
46 departments, but in the long range, your department does the  
47 building. It came up yesterday, for example, the medical  
48 examiner's office, the scoping, and really my statement is just  
49 sort of general. It's that scoping, the police headquarters  
50 scoping, K9 facility; it just seems like things languish for a  
51 long, long time. To my understanding, because I figured the  
52 scoping would be finished by now for even the medical examiner's  
53 office, and I see in your notes -- I learned yesterday -- I guess  
54 you only got one bid in in December, but we only just went out to  
55 bid like a month or so ago, and, like, what takes so long? It just  
56 seems like, again, waiting years to get things done. I have been

1 trying to get basically a bathroom finished in Sagtikos Manor for,  
2 like, the last five years because they don't really have a bathroom  
3 for tourists. So I'm just a little confused why -- the medical  
4 examiner's office again, I think everyone up here was shocked that  
5 we don't have anything in. I understand if you only get one bid  
6 in, you maybe have to do it again, but it takes five months to  
7 resubmit it out.

8  
9 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

10:26AM 10 Yeah, Legislator, there's a desire to do that as fast as possible,  
11 so we did. We shortened the time period. I think that scared off  
12 a lot of consultants that have this expertise. It was put out in  
13 December, which may not have been the best idea. We probably  
14 should have maybe waited until January so it wasn't during the  
15 holidays. We got one respondent. We didn't feel they were really  
16 up to the task and went back and recommended, then, to the County  
17 Executive's office that we do instead a full, not a rushed study,  
18 that we really bring in expertise from around the country to  
19 compete for this. Generally, RFPs take six months or more to get  
10:27AM 20 out so we did get it out in five months, but by the time we had the  
21 direction to go forward, it was only about two or three months to  
22 get that RFP back out.

23  
24 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

25 It just feels like it's languishing, many projects, and just like  
26 we had a special meeting about the police headquarters to get that  
27 moving finally and it seemed like that again, you guys -- still not  
28 a conclusion yet of who you are granting on this project, and again  
29 the timeline that we all sat down together was, that should have  
10:28AM 30 been finished a couple months ago. It seems like that's all I'm  
31 doing a lot of times. My office would -- and your office, please  
32 give us as new update, and it's just -- it's repeating the same  
33 question.

34  
35 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

36 Yes. Understood. We're running the police headquarters, the  
37 selected consultant out of bid that was higher than we had  
38 estimated, so putting the funding together to make sure that they  
39 could proceed or allow them to proceed in part so it it doesn't  
10:28AM 40 slow down the process. Joe Ianucci is here, our electrical  
41 engineer, and he can represent in particular that study in more  
42 detail if you're looking for more information. But I really feel  
43 both studies are headed in a very good direction. They are not  
44 rushed. They are going to be thorough. We're going to look at all  
45 options from doing nothing to doing everything, which is what they  
46 should do. You know, new locations potentially for the police  
47 department or having facilities in both Yaphank and out in Western  
48 Suffolk County. All those options that we discussed will be looked  
49 at. I think, you know, going forward this is really in the  
10:29AM 50 county's best interest, both studies. The medical examiner's  
51 building has been in the works for 20 years, right, and there's  
52 still no project. We really need a plan and a study that's  
53 thoroughly vetted and that all stakeholders are invited to  
54 participate in and be interviewed for to really come up with a good  
55 solution that's in the county's best interest for the next 50  
56 years.

1 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

2 Totally agree. Just seems like to get the bid and get a contract  
3 with someone takes years; that's all. Thank you.

4  
5 **VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

6 Legislator Gonzalez.

7  
8 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

9 Thank you very much. Commissioner, how are you?

10:29AM 10

11 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

12 I'm good, Legislator, expect for my six-month-old daughter  
13 scratched my eye this morning, so I'm having a little trouble  
14 seeing. I was a little delayed getting here but all good  
15 otherwise.

16  
17 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

18 Well, my question is 5532.

10:29AM 19

20 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

21 Never mind about your eye.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

26 Sorry. I'm about to scratch your other eye based on the  
27 information. I mean, we've secured I think 800,000 now for some  
28 years. And as I'm looking at '24, '25, '26, this project doesn't  
29 look like it's going to take off any time soon. It's been pushed  
30 back subsequent years. I just like an explanation, if possible,  
31 why this project that has been, I think, pre-Covid and no plans  
32 going forward.

10:30AM 30

33  
34 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

35 Yes. So this is County Route 100, Suffolk Avenue from Sycamore  
36 Lane to Lowell Avenue, correct? Yeah. I know we've had discussion  
37 about this, Legislator, but I don't recall all the facts, so I  
38 defer to Chief Engineer Bill Hillman to answer that more directly.

39  
40 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

41 I'm sorry?

42  
43 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

44 I would defer to Chief Engineer Bill Hillman to answer that more  
45 directly.

46  
47 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

48 Hey, Bill.

49  
50 **MR. HILLMAN:**

51 Hi, Legislator. How are you? So as you're aware, the sewer came  
52 through the roadway and there was a patch in the roadway. We had  
53 just resurfaced the project, resurfaced the roadway, so the  
54 pavement is still in good condition, so really that's the  
55 situation.

56

1 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

2 And so the median on that as well, I know that that's pretty broken  
3 up going into that area as well because I think it was part of the  
4 project.

5  
6 **MR. HILLMAN:**

7 That's correct. If you'd like, we can break out the median work  
8 and we can advance that if that's something you'd like to do.

9  
10 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

11 Yeah. We've been actually -- you know, I know we've been getting a  
12 lot of community conversations that, you know, Sycamore is like  
13 when you're leaving Islandia, the Village of Islandia, and how you  
14 come into Central Islip, it just looks like night and day. So, you  
15 know, it's a little troubling. I know the maintenance and the  
16 upkeep of DPW has been spot on, but we were talking about the  
17 improvement of that center median there with some type of  
18 bluegrass, which is more economical, easier on the maintenance,  
19 which conversations that I think we've had, if it's possible to  
20 advance at least going into the center median because I agree.  
21 I've been looking at the paving right after the sewer was done, so  
22 it does look, you know, pretty good right now, but the center  
23 median doesn't. So, if we can advance that and make it look more  
24 appealing for individuals that are leaving Islandia and coming into  
25 Central Islip I think would be highly, highly appreciated by the  
26 community.

27  
28 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

29 Legislator, we'll go back and look at that and get back to you.

30  
31 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

32 Thank you. Thank you, Legislator Gonzalez. Hi, Commissioner, good  
33 morning. Thanks for working with me on many projects especially  
34 the new crosswalk in Sayville. It came out fantastic. Thank you  
35 for that; much appreciated.

36  
37 If we could just go to 5512 for a second, improvements to County  
38 Road 97 Nicolls Road. When I had first got on the Legislature in  
39 2020 right before Covid, we talked about sound barriers on Nicolls  
40 Road. I just want to know where we are with those sound barriers  
41 if that was scrapped or if we can try to allocate some funds in  
42 here to try to jump start that.

43  
44 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

45 Yeah, so sound barriers, we follow FHW guidelines, which if you are  
46 not widening the roadway, if you're not physically moving traffic  
47 any -- an inch closer to the residents, then it doesn't require  
48 sound walls. We're pretty strict about that as the FHWA is and as  
49 New York State DOT is because we have sound walls all over the  
50 place and not everybody sees that as a good thing. So when a  
51 widening project occurs where it could be widening to the middle or  
52 it's just a change, you know, of striping or whatever without  
53 necessarily moving traffic closer to residents --

1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

2 No, you know, I appreciate that. Nicolls Road has become a major  
3 thoroughfare now over the last 20 years and there's large swaths of  
4 residential communities that, you know, abut Nicolls Road. So I'd  
5 really like to try to advance, even if we just do it where the  
6 residential areas are and leave spaces where the highway and the  
7 turnarounds are. I think it's a worthy Public Works project.

8  
9 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

10 We can follow up on the discussion of that. There are other things  
11 besides sound walls that can be done, berms and other things.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

14 Sure.

15  
16 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

17 I have dealt with this very actively on the Long Island Expressway,  
18 as you can imagine. People who live in gaps between sound walls,  
19 you know, until the road is actually moved closer, and traffic --  
20 there probably is more traffic. It probably is louder than when  
21 they moved in, but the law is pretty clear on this, you know, that  
22 we don't actually put the sound walls up unless, you know, you're  
23 moving traffic closer to those homes. That's what triggers the  
24 decibel metering and checking and everything.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

27 Fantastic. And just to switch gears for one second back to  
28 dredging, the Grand Canal in Oakdale, there's been some  
29 conversation about whose responsibility it is to actually do that  
30 work. The state says it's the county. The county has not really  
31 said whose responsibility it is. Can we get the Grand Canal dredge  
32 is really where I am today.

33  
34 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:**

35 Again, I would defer to Bill Hillman. I think he can answer your  
36 questions on this.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

39 Thank you.

40  
41 **MR. HILLMAN:**

42 Yeah. The Grand Canal in Oakdale has been an ongoing issue for  
43 well over 15 years. It doesn't meet any of the criteria for public  
44 benefit, the present criteria for public benefit. It would be the  
45 town's responsibility to bring it to us and identify which public  
46 benefit it does meet. Since the project started 15 years ago or  
47 the idea of the project started 15 years ago, there has been a  
48 modification to the public benefit criteria. There is criteria 11,  
49 which is an environmental criteria --

50  
51 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

52 Absolutely.

53  
54 **MR. HILLMAN:**

55 And the town does, you know, have the ability to pursue dredging by  
56 the county via that criteria.

1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
2 It has to come from the town?

3  
4 **MR. HILLMAN:**  
5 It has to come from the town. It has to go before Dredge Project  
6 Screening Committee. The town needs to make a presentation to the  
7 Dredge Project Screening Committee. It has to identify the  
8 quantity of material and where it would be disposed. That's all  
9 the responsibility of the town. Once that is all brought to the  
10 Dredge Project Screening Committee, a decision is made to ensure  
11 that it either meets public benefit or the environmental criteria  
12 that is criteria 11. I will say criteria 11 is a significant  
13 hurdle, so it requires coordination with the Health Department.  
14 It's not an easy lift to ensure that it's truly an environmental  
15 issue. We want the environmental issues documented before it'll  
16 be considered.

10:37AM 17  
18 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
19 So it includes testing of the water and the soil and the dredge  
20 facility.

21  
22 **MR. HILLMAN:**  
23 That's correct. So there is a path forward but it is not --  
24 you know, it's complicated, not an easy one.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
27 I appreciate it. Thank you very much. Thank you, Commissioner. I  
28 don't have any further questions. Does anyone else have a question  
29 for the Commissioner? Seeing none, thank you very much. We'll  
30 take all of your Capital Projects under advisement. Any questions,  
31 we'll follow up.

32  
33 *(\*The following testimony was taken by Lucia Braaten & was  
34 transcribed by Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographers\*)*

35  
36 *(\*The meeting was resumed at 11:02 a.m.\*)*

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
39 Okay, folks, we're back from recess. Madam Clerk, can we just do a  
40 roll call for this session, please.

11:02AM 41  
42 *(\*Roll was called by Hope Clark - Chief Deputy Clerk\*)*

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
45 Present.

46  
47 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**  
48 *(Not Present).*

49  
11:02AM 50 **LEG. HAHN:**  
51 Present.

52  
53 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**  
54 Here.



1 LEG. BERGIN:

2 Here.

3

4 LEG. TROTTA:

5 Here.

6

7 LEG. RICHBERG:

8 Present.

9

11:02AM

10 LEG. ESTEBAN:

11 *(Not Present)*.

12

13 LEG. BONTEMPI:

14 *(Not Present)*.

15

16 D.P.O. FLOTTERON:

17 Here.

18

19 CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:

11:02AM

20 *Seven*.

21

22 LEG. KRUPSKI:

23 Krupski's here, Ma'am.

24

25 LEG. BERGIN:

26 Why do they keep forgetting you?

27

28 CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:

29 No, he's just not -- you're just not part of Eco --

30

31 LEG. TROTTA:

32 No, Government Ops.

33

34 CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:

35 -- Dev or Government Ops. We're doing both right now, Eco Dev and  
36 Government Ops, so. But we know.

37

38 LEG. BERGIN:

39 We know you're here.

40

41 CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:

42 We know you're here.

43

44 LEG. BERGIN:

45 You're ever present.

46

47 CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:

48 A quorum is in place, we will start the meeting.

49

11:03AM

50 So let's do *Economic Development, Planning & Housing* first. Can  
51 you come up to the table, please? I see you brought the whole  
52 department with you, that's good.

53

54

*(\*Laughter\*)*

55

56

1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

2 Okay. So how we're going to proceed is we'll just speak about a  
3 Capital Project that interests the Legislators, but more  
4 importantly from the department. Just state the Capital Project  
5 number that we're going to speak about beforehand, and just please  
6 all introduce yourself, your names for the record.

7  
8 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

9 Good morning. I'm Chris Gonzalez, Chief Deputy Commissioner,  
10 Economic Development & Planning.

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

13 Thank you.

14  
15 **DIRECTOR DREYER:**

16 Elyse Dreyer, Director of Finance.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

19 Thank you.

20  
21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PIKA:**

22 Alisa Pika, Deputy Commissioner, Economic Development & Planning.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

25 Thank you. The floor is yours.

26  
27 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

28 Great, thank you. Good morning. Happy to be before the committee  
29 to speak about the Capital Budget for 2024. Unfortunately,  
30 Commissioner Lansdale is out this week, so we will be filling in in  
31 her place. I know she's reached out to a bunch of committee  
32 members in anticipation of this, so whatever hasn't been answered  
33 we'll hopefully answer today, and if not we'll get back to you with  
34 more information.

35  
36 We'd like to just highlight a couple of -- sorry about that.  
37 We'd like to just highlight a couple of our larger Capital  
38 Projects. CP 5709, which supports Renovations to the Existing Air  
39 Traffic Control Tower at Gabreski Airport. The original tower  
40 built in the 1940s does not meet current fire and life safety  
41 standards. We want to thank County -- the County Executive and BRO  
42 for their recommendation of over 3.6 million in Suffolk County  
43 funding for 2024. The funding will leverage -- will be leveraged  
44 by over 5 million in FAA grants.

45  
46 CP 5598, which is Connect Long Island/Route 110 BRT.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

49 What's the CP number?

50  
51 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

52 5598.

53  
54 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

55 5598.

1 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

2 This is a joint project with DPW that will make the County's local  
3 transit system more efficient, effective and customer friendly.  
4 We want to thank you supporting our request of 3.1 million in  
5 County funding. This money will be utilized in conjunction with  
6 Federal and State grants of 27.8 million. Final design is underway  
7 and expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

8  
9 CP 8701 will help the County purchase Farmland Development Rights  
10 to preserve farmland for the future. There are approximately  
11 10,000 acres of unprotected farmland in Suffolk County that is  
12 under threat of conversion to other uses. It is key to have a  
13 pipeline of funding for these acquisitions to allow the department  
14 to view properties and make offers.

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

17 Chris, just give me one second.

18  
19 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

20 Yes.

21  
22 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

23 She's got -- we have questions. Let's just go one at a time, all  
24 right?

25  
26 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

27 Sure.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

30 Legislator Bergin, the floor is yours. She has a question about  
31 the control tower.

32  
33 **LEG. BERGIN:**

34 Yes. Sorry, you're just kind of blowing through all of these  
35 things real quick.

36  
37 (*\*Laughter\**)

38  
39 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

40 Well, I was trying to do an intro statement and then we could  
41 get --

42  
43 **LEG. BERGIN:**

44 Oh, is that what you're doing?

45  
46 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

47 Yeah, yeah, so.

48  
49 **LEG. BERGIN:**

50 Oh, okay. But then you go intro away. Sorry.

51  
52 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

53 (*Laughter*) I have a couple of more and then we can get into the  
54 details, if that's okay.

1 **LEG. BERGIN:**

2 Sure.

3

4 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

5 Okay. So, finishing up on farmland preservation, we want to thank  
6 the County Executive and BRO for proposing 10 million in funding  
7 for 2024.

8

9 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

11:07AM 10 Excuse me. Farmland, what CP number was that?

11

12 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

13 That was 8701.

14

15 And then following on to CP 6412, the Downtown Revitalization  
16 Program funds Capital Improvements to our downtown and central  
17 business districts. These improvements enhance the economic  
18 viability of the community resulting in additional visitors and  
19 business activity. We support the County Executive's proposed  
20 budget of 500,000 for 2024 which will allow for additional projects  
21 to be funded and potentially more communities to benefit from this  
22 program.

11:07AM

23

24 Finally, it is no secret that our County is in critical need of  
25 housing for all incomes. The Capital funding in CP's 6411 and 8704  
26 are a key element supporting future affordable housing development  
27 by having a pipeline of funding that allows the department to  
28 review and support new housing developments early in the  
29 development process as projects secure additional funding through  
30 State and Federal sources. These projects build strong,  
31 public/private partnerships that benefit our communities for the  
32 long-term. We support the County Executive's proposed budget of  
33 2.5 million in 6411 and 2 million in 8704 for 2024.

11:08AM

34

35 At this time we'd like to open it up for questions.

36

37 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

38 Sure. And thanks for the editorial on affordable housing.

39 Legislator Bergin.

11:08AM

40

41 **LEG. BERGIN:**

42 (*Laughter*) Sorry. Can you go back to the topic of the airport with  
43 regard -- and what number was that again? Was that 5598?

44

45 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

46 The --

47

48 **DIRECTOR DREYER:**

49 5709.

11:08AM

50

51 **LEG. BERGIN:**

52 5709? Okay. What is the total cost?

53

54 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

55 I'm going to invite Josh Smith up.

56

1 **MR. SMITH:**  
2 Good morning. Joshua Smith, Suffolk County Gabreski Airport  
3 Manager. So the total cost for the air traffic control tower is --  
4 just for the construction phase is a little over \$16 million right  
5 now.

6  
7 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
8 All right. Is there another phase besides the construction phase?  
9 --

11:09AM 10  
11 **MR. SMITH:**  
12 No, we're in design currently, and design is a hundred percent  
13 funded between the FAA, New York State, DOT and Infrastructure  
14 BIL Funding.

15  
16 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
17 Okay. So there's 16 million, right?

18  
19 **MR. SMITH:**  
11:09AM 20 Correct.

21  
22 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
23 Okay. How much of that is coming from the County and how much of  
24 that is coming from FAA, and why isn't the FAA matching funds?

25  
26 **MR. SMITH:**  
27 So right now the FAA, with their Airport Improvement Program, they  
28 will not issue a construction grant on an estimate; it needs to be  
29 the bid numbers. So, with the economic stability of the airport  
11:10AM 30 we've had a -- in the last four years we've done, operated in a  
31 surplus, and on average we are around 1.3 million we've been  
32 surplused over the last four years, each year. I have about a  
33 \$9 million reserve balance in the Airport Reserve Fund and I'm  
34 looking to use 7 million transfer from the Gabreski Airport Fund so  
35 that we can go to the bid, and then once I get the bid numbers I'll  
36 be able to apply for the FAA grants, I'll be able to apply for the  
37 Airport Infrastructure BIL Grants which is also through the FAA,  
38 the Infrastructure BIL Funding. But the construction funding needs  
39 to have the actual final bid numbers, they won't let me apply for  
11:10AM 40 them off of an estimate.

41  
42 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
43 Okay. So, I'm just still not clear on -- so how much will the  
44 County be spending toward this \$16 million project and how much  
45 will the FAA then be giving us?

46  
47 **MR. SMITH:**  
48 So right now in the '24 proposed budget, I'm looking at using a  
49 little over \$7 million from the transfer from the Gabreski Airport  
11:11AM 50 Fund, and then a bond of \$3 million, a little over \$3 million;  
51 again, that goes to Gabreski Airport. And then the FAA funding is  
52 not set in stone, an air traffic control tower is kind of the  
53 unusual project for the FAA because we're a Federal contract tower,  
54 not an FAA-owned tower.

1 So, typically they fund 90% of the project. But that being said,  
2 I've gone back and forth with them several times, they won't give  
3 me a number at this point in time, on how much they will fund.  
4

5 **LEG. BERGIN:**

6 Yeah. Because when I was at Islip, when we did projects over at  
7 the airport, at MacArthur Airport, the FAA was always coming in  
8 with matching funds or more.  
9

10 **MR. SMITH:**

11 Right. Islip's tower is an FAA-owned tower.  
12

13 **LEG. BERGIN:**

14 Owned tower.  
15

16 **MR. SMITH:**

17 This tower is a Federal contract tower, so the County owns the  
18 tower and we're responsible for the tower. So it's -- and they put  
19 a contracted vendor in that does the air traffic controlling, it's  
20 not FAA personnel. The FAA owns very little equipment in this  
21 tower.  
22

23 **LEG. BERGIN:**

24 And who utilizes this tower?  
25

26 **MR. SMITH:**

27 We have about 60,000 operations a year. The Air National Guard  
28 uses it every day, it's very utilized. And we're here -- they're  
29 open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week, 365 days a year.  
30

31 **LEG. BERGIN:**

32 Hmm. Okay, thank you.  
33

34 **MR. SMITH:**

35 You're welcome.  
36

37 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

38 I have a question.  
39

40 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

41 Legislator Flotteron.  
42

43 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

44 So the 3 million that the County has put in, if you do get funding  
45 from the Federal Government, does that get returned to the County?  
46

47 **MR. SMITH:**

48 The -- which one?  
49

50 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

51 You said 3 million the County needs to layout for this.  
52

53 **MR. SMITH:**

54 So it's --  
55  
56

1 **LEG. BERGIN:**

2 Bond.

3

4 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

5 Bonding.

6

7 **MR. SMITH:**

8 Right.

9

10 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

11 So they're going to give us -- I mean, if you get the grant  
12 approved, is that what your goal is, to have this paid? The County  
13 won't be responsible for the debt, we're just sort of --

14

15 **MR. SMITH:**

16 Right.

17

18 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

19 -- say in some ways like cosigning at the moment; is that really  
20 what the plan is?

11:12AM

21

22 **MR. SMITH:**

23 Correct. Correct. The plan is right now it's going to take two  
24 years from groundbreaking to commissioning. The plan is to get the  
25 bid number, apply for all these grants I can apply for, and then as  
26 we receive the grants the bond number would go down first and then  
27 the transfer from the Gabreski Fund would go down second.

28

29 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

30 Okay.

31

32 **MR. SMITH:**

33 So we try to wipe out the bond right away. And also, we wouldn't  
34 go to bond right away either. We just need that so we can get the  
35 bid out.

36

37 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

38 Okay. So I -- and I think that was Legislator Bergin's concern in  
39 what the long run is, you know. We're cosigning right now, but in  
40 the long run your is that the County is not going to be paying --  
41 the grant will pay this off, not us.

11:13AM

42

43 **MR. SMITH:**

44 I'll be applying for every grant I can and look -- and we are on  
45 the FAA's radar, this is tower is something they want to rebuild.  
46 They've been/it's national. Every FAA person you talk to in their  
47 hierarchy is saying that they want to rebuild this tower. So I'm  
48 looking forward to getting more grants, it's just I need the BID  
49 numbers before I can do that.

11:13AM

50

51 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

52 Understand. Okay, thank you.

53

54 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

55 Thank you, Legislator Flotteron. Legislator Trotta.

56

1 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
2 What's wrong with the old one.

3  
4 (*\*Laughter\**)  
5

6 **MR. SMITH:**  
7 It was built in the 40s, there's an open steel structure, it's  
8 got -- a concrete block was added after that, the stucco's falling  
9 off, the FAA has condemned it once already. It's --

11:14AM 10

11 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
12 Asbestos.

13  
14 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
15 Can it be repaired?

16  
17 **MR. SMITH:**  
18 No, it's beyond repair. So we County did a renovation or  
19 replacement study back in 2003, I believe it was, and from that  
20 2003 study it was determined that back then it was not repairable  
21 and the new one was needed.

11:14AM 20

22  
23 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
24 And you stayed in it for an extra 20 years?

25  
26 **MR. SMITH:**  
27 It's been there for an extra 20 years, yes.

28  
29 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
30 All right. So there's -- clearly there's something wrong with it.  
31 Send me that study, the 2003 study.

11:14AM 30

32  
33 **MR. SMITH:**  
34 Will do.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
37 Any other questions for Mr. Smith?

38  
39 (*No Response*)

11:14AM 40

41 Seeing none, thank you, Mr. Smith. Appreciate it.

42  
43 **MR. SMITH:**  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
47 Can we go to -- Deputy Commissioner, can we go to 6424, please?  
48 JumpStart Suffolk/Connect Long Island.

11:15AM 50

51 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
52 Oh, gosh.

53 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
54 That's 64 what?  
55  
56



1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
2 6424. I skipped my blood pressure medicine this morning.

3  
4 Can we just talk about total cost of this project, where we are,  
5 how much we've expended, how much is in the pipeline, please?

6  
7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PIKA:**  
8 We're going to ask Jonathan Seigal to come and talk to that  
9 project. Jonathan, I'm sorry, Keyes.

11:15AM 10  
11 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
12 You got the first one right. State your name for the record  
13 please.

14  
15 **MR. KEYES:**  
16 Yes, Jonathan Keyes. Good after -- good morning. If I could have  
17 a moment to organize myself.

18  
19 So, right now for the next three years, the proposed Capital Budget  
11:15AM 20 includes 2 million for next year, 2 million for '25 and 4 million  
21 for '26. This project has traditionally supported transformative  
22 economic revitalization projects such as the Ronkonkoma Hub,  
23 Wyandanch Revitalization, Huntington Station, Village of Port  
24 Jefferson, Village of Patchogue have all received funding under  
25 this program. I apologize, is there a particular question that you  
26 wanted me to address right now with regard to that funding?

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
29 How much have we spent on this program total since its inception?  
11:16AM 30 If you have that number.

31  
32 **MR. KEYES:**  
33 Yes, I can tell you the award number, I have right here. I'm just  
34 a little slow and jittery. Goodness. Okay, here. The total  
35 that's been -- that's been appropriated, and this is \$9.25 million  
36 over the life of this project.

37  
38 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
39 How much, John?

11:16AM 40  
41 **MR. KEYES:**  
42 Nine point two five. So that includes things like, as I said,  
43 Huntington Station; an award to the Village of Patchogue for a  
44 municipal parking lot, that actually just broke ground about two  
45 weeks ago; Ronkonkoma Hub; Village of Babylon received money for  
46 Argyle Falls and so on.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
49 And what future plans do you have for this project?

11:17AM 50  
51 **MR. KEYES:**  
52 So we're continuing to kind of survey the landscape to see what  
53 additional projects might be available and, you know, suitable for  
54 funding. We've had discussions with local towns and villages.  
55 I know, for instance, the Greenlawn Civic Association has a -- is  
56 very interested in pursuing street-scape improvements and

1 pedestrian improvements in their downtown. So, you know, certainly  
2 a lot of revitalization projects in Amityville and Central Islip  
3 and Huntington Station that have all been the subject of State  
4 planning study for downtown revitalization, so we're continually  
5 looking for ways to augment those efforts and, you know, see what  
6 gaps in funding there might be that we could help support to get  
7 those projects off the ground.

8  
9 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

11:18AM 10 So I see kind of scattered through the Capital Project, as usual,  
11 6411, Infrastructure Improvements for Workforce Housing/Connect  
12 Long Island. Can you just give us a brief summary of what Connect  
13 Long Island is?  
14

15 **MR. KEYES:**

16 Sure. Connect Long Island is just a broad framework under which we  
17 grew projects that advance a goal of better connecting our  
18 downtowns and transit-oriented areas with our regional academic  
19 institutions like Stony Brook and St. Joe's with major research  
11:18AM 20 institutions like Cold Spring Harbor and Brookhaven National Lab  
21 and with Open Space. So it's really a framework for how we think  
22 about the relationship between mass transit and downtowns and our  
23 innovation economy.  
24

25 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

26 And just back to the Deputy Commissioners for a second. Since  
27 we've been doing the Workforce and Affordable Housing Programs in  
28 Suffolk County, how much have the rents gone down?  
29

11:19AM 30 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

31 The rents over what period of time, meaning the entire period of  
32 the program?  
33

34 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

35 Let's take the last five years.  
36

37 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

38 The last five years? We'll have to get back to you on a general  
39 number there but, you know, we can get you that information.  
40

11:19AM 41 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

42 Yeah, I'll save you time; the rents have gone up 225% since the --  
43 in the last five years of this program. So I don't know if you  
44 guys have figured that into more money that you're going to need  
45 for this program, because the more money you spend the faster rents  
46 go up, so I would take that into consideration as we continue to  
47 take taxpayer money to fund these projects.  
48

49 Any other questions?  
50

51 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

52 Yes.  
53

54 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

55 Legislator Richberg.  
56

1 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

2 Thank you. So Jonathan -- oops, I'm sorry; Director Keyes.

3  
4 **MR. KEYES:**

5 No.

6  
7 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

8 So, the Downtown Revitalization Programs that you're working on,  
9 are you also working in conjunction with any of the State? Yeah,  
10 I know Amityville Village was able to get some funding, I know  
11 Riverhead was able to get funding. Are you able to use, leverage  
12 some of your funding to help with -- you know, get some of their  
13 projects off the ground as well?

14  
15 **MR. KEYES:**

16 Yeah, that's -- it's kind of precisely what we do. We have  
17 contacts and work with all the DRI Working Groups, Amityville and  
18 Huntington Station, Central Islip, Riverhead, and look for ways, as  
19 I said, to supplement what they're doing or if there's a need for  
20 matching funds or any way to sort of augment the investment to, you  
21 know, make the whole greater than the sum of its parts, if you  
22 will.

23  
24 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

25 And is there a process? Because I know there are some folks who --  
26 and could possibly use this capital funding? Probably not  
27 necessarily in my district, but probably in districts all over.  
28 If we want to get started with a downtown revitalization project,  
29 like is there -- is there a person or a link or a team that they  
30 should -- they can connect with -- I mean, I could go to any one of  
31 you because I know there are folks all over the County who have  
32 those questions,

33  
34 **MR. KEYES:**

35 Sure, they could contact me or anyone in our -- in our department  
36 to help kind of formulate a plan and start the groundwork for what  
37 a revitalization effort might look like.

38  
39 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

40 Okay, thank you. And I just want -- Jonathan, you know, some of  
41 the stuff that you've done around by my office has really taken off  
42 over the last -- you know, especially over the last five years,  
43 and so I want to definitely thank you for that.

44  
45 **MR. KEYES:**

46 Thank you.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

49 The Chair recognizes Legislator Hahn.

50  
51 **LEG. HAHN:**

52 I'm going to defer.

53  
54 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

55 Okay. The Chair recognizes Legislator Flotteron and then  
56 Legislator Caracappa.

1 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

2 Yes. I was just reading a little closer this CP 6424. Yeah, the  
3 title I think is a little confusing for what it really does. It's  
4 really some community improvements. I see -- I know from my own  
5 district the bikeway to connect the train station -- I'm over here.  
6 The train station to the ferry, you helped with the bikeway there,  
7 and I see how the community -- you know, I saw it in Patchogue,  
8 it's the brewery relocation or something and doing things with  
9 parking and stuff?

11:22AM 10

11 **MR. KEYES:**

12 Yes, yes.

13  
14 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

15 So these are trying to help centerpieces of connectivity, of  
16 walkability in the communities. I think in Lindenhurst also you  
17 did a project, I see here, too.

18  
19 **MR. KEYES:**

20 Yeah.

21  
22 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

23 So I think -- I think the title, actually, is a little confusing.  
24 These are really a lot of -- mostly downtown improvement grants, in  
25 a sense, it sounds like, of projects.

26  
27 **MR. KEYES:**

28 I would -- yeah, I would just say that the scale of them tends to  
29 be, you know, rather large and if the goal to be a little more  
30 transformative than say a traditional like tree-scaping or lighting  
31 project. So for Ronkonkoma, for instance, the investment was for a  
32 new roadway network, but yeah, generally speaking, I think that the  
33 projects you highlighted are pretty representative.

11:22AM 30

34  
35 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

36 Okay, thank you.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

39 Thank you, Legislator Flotteron. Legislator Caracappa.

11:22AM 40

41 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

42 Yeah, good morning, John. Good morning, team. Just a quick  
43 question that relates to this JumpStart and Connect Long Island.  
44 Is there any Federal or State funding secured for Connect Long  
45 Island as sort of matching dollars or contributing dollars for this  
46 endeavor?

47  
48 **MR. KEYES:**

49 The Jumpstart Program does not specifically take in Federal  
50 dollars. However, as I said, if there were local municipalities  
51 that received Federal Aid and need to assemble a match, that's the  
52 type of thing we would look to fund to help, you know, help them  
53 leverage that.

11:23AM 50

54  
55 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

56 Any idea how many units of affordable housing were created because

1 of this funding?

2

3 **MR. KEYES:**

4 I couldn't speak to that myself. I don't know if anyone else --

5

6 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

7 Can anybody speak to that?

8

9 **MR. KEYES:**

10 or we can get back to that.

11

12 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

13 We'll invite Stephanie Rosen, our Director of Affordable Housing,  
14 to come up.

15

16 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

17 Come on up, Stephanie.

18

19 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

11:23AM 20 Hi. Stephanie Rosen, Director of Community Development and  
21 Affordable Housing. So you're talking about 6411 and 8704 which  
22 are our affordable housing, infrastructure and land acquisition  
23 projects.

24

25 **LEG. TROTТА:**

26 What were those numbers again.

27

28 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

29 6411 and 8704.

11:24AM 30

31 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

32 But what about the -- any Federal dollars for Connect Long Island  
33 was the original question; we can get to those other two in a  
34 little bit. But I see Connect Long Island is 64241 is there a  
35 different line for that or --

36

37 **MR. KEYES:**

38 Well, 6424 is the Jumpstart Program is what it's referring to.

39

11:24AM 40

41 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

42 It says also /*Connect Long Island*, so I'm sorry about that.

43

44 **MR. KEYES:**

45 Yah, it's -- no, that's okay, like a branding thing, if you will.  
46 The JumpStart line doesn't -- doesn't have any Federal funding,  
47 it's just County bonds.

48

49 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

11:24AM 50 All right. So getting back to -- Stephanie, you want to come back  
51 up? We'll get Part II to that. Can I get those numbers again,  
52 Steph?

53

54 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

55 What was the question? I'm sorry.

56

1 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
2 For the Federal dollars and then the amount of units, and you  
3 referred to two different --

4  
5 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**  
6 So --

7  
8 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
9 -- other lines.

10  
11 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**  
12 Yeah, for 6411 and 8704, in the past 10 years the County has  
13 provided over about \$35 million to support the creation of 1800  
14 Affordable Workforce Housing units which comes out to about 19,500  
15 per unit.

16  
17 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
18 Now, these units that have been created, these are long-term or not  
19 in perpetuity?

11:25AM

20  
21 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**  
22 Yeah, generally the terms are 30 to 50 years with some being in  
23 perpetuity. Legislator Krupski had a bill that requires that the  
24 number of units in perpetuity -- the percentage of units in  
25 perpetuity is equal to the percentage of funding we give to  
26 projects. Some towns require more, like I know Huntington, we  
27 recently had the Vets Columbia Terrorist Project, all those units  
28 are in perpetuity, I believe. So, the term kind of depends on the  
29 other funding sources and the municipality.

11:25AM

30  
31 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
32 And are we able to have a say in the AMI so these are true,  
33 affordable units?

34  
35 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**  
36 Yeah. So the funding that the County provides, we, as a policy,  
37 provide funding for units that are 80% AMI or below, and that's  
38 kind of a middle income workforce. You know, there's a sense that  
39 there's a missing middle-income housing right now. I can tell you  
40 for 2023 for a family of four, 80% AMI is \$125,000 a year; 60% AMI  
41 is \$93,780 per year. So it's still, I think, pretty high, even  
42 though these are workforce affordable.

11:26AM

43  
44 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
45 And those are -- when you say family of four, that's combined  
46 income --

47  
48 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**  
49 Yes, yep.

50  
51 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
52 -- for two adults.

53  
54 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**  
55 And those are from -- the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
56 Development does that for the Nassau-Suffolk area, they determine

1 all the income limits every year.

2  
3 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

4 Right. Now, does the County's policy on AMI supercede Village or  
5 Town requirements, or do we have to work in conjunction?

6  
7 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

8 Yeah, we work in conjunction, but the County -- generally if  
9 they're getting funding from the County, we will not fund units  
10 that are more than 80% AMI because those we would not consider  
11 workforce or affordable. So even if the town has -- you know, some  
12 towns go up to 130% AMI. We would not consider those affordable so  
13 we would not provide funding for those units.

14  
15 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

16 Would you say these units are in high demand in Suffolk County?

17  
18 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

19 Yes, definitely. I mean, I think everybody knows there's a housing  
20 crisis. Most recent numbers from the Census, I think over 60% of  
21 people are rent-burdened, meaning they're spending more than 30% of  
22 their income on rents, and 36% of homeowners are spending more than  
23 30% of their income on their mortgage. So there's definitely a  
24 demand for affordable housing and I think the Legislature has kind  
25 of been leading on this, you know. As we know, last year we had  
26 the laws that require vets units in every project; IDD units in  
27 every project, units for mobility impaired in every project and  
28 requiring we be paid back for these projects. So, for example, the  
29 most recent project that was authorized, Wyandanch Building L, we  
30 provided about \$2 million with interest, by the end of the project  
31 we'll probably get about \$3 million back.

32  
33 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

34 Right, because the funding has to be --

35  
36 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

37 Paid back over the life of the project, correct.

38  
39 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

40 Right. Thanks to Legislator Krupski's bill.

41  
42 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

43 Yes.

44  
45 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

46 It's a great bill. And I know it's a long-term payback and all,  
47 but it's still return on the investments for our youth --

48  
49 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

50 Yes.

51  
52 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

53 -- and those who are in need in Suffolk County, so. I think we're  
54 doing good work with this stuff. I know -- and my opinion is just  
55 one of 18, but I think we are doing tremendous work for those who  
56 need it in Suffolk County, providing opportunities not just to the

1 veterans and those with their mobility or intellectual impairments  
2 but, you know, to true workforce housing and to our young  
3 professionals. You know, professionals just starting out,  
4 teachers, healthcare, whatever it maybe. This is what's needed  
5 here to jump start them.

6  
7 And I would like to see more of an effort of regulation to see that  
8 they're following through with their goals based on, you know, what  
9 their achievements are, their W2s to give a true meaning behind the  
10 workforce. And when they're ready, in five years, whatever it may  
11 be, get them into the fair market value and turn those units over  
12 to the next class coming through that are looking to start. So I'd  
13 like to see us concentrate more on how we can accomplish that in  
14 Suffolk County, to have it more of a long-term goal and to give our  
15 young professionals here in Suffolk County, where it is very  
16 difficult to live and start, you know.

17  
18 So I'll be working with your department, your Commissioner and all  
19 you guys on seeing how we can manage that going forward. But I  
20 want to just take time and thank you and your Commissioner and all  
21 the work that we do together, collectively. Again, my opinion is  
22 one of 18 up here, but from my standpoint I thank you all for these  
23 opportunities providing for those residents in Suffolk County who  
24 need it the most. Thank you.

25  
26 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

27 Thanks. And we appreciate the Legislature's help on all these  
28 issues. You know, I'll just tell you one anecdote, I think Tom  
29 Ronayne spoke about this, but there was a veteran who became priced  
30 out of their location and they were able to get into one of the  
31 Columbia Terrace units because it had just become, you know,  
32 available and they were able to afford to purchase it because it  
33 was restricted for veterans and affordable and the County helped  
34 fund that project. So, that's a nice story.

35  
36 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

37 And if I may, this -- these are projects we're seeing happen all  
38 over Suffolk County, from Matinecock out in Huntington to  
39 Wyandanch, to the Grove. Out in Riverhead we have -- actually,  
40 Riverside, it's the first one we did completely for workforce  
41 housing. So, I think we're making strides. I think we're  
42 providing incredible opportunities and -- well, I'll just leave it  
43 there for now for time sake, but you know where I'm going with  
44 this. I'm committed to moving forward, providing opportunities for  
45 workforce. Thank you.

46  
47 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

48 Thank you.

49  
50 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

51 Thank you, Legislator Caracappa. I just want to thank the Suffolk  
52 County taxpayers who are on the hook for hundreds of millions of  
53 dollars in subsidized rents.

54  
55 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

56 Not necessary --



1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
2 Thank you for working.

3  
4 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
5 Thank you, Chairman. Not necessary.

6  
7 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
8 Work harder, people depend on you. Anyone else? Legislator Hahn.

9  
10 **LEG. HAHN:**  
11 I'm sorry, I want to go back to Capital Project 5598, to Jonathan  
12 Keyes. But I do want to commend the program, the Affordable  
13 Housing Program. While we're not anywhere close to fulfilling the  
14 need, we certainly are doing an extraordinary job helping the  
15 people that we can thus far, and including our veterans. So thank  
16 you, Nick -- excuse me, Legislator Caracappa, for your work on  
17 that.

18  
19 Capital project 5598, Route 110 BRT. I'm wondering if you can tell  
20 me the breakdown of Federal/State funding.

21  
22 **MR. KEYES:**  
23 Sure; it's 80% Federal, 10% State.

24  
25 **LEG. HAHN:**  
26 Do you have the dollar amounts for those?

27  
28 **MR. KEYES:**  
29 I do, yes. So, for round numbers for a \$30 million total cost it's  
30 around 24 million Federal, 3 million State.

31  
32 **LEG. HAHN:**  
33 And that's been secured or that relies on our --

34  
35 **MR. KEYES:**  
36 That is on the New York State tip, it's an allocated funding on the  
37 tip, yes.

38  
39 **LEG. HAHN:**  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
43 Jonathan, can you just repeat those numbers before you walk away?  
44 I'm sorry.

45  
46 **MR. KEYES:**  
47 Yes, sure.

48  
49 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
50 It's 24 million in Federal dollars?

51  
52 **MR. KEYES:**  
53 Yes.

54  
55 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
56 And then --

1 **MR. KEYES:**  
2 Three million in State and --

3  
4 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
5 Three in State?

6  
7 **MR. KEYES:**  
8 Yes.

9  
10 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
11 And then how many from the County?

12  
13 **MR. KEYES:**  
14 Three million.

15  
16 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
17 And what is this project doing?

18  
19 **MR. KEYES:**  
20 This is a Bus Rapid Transit corridor project for Route 110.  
21 So, it would basically be construction of a bus lane and  
22 improvements to signalized intersections to allow bus and emergency  
23 vehicle priority up and down the corridor to connect to Amityville  
24 up to Huntington.

25  
26 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
27 Are we taking any land for this?

28  
29 **MR. KEYES:**  
30 No. No, it's all within the Route 110 Corridor, so. And it  
31 wouldn't even impact any traveled lanes. Bus lanes would only  
32 happen with our shoulders; where there's no operable shoulders the  
33 bus would operate in traffic.

34  
35 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
36 And we have that many people who just kind of cruise up and down  
37 Route 110 on a bus?

38  
39 **MR. KEYES:**  
40 There's something, like 150,000 jobs on the Route 110 Corridor  
41 between Pinelawn and Old Walt Whitman, it's the -- really the  
42 economic hub, you know, straddling both Counties, so there's a lot  
43 of employment there, yeah.

44  
45 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
46 Okay, great. Thanks.

47  
48 **MR. KEYES:**  
49 Thank you.

50  
51 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
52 Thank you. Anyone else? I just have a question. Do you guys  
53 coordinate our conversations with the Suffolk County IDA, about  
54 downtowns?

55  
56

1 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

2 The Suffolk County IDA is a separate entity, so.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

5 I know it's a separate entity. I'm saying do you have  
6 conversations with them.

7  
8 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

9 We certainly have --

10  
11 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

12 Usually your department has a conversation with them.

13  
14 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

15 -- conversations with them, yes.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

18 Because I'm trying to figure out a couple of things here, how we  
19 keep spinning our wheels in Suffolk County. We have -- we give  
20 30-year tax breaks, the IDA gives 30-year tax breaks to Amazon,  
21 Amazon, who's in direct competition with 95% of the businesses in  
22 downtowns, from Sayville to Huntington to Port Jefferson, so we're  
23 undermining our small businesses by giving Amazon a tax break which  
24 our small businesses don't get and then we have to spend millions  
25 of dollars more revitalizing our downtowns. Wouldn't a better  
26 suggestion be to give all the small businesses a tax break since  
27 they're on a level playing field and can go to market with goods  
28 that the consumers want at the same price?

29  
30 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

31 I mean, I think we'd have to touch base with the IDA as well to  
32 have a separate conversation on that.

33  
34 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

35 I appreciate that. Legislator Trotta.

36  
37 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

38 Mr. Chair?

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

41 Legislator Trotta.

42  
43 **LEG. TROTТА:**

44 Yeah, I have a very similar question. Because I'm a big critic of  
45 the IDA and I can site the fact that you gave a -- I want -- I'm  
46 making the number up, it's about \$3 million to Amazon. Well,  
47 actually it wasn't to Amazon, it was to the Rechler Organization  
48 who built a warehouse and rented it to Amazon. And the Rechler's  
49 gave over \$200,000 to the County Executive and other Democratic  
50 candidates right around the same time.

51  
52 So if you sit here and talk about economic development, that you're  
53 doing a good job, you're not. Because like Legislator Piccirillo  
54 just said, a tax break went to Amazon who lied on their IDA  
55 application, said they would leave Long Island if they didn't get  
56 this. This is the last mile warehouse delivery. So all the

1 downtowns out in Legislator Fleming and Legislator Krupski's area  
2 are now having -- getting a tax break to Amazon so the local  
3 businesses have -- can't survive, because this is what's happening.

4  
5 So I think you should go back to your boss and say *What's going on*  
6 *here?* I could do a half hour on the tax breaks to the apartments  
7 where on their application they say six people went there and our  
8 goal, a school district and 49 students go there. It's an  
9 abomination what goes on there. You have to be better. And I'm  
10 not blaming you because you don't sit on the IDA and you're not the  
11 people in charge, but you can go back to your boss and tell them  
12 it's literally a joke. This is one of the most overtaxed,  
13 overburdened places on the planet Earth and all you do is more and  
14 more.

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

17 Thank you, Legislator Trotta. Legislator -- Minority Leader  
18 Richberg.

19  
20 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair. So Deputy Commissioner, so we -- didn't we  
22 just start a business improvement application for our small to  
23 medium-sized businesses? Isn't there a -- isn't there a form,  
24 we're using some of our ARPA funding? I believe it's like 35 or  
25 \$42 million?

26  
27 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

28 That -- yes. So that program is still under design at this point.

29  
30 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

31 Okay. But the idea is for those to go to our small/medium  
32 businesses in our downtown areas and around to help with  
33 infrastructure, with other needs that they might have?

34  
35 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

36 That's my understanding, but we can circle back on, you know,  
37 details.

38  
39 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

40 Thank you.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

43 Are you finished, Mr. Minority Leader?

44  
45 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

46 Yes.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

49 Thank you, sir. Legislator Bergin. I didn't want to cut you off.

50  
51 **LEG. BERGIN:**

52 Thank you very much. Can we go back to -- I don't remember what  
53 number it was, but it was the -- all the land preservation that we  
54 were going to spend. What page is that?

1 **DIRECTOR DREYER:**  
2 8701?

3  
4 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
5 8701? Yeah, that's it.

6  
7 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**  
8 Was there a question? I'm sorry.

9  
10 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
11 Yes. I just want a -- I just want an overview of how much we're  
12 spending, where is this money going, what parcels are we buying,  
13 have we identified parcels?  
14

15 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
16 Michael, good morning.

17  
18 **MR. BROWN:**  
19 Good morning.

20  
21 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
22 Thank you for being here.

23  
24 **MR. BROWN:**  
25 You're welcome. Michael Brown, Land Acquisition Supervisor for  
26 Economic Development & Planning.

27  
28 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
29 He looks familiar.

30  
31 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
32 Milk carton (*laughter*).

33  
34 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
35 I'm sorry; did you work in Islip?

36  
37 **MR. BROWN:**  
38 No.

39  
40 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
41 Oh. You look very particular. Okay.

42  
43 **MR. BROWN:**  
44 There was a lot of questions there; I can answer them --

45  
46 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
47 Perfect.

48  
49 **MR. BROWN:**  
50 -- as they come. So how are they identified?

51  
52 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
53 Well, how much money are we spending; start with that.

54  
55  
56

1 **MR. BROWN:**

2 So the way the program works is a parcel is identified for  
3 preservation and then it goes through, in this particular case for  
4 the bonded funding, it goes through Farmland Committee, and then it  
5 goes to the Legislature for appraisal resolution.

6  
7 And then from there we get appraisals, go through review committees  
8 for the value and come back to the Legislature for approval to  
9 present an offer. So it's early on. What we can say is in the  
10 pipeline, we have -- we have four active Farmland Developments  
11 Rights acquisitions right now.

12  
13 **LEG. BERGIN:**

14 I need to know where all of them are and how much for each.

15  
16 **MR. BROWN:**

17 I can't disclose the value right now.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

20 Yeah, that's --

21  
22 **LEG. BERGIN:**

23 Oh, right.

24  
25 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

26 Yeah, it's confidential. We do that in Executive Session so that  
27 the -- they can't drive up the price.

28  
29 **LEG. BERGIN:**

30 Oh, I understand. Okay. So can you tell me where they're located  
31 or --

32  
33 **MR. BROWN:**

34 Sure.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

37 And Michael, why don't you just break down that we have separate  
38 funds approved by the taxpayers to do these acquisitions.

39  
40 **MR. BROWN:**

41 Right. So two primary funding sources is the Quarter Percent  
42 PAYGO, which is funded from a quarter percent of a penny of sales  
43 tax. We get that funding every year, last year it was  
44 approximately \$16 million, which has been used for stuff in our  
45 pipeline.

46  
47 This funding source came about, 8701 came about in 2022, we got \$5  
48 million in 2022 and \$10 million this year. We currently have --  
49 currently have four active deals in contract for the development  
50 rights for 40 acres and \$4.2 million.

51  
52 **LEG. BERGIN:**

53 Can you tell me where those are?

54  
55 **MR. BROWN:**

56 They are in Brookhaven and Riverhead, and one in Southold.

1 Two in Brookhaven, one in Riverhead, one in Southold.

2  
3 **LEG. BERGIN:**

4 Okay. So I know that Brookhaven and Riverhead don't have the 2%  
5 transfer tax program for -- for buying up -- for buying up open --  
6 open space. But Southold does.

7  
8 **MR. BROWN:**

9 Southold is actually, I believe -- they're a partner with us on  
10 that with a -- oh, I'm sorry; no, they're not a partner on that  
11 one. Brookhaven's partnering on the next one. Yeah, we solicit  
12 the towns when we get these requests to see who wants to partner  
13 and try and request that they partner, but we can't force that.

14  
15 **LEG. BERGIN:**

16 Okay. And are we buying any land west of Route 112?

17  
18 **LEG. TROTТА:**

19 We're trying.

20  
21 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

22 We're trying.

23  
24 **MR. BROWN:**

25 Anything that comes through the pipeline we work diligently on.

26  
27 **LEG. BERGIN:**

28 And how do people submit? Like, for example, there's a horse farm  
29 in Dix Hills that should absolutely be preserved, so how do I get  
30 that information to you?

31  
32 **MR. KERR:**

33 We've already reached out to them. I haven't heard back from them,  
34 but I have reached out to them to see if they'd be interested in  
35 preserving that property.

36  
37 **LEG. BERGIN:**

38 Oh. Okay, but this one's not even for sale yet.

39  
40 **MR. KERR:**

41 I know, I'm aware of it, though. I live in the area, so I'm aware  
42 of it.

43  
44 **D.P.O. FLOTTERON:**

45 He does an excellent job, so.

46  
47 **LEG. BERGIN:**

48 Okay.

49  
50 **CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ:**

51 But Legislator, if I may. If there are parcels that you wanted to  
52 bring to our attention, please feel free to reach out and we're  
53 happy to consider them.

54  
55 **LEG. BERGIN:**

56 Okay. I just want to see anything that we can preserve west of

1 Route 112 that we consider it, because we do a lot of land  
2 preservation on the East End --

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
5 Yeah.

6  
7 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
8 -- and we don't really get a lot of land preservation for the west  
9 end. And they're -- and also, the East End towns have that 2%  
10 transfer program, so I -- you know, they should be utilizing that  
11 money and they've got millions sitting in their bank accounts and  
12 they're not using it all.

13  
14 **MR. BROWN:**  
15 The one thing I'd like to say is that since this bonded farmland  
16 fund came about, everything in queue has -- as far as appraisal,  
17 possibly having an offer be presented, has had an offer presented.  
18 We're not carrying anything that's in the pipeline with an approved  
19 value that has not had an offer presented to the seller. So, this  
20 funding has been a great help in allocating this specific fund for  
21 farmland and freeing up funds for the PAYGO, the other major  
22 funding source for other open space acquisitions, so.

23  
24 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
25 Okay, thank you.

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
28 Thank you, Legislator Bergin. And we have -- I remember Brentwood,  
29 South Huntington and Greenlawn, right, I think have been done  
30 recently?

31  
32 **MR. KERR:**  
33 That's correct, yeah. Within the last three years we've  
34 preserved about 20 acres in the Town of Huntington of farmland.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
37 Yeah, yeah. So we'll -- the needle's moving in the right  
38 direction, for sure. Legislator Krupski.

39  
40 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
41 No, thank you. And just to clarify, and I appreciate Legislator  
42 Bergin's questions. Just to clarify, the five East End Towns have  
43 the CPF. Any of the other towns can have a CPF if they want to, so  
44 it's their choice to have that program or not. It's a voluntary  
45 program, they can enter into it at any time. But if you look at  
46 the -- in the beginning of the Capital Budget there is a breakdown  
47 of the CPF by town. And so there's, I think, close to \$2 billion  
48 that have been collected and spent over the years on the CPF; 85%  
49 is from two towns, though. They get -- because it's broken down by  
50 town, so all the transfers stay in that town.

51  
52 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
53 Yeah. No, I --

54  
55 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
56 It's not shared universally.



1 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
2 I understand that.

3  
4 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
5 Okay.

6  
7 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
8 I'm aware of how the program works and I know that Islip tried to  
9 put it on as a referendum and it was voted down and I think  
10 Brookhaven did the same thing and it was voted down. Yeah, I'm  
11 aware of that. Thank you.

11:44AM

12  
13 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
14 Okay. And the -- so, and I sit on the Suffolk County Farmland  
15 Committee, so we consider equally any kind of parcel that comes in  
16 from -- there were a few in Huntington that were -- that accepted  
17 the offers, that one in -- the Sisters of St. Joseph's accepted the  
18 offer. So they come in and it's the same even playing field for  
19 everyone. We're happy to preserve farmland in all parts of the  
20 County. So, thank you, Mr. Chair. And if you could --

11:45AM

21  
22 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
23 Thank you, Legislator Krupski.

24  
25 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
26 If you could, to that point. Michael or Mike, or whichever,  
27 whoever wants to do it --

28

29 *(\*Laughter\*)*

11:45AM

30  
31 -- could send the committee here a breakdown of the money actually  
32 spent on land preservation for each town in the past 10 or  
33 20 years.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
36 I think there was an e-mail recently from Commissioner Lansdale  
37 regarding the breakdown; it should be in your inbox.

38  
39 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
40 It does show there's a lot of money spent Countywide.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
43 Yeah. Yeah, I actually e-mailed you.

44  
45 **MR. BROWN:**  
46 I could give a number since 2012 in the East End open space we've  
47 preserved 842 acres, farmland 10 -- 1,096 acres for a total of  
48 \$123 million. West End since 2012 open space was 698 acres, and  
49 farmland of 235 for 58 million. So, anything that comes across our  
50 desk we're working on.

11:46AM

51  
52 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
53 We appreciate it. Any other questions about open space? Any other  
54 questions to the department?

55

56

1 Seeing none, thank you. We'll take all of your CPs into  
2 consideration. We appreciate it.

3  
4 **MR. BROWN:**  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
8 Okay. Next up is Government Ops. Do you need a break?  
9 You're good.

10  
11 *(The following was taken and transcribed by*  
12 *Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer)*

13  
14 **GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL, IT & DIVERSITY**

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
17 Okay, next up is Government Ops. You need a break, you good?

18  
19 All right, Commissioner you want to come up? You can come up to  
20 the table. Deputy Commissioner, can come up to the table. Anybody  
21 else that wants to come up to the table. BRO, you okay over there?  
22 All right, hang in there. We're almost through.

23  
24 Okay, so how we've been doing this, and if we can continue on the  
25 same way, just state your names for the record, please, and then  
26 you can go over a few couple projects that you're interested in and  
27 then we will take question about those capital projects and then  
28 there's questions from the committee. All right? So, please just  
29 state your names for the record and then we'll continue from there.

30  
31 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**  
32 Good morning, everybody. My name is Scott Mastellon. I'm the  
33 Commissioner of Department of Information & Technology.

34  
35 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER McKENZIE:**  
36 Good morning. Ari McKenzie, Deputy Commissioner of Department of  
37 Information & Technology.

38  
39 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
40 Thank you both. You have the floor.

41  
42 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**  
43 Thank you, everybody. So we're here to talk about our Capital  
44 Program. Right now we have six Capital Projects that have, you  
45 know, been with us within the County for a number of years. That  
46 include technology operations; security; modernization efforts.  
47 And I want to thank County Executive's Budget Office with regard to  
48 understanding our needs relative to technology in addition to BRO.  
49 Obviously, Lance, Anthony and Joe did a great job understanding  
50 what the needs are relative to security and overall technology  
51 within the County. And we're able to identify and recommend our  
52 requested budgets with regard to the Capital Program. So, I'm sure  
53 there's a number of questions that you'll have as it relates to  
54 this so I'm certainly here as well as Deputy Commissioner to answer  
55 any questions that you might have.

1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

2 Would you like to go through the specific Capital Project numbers  
3 or -- it's up to you.

4  
5 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

6 I mean, I'm here, again, to -- I didn't have anything specific I  
7 wanted to highlight with regard to any of the Capital Programs but  
8 I'm certainly -- I was -- I'm --

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

11 Okay, so why don't we go through some of the security features in  
12 the Capital Programs?

13  
14 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

15 Absolutely.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

18 That's the topic of the day.

19  
20 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

21 Sure. Well, to a certain degree, every single Capital Program  
22 touches on security. When you talk about 1726, which is our  
23 networking Capital Program, which ultimately supports the  
24 replacement of end-of-life equipment within the entire County.  
25 So obviously this is -- this is critical to overall security for  
26 the the County. So the funding relative to this is to support  
27 replacement, all of that equipment.

28  
29 1729, which is disaster recovery, which is also, you know, critical  
30 to overall security, is there to support the ability to address  
31 disasters with technology, you know, and to ensure that there's  
32 adequate compute as well as storage, you know, within the overall  
33 county environment.

34  
35 There is a specifically targeted Capital Program 1807, which is  
36 globally managed security, which also provides the ability for the  
37 purchase of new equipment as well as our -- as we work with our new  
38 Chief Information Security Officer, Dr. Brancik, to, you know, to  
39 implement various aspects of our zero trust, you know, approach  
40 moving forward with regard to security.

41  
42 1819 is equipment replacement so all of the end points, if you  
43 will, which include PCs, servers that require printers, things of  
44 that nature that require a replacement that are aged out. This is  
45 a particular program that supports all of that and ensures that  
46 we're up to date with the latest of our equipment there across the  
47 board.

48  
49 And then two additional projects we have is, we have an HR payroll  
50 project, which was basically used to fund the implementation of  
51 Workday within the County, which was ultimately to migrate us from  
52 a 30-year-old mainframe system into a more modern secure  
53 environment with regard to Workday. This particular Capital  
54 Program continues as there are additional needs and expansion of  
55 that particular application.

1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
2 What's the total cost we've been in since Workday; since its  
3 inception if you have that in front of you?

4  
5 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**  
6 I want to say it's approximately sixteen million.

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
9 Sixteen million? And what's the recurring cost?

10  
11 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**  
12 The recurring cost on an annual basis is approximately \$1.2 million  
13 for the annual maintenance but I can clarify that and make sure  
14 that I get that information to you.

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
17 Okay.

18  
19 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**  
20 And then the last project is a technology modernization project.  
21 And we've used this particular project to fund a number of  
22 different initiatives within the county, which includes our 311  
23 system, our expansion of that 311 system in addition to  
24 e-procurement as well as asset management. And we just, thank you  
25 to the Legislature for supporting our recent -- our request for  
26 funding to support the implementation of a enterprise content  
27 management system, which we'll be working in conjunction with the  
28 Clerk's Office to ensure that we are supporting all the needs of  
29 the county as it relates to document management.

30  
31 So that's a little bit of a rundown.

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
34 Okay, we're going to take some questions; then we'll keep going.  
35 Legislator Trotta.

36  
37 **LEG. TROTTA:**  
38 Yeah, how much was spent on Workday totally?

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
41 Sixteen million.

42  
43 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**  
44 So approximately \$16 million, yes. Throughout the course of -- and  
45 understand that that cost is a number of different components. It  
46 includes implementation services from a systems integrator as well  
47 as licensing costs from the particular provider itself as well as  
48 training services, support services, things of that nature.

49  
50 **LEG. TROTTA:**  
51 Is it finished?

52  
53 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**  
54 It has been implemented since -- for over a year now. Is it  
55 finished? I don't think it's ever finished to be honest with you.  
56 And I don't mean that in such a way -- meaning that it continually

1 evolves. As we continue to adapt to a more modern environment, a  
2 modern technology environment, what happens is our understanding of  
3 capabilities within this platform expands in such a way that we can  
4 begin to take advantage of more capabilities; where in the past we  
5 were relying on more manual, you know, processes systems and what  
6 not. So this particular program is, number one is a great program.  
7 And number two is going to enable us the ability to continue to  
8 grow and expand, you know, how we're managing HR, how we're  
9 managing payroll within the overall county.

11:54AM 10

11 **LEG. TROTТА:**

12 Is the police department on it now? Because I know there was some  
13 problems with the police department.

14  
15 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

16 Yeah, so the police department is currently -- is on Workday.  
17 There is an additional component that requires -- that supports  
18 time and activity with regard to police as well as Sheriff and  
19 FRES. And that also is associated with request for overtime and  
20 the approval of said request.

11:54AM 20

21  
22 **LEG. TROTТА:**

23 You don't want to mess with the police overtime. They call me.  
24 So what was the problem? What was the exact problem.

25  
26 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

27 It's not necessarily a problem. It's just simply a matter of  
28 implementing this and, as with any technology project, you run into  
29 various challenges. And you know, as they come about we address  
30 them and we continue forward.

11:55AM 30

31  
32 **LEG. TROTТА:**

33 Is it fixed now?

34  
35 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

36 I don't think it was ever broken. It's simply a matter of, you  
37 know, we're continuing through the implementation. So, you know,  
38 while they're currently relying on this -- this is another example,  
39 that were currently relying on certain, you know, older  
40 technologies in support of overtime requests. You know, in the  
41 immediate future we see an expansion of that to leverage more of,  
42 you know, Workday as a total to support that. So, you know, this  
43 is kind of an example what I was just talking about as we continue  
44 to expand and evolve our understanding of Workday as a whole.  
45 It will enable us the ability to take advantage of all these  
46 capabilities.

11:55AM 40

47  
48 **LEG. TROTТА:**

49 All right, thank you.

11:55AM 50

51 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

52 Thank you, Legislator Trotta. Anyone else on -- on any the  
53 specific Capital Projects that the Commissioner laid out for us?  
54 Okay, so yesterday the Comptroller came to see us about his Capital  
55 Project. Comptroller Kennedy, are you present? I think you are,  
56 yes. Sorry, I can't see behind John there. You're tall in that

1 seat, John. So I know there was some questions from some of the  
2 committee members regarding the mechanics behind what the  
3 Comptroller is asking for and where the administration is. So I'm  
4 gonna recognize the Comptroller so we can go through this again and  
5 we'll try to get through this today. Comptroller.

6  
7 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

8 Certainly, certainly, Mr. Chair. Good morning and thank you for  
9 the opportunity to be here again with the capital budget working  
10 group and the work that you did. We spoke extensively yesterday  
11 about our Capital Project 1782 and our effort to go ahead and take  
12 our Integrated Financial Management System, CGI Advantage, and move  
13 it into the Cloud, CGI Cloud. And at the same time also to go  
14 ahead and to upgrade from the present 3.11 version to 4.0.

15  
16 Each of you in the committee has gotten a memorandum from me that  
17 lists the multiple advantages that we have associated with moving  
18 to 4.0 and as well the multiple advantages that we have with going  
19 to the CGI proprietary cloud. I have a grade, if you will, that  
20 does a comparison. I've just heard today, I believe, that there is  
21 supposed to be a meeting with DOIT and CGI later on next month. It  
22 certainly is, in our opinion, the way that we need to go in order  
23 to protect the integrity and the ability to go ahead and continue  
24 to function and operate.

25  
26 As I said yesterday on average, roughly about 180,000 transactions  
27 each year. In the pack we did about 120,000. We also did a bunch  
28 of manuals, as you know, everybody saw the picture with me writing  
29 checks. And so in order to make that just a bad memory, it is  
30 incumbent on us to go ahead and do everything that we can in order  
31 to ensure integrity protection and to maintain the viability of the  
32 system that we have. So that is why we were seeking full funding  
33 in '24 of the original 5.5 million that was requested. Frankly to  
34 do anything less than that jeopardizes the stability and puts our  
35 financial ability in peril.

36  
37 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

38 Thank you, Comptroller. Any questions of the Comptroller?  
39 Legislator Trotta.

40  
41 **LEG. TROTTA:**

42 I don't have a question for the Comptroller. I have -- Scott, is  
43 what he's saying true? I mean, does it make sense to  
44 compartmentalize him, the DA's office and --

45  
46 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

47 Well, I don't know whether or not he's saying he needs to  
48 compartmentalize all those aspects. I think what he said was true,  
49 there's a meeting that's going to occur on --

50  
51 **LEG. TROTTA:**

52 I didn't ask if there was a meeting. I asked --

53  
54 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

55 Well you asked --

1 **LEG. TROTТА:**

2 -- is it true that he should be separate; the Clerk should be  
3 separate; the DA's office should be separate.

4  
5 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

6 Do I believe that they should all be separate? What I do believe  
7 is that there's certain aspects of separation that occurred, you  
8 know, prior to the cyber attack that contributed to that. And I do  
9 believe it needs to be evaluated in such a way that we can --

11:59AM

10  
11 **LEG. TROTТА:**

12 I want a yes or no answer. Is there a yes or no? Do you think you  
13 should?

14  
15 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

16 Do I think -- what I'm going to tell you right now is that the  
17 results of what happened is due to the fact that there was aspects  
18 of segregated environments. And because of that, you know, it is  
19 something that, you know, I feel that we need to look at very  
20 closely at. And we need to standardize across the board as it  
21 relates to all of the technology that's being used, you know,  
22 within the overall county.

11:59AM

23  
24 **LEG. TROTТА:**

25 I don't know what that meant.

26  
27 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

28 I don't believe we should be segregated.

11:59AM

29  
30 **LEG. TROTТА:**

31 You don't?

32  
33 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

34 I do not believe.

35  
36 **LEG. TROTТА:**

37 Why?

38  
39 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

40 Because of the fact, the complexities relative to technology, you  
41 know, specifically as it relates to security, must be managed in an  
42 enterprise fashion across the entire county with visibility across  
43 all entities. And in doing such, we need to have the ability to  
44 look at all across the board.

11:59AM

45  
46 **LEG. TROTТА:**

47 That was not an answer either. It was like bunch of BS; it was  
48 like nothing. So if you were to say to me we should be segregated  
49 because -- we should be together because of something just like --  
50 I don't even know what you said.

12:00PM

51  
52 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

53 (Utterances)

54  
55 **LEG. TROTТА:**

56 Because it's cheaper because it's "I can protect the whole thing

1 and it doesn't require it --" but that --

2

3 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

4 Certainly, you know, I apologize for not being able to, you know,  
5 no question the fact that -- I mean, I'm assuming cost is a factor.  
6 There's no question. I just assume that that was --

7

8 **LEG. TROTТА:**

9 Is it more? Is it cheaper to do it all in one unit or is it  
10 cheaper to do it separately in segments?

12:00PM

11

12 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

13 There's no question it's more expensive if you go ahead and do it  
14 individually.

15

16 **LEG. TROTТА:**

17 How much more expensive?

18

19 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

20 That I can't say. You know, we'd have to --

21

22 **LEG. TROTТА:**

23 Who can answer that question?

24

25 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

26 I think you'd have to study that. You'd have to effectively, you  
27 know, to come out here and say it's going to cost "X" amount of  
28 dollars to effectively segregate each and everybody, you know, I  
29 don't have that.

12:01PM

30

31 **LEG. TROTТА:**

32 See, if someone's attacked and you're connected to him, I would  
33 think that that would be something incrementally you wouldn't want  
34 that. If you were separate, you know, you couldn't get into that.  
35 If you got into the Comptroller's Office, then, you get into  
36 Clerk's.

37

38 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

39 There's security capabilities that can be put in place to ensure  
40 that. Just because there are, you know, it's an enterprise  
41 environment does necessarily mean that you can't protect the  
42 individuals.

12:01PM

43

44 **LEG. TROTТА:**

45 Obviously that didn't happen here.

46

47 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

48 But I mean if you want to get into the specifics as to --

49

12:01PM

50 **LEG. TROTТА:**

51 Oh, I don't.

52

53 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

54 We don't.

55

56



1 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

2 Yeah, so, I mean, you know, IT can speculate all you want but  
3 there's a report that was defined -- you know, that came out that  
4 specifically said how it happened.

5  
6 **LEG. TROTТА:**

7 I'm good.

8  
9 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

10 Legislator Gonzalez.

11  
12 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

13 Hi, Commissioner. Let's take away the dollar amount right now.  
14 Just put that to the side. Is it possible, and I'm asking you  
15 because, again, this is far from my expertise, but is it possible  
16 for these departments to individually have a protection,  
17 individually, and still have an umbrella overall? I think I asked  
18 this particular question yesterday. But still have, like, an  
19 umbrella protection to protect each department? The way I'm  
20 thinking of it, and I'm just, you know, a regular Joe, if I gotta  
21 go through your system and I do go through your system, they,  
22 individually, still have protections that just may be able to stop  
23 it. So I'm just asking that question, is that possible?  
24

25 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

26 Yes. And ultimately that is, you know, my understanding and  
27 expectation as to what I talk about from an enterprise standpoint;  
28 that you do have the capability to, you know, to secure and protect  
29 across the entire enterprise. But in the same respect you're able  
30 to, you know, to identify those specific security requirements that  
31 are within each and every one of those different areas and they're  
32 able to leverage that security capability and ensure that they're  
33 specifically defined to meet their requirements. Because each and  
34 every department has very specific requirements, especially when  
35 you talk about, you know, elected officials and/or law enforcement,  
36 no question.  
37

38 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

39 And each department individually protected to satisfy that  
40 department and this department and that department. And you as an  
41 umbrella still have the capabilities to speak with each other; just  
42 a question that --  
43

44 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

45 Yeah, no question there. So, I mean, actually there is a question  
46 there and you're correct; in such a way that we still have the  
47 ability to communicate with each other. There may be additional  
48 security controls that are placed in between certain departments to  
49 ensure that, you know, there are -- information is not, you know,  
50 effectively going through where it shouldn't. And, again, those  
51 are defined based upon the needs of the -- obviously the department  
52 that's making the request as well as the department that's  
53 receiving the request as it relates to, you know, communications.  
54

55 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

56 Thank you. No more questions, Mr. Chair.

1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

2 Thank you, Legislator Gonzalez. The Chair recognizes the Minority  
3 Leader, Legislator Richberg.

4  
5 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair. So when individual departments puts together  
7 their information technology request for the Capital Budget, that  
8 does not go through IT at all?

9  
10 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

11 So, you know, we ultimately are given a -- at the end of the  
12 process, we're given a summary of what was requested and simply ask  
13 to comment on that, you know, prior to, you know. And that's  
14 typically only done within the County Executive's Office, you know,  
15 meaning that with regard to BRO, I'm not questioned relative to  
16 technology, you know, projects outside --

17  
18 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

19 Right. But there's no, like -- and I should know this and I  
20 apologize. So there's no, like, enter-agency conference or, you  
21 know, *hey, I work in the Sheriff's Office and I want to buy, you*  
22 *know, ten new servers.* You know, I don't -- I'm purposely not  
23 saying, you know, departments here. *So I'm in the Sheriff's*  
24 *Office, I want to buy ten new servers,* they don't go to you first,  
25 or whoever it is. Then they submit their Capital Budget request as  
26 an independently-elected official, right, and then you get to see  
27 it towards the end?

28  
29 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

30 Correct. And typically we don't find out about, you know, the  
31 need, the requirements, you know, prior to that. And really the  
32 value there is to understand all of the investments that have been  
33 made within the County relative to different things. So we can  
34 evaluate that as a whole individually, if you will, and then see  
35 where it best applies. And if there's opportunities to take  
36 advantage of existing technologies, we go ahead and suggest that  
37 that might be something to do. Where there's a scenario in a  
38 situation where this is certainly valid and it makes sense to have  
39 something built out separate and can certainly support that. But,  
40 you know, again, we're typically not provided a significant amount  
41 of leeway or at least, I should say, runway as it relates to, you  
42 know, evaluating that.

43  
44 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

45 Because -- and, Commissioner, I remember a time where I was in a  
46 different role and I was kind of angry with the previous DA only  
47 because we had found out later on that they were doing a rehab of,  
48 I think, of a center or something, I don't remember what it was but  
49 I think the question was why didn't anybody know about it before.  
50 And this isn't about an independent elected official. I think this  
51 is just more about the process in general. So, again -- and I see  
52 Deputy County Executive Black is here. I guess, so my question is  
53 and I apologize, Mr. Chair, for going a little bit on a tangent --

54  
55 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

56 No apologies necessary, Mr. Minority Leader, please.

1 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

2 So where's the CISO sort of fit in this process, if I may, Deputy  
3 County Executive.

4  
5 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

6 Sure. Chief Deputy, Jason.

7  
8 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

9 I apologize. Chief. Chief --

10  
11 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

12 Women wear a card to get here.

13  
14 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

15 Chief Deputy.

16  
17 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

18 Lisa Black, Chief Deputy County Executive. I think what we're  
19 missing is overall security is important to every one of us. The  
12:07PM 20 Comptroller and I actually discussed this. This is what we agree  
21 on every day. We just take different paths to get there. So, yes,  
22 every department in this County submits a Capital Budget. It gets  
23 reviewed by the Budget Office, which funds, as you know. And then  
24 they come to us and they say, you know, BRO is asking these  
25 questions. We all do this comprehensively. But individual elected  
26 county executives -- elected county offices do not come to us in  
27 advance of putting in their request. That's all done after we  
28 receive their requests.

29  
12:08PM 30 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

31 And I guess for Information Technology I guess that would then go  
32 through -- I'm trying to figure out how we map the process next.

33  
34 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

35 So the CISO is security primarily. And what we're doing with the  
36 CISO since he started about a month and a half ago is looking at  
37 the lack of policy that exists and the existing policy that does  
38 happen to exist, upgrading that -- or updating that policy; looking  
39 through some procedures that fortunately we had and others that we  
12:08PM 40 did not have. And so they're drafting new policies. They're  
41 waiting to meet with some countywide elected officials. In fact,  
42 the CISO has meetings next week with some of them; with at least  
43 two of them. I know plans to meet with the leadership of the  
44 Legislature solicit, you know, what are the concerns all over that  
45 you're hearing with security.

46  
47 And the Comptroller and I spoke yesterday just about vendor  
48 security, you know, we work with a lot of vendors that provide us  
49 products and services. And they may be getting into one or two of  
12:09PM 50 our systems or more. And we want to make sure that they're secure  
51 in accessing our systems and they're secure on their side. And if  
52 there is a give and take, that we have that mutual security.  
53 And so, you know, a third-party vendor security program is being  
54 written right now so that there's a checklist when anybody goes and  
55 works with a vendor. And we contract with them, they have to meet  
56 a certain set of requirements. It's gonna not only protect them;

1 it's going to protect our small business community as well.

2

3 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

4 Thank you. And thank you for that answer because that sort of  
5 helps with the fact we're developing a policy. Because -- and I  
6 guess to go back to the Commissioner, it's not only independent  
7 elected officials, right? There are other departments that have  
8 Information Technology needs that don't necessarily always go  
9 through your office, too. You know, if memory serves me, there's  
10 something with Department of Labor and some servers and something  
11 had to do with the state a number of years ago. Am I correct?

12:10PM

12  
13 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

14 Yes, yes, correct.

15

16 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

17 Oh, it's DSS. Thank you. So I guess -- and so this policy would  
18 go not just for independent electeds but the other departments as  
19 well.

12:10PM

20

21 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

22 Every single -- anything we purchase that relies on technology  
23 would have to go through that checklist, yes.

24

25 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

26 All right. Thank you. And that really, really helps because  
27 that's sort of one of the questions I had yesterday. I guess, you  
28 know, since I have the Chief Deputy here and I have -- I don't  
29 know, I'm not going to say John is the Junior Deputy; I'll just say  
30 he's the Deputy.

12:10PM

31

32 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

33 Deputy.

34

35 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

36 He's the Deputy. And the Commissioner and the Comptroller. I hope  
37 we can all sort of get in the same song book, maybe not on the same  
38 page but at least in the same song book.

39

40 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

41 Agreed.

42

43 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

44 So we can get this forward because I don't necessarily think we  
45 need to all be discussing everything out here.

46

47 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

48 Agreed. Thank you for that. We actually spoke yesterday and we've  
49 agreed to meet this afternoon.

12:11PM

50

51 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

52 That's perfect. And, see, I didn't have to do anything. But thank  
53 you.

54

55 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

56 We beat you to it.

1 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

2 Thank you very much. So, Commissioner, just a quick question on  
3 our IT capabilities, you know, because there is a lot of  
4 connectivity within our systems, you're certain that the capital  
5 expenses that you are -- Capital Projects that you're putting  
6 forward will help secure those connectivity systems?  
7

8 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

9 So, we feel that we have adequate funding here in addition to  
10 monies that are available obviously in our operating budget. And  
11 we're putting together the operating budget as we speak in such a  
12 way that we can have the available funds, you know, moving forward  
13 to support this.  
14

15 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

16 And I haven't asked this of other Commissioners, but obviously  
17 there'll be a change of administration. Do we have a -- have we  
18 started a transition plan, transition booklet? I'm really talking  
19 to the Chief Deputy.  
20

21 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

22 Well, I don't want to speak out of turn but surprise, we've been  
23 working on our continuity of operation plans for each department.  
24 I've started those conversations with countywide electeds as well;  
25 basically determining what your work flow is; just a written  
26 document. This is what our -- obviously these will be classified  
27 documents. We don't want them getting out in the workplace, but  
28 essentially saying "this is what the functions of our office do and  
29 this is the technology we rely on. These are the services we rely  
30 on. These are our partners that we rely on, whether state,  
31 federal, county, other county partners, other local village, town  
32 partners" so that that will help and we're planning to do tabletop  
33 exercises. I think it's about eight tabletop exercises before the  
34 end of the year. And then following the election -- I haven't even  
35 spoken to both candidates about this yet but I do plan to have a  
36 tabletop, a larger table with the incoming administration so they  
37 can actually see what we do. And this won't -- it'll be an  
38 all-hazards tabletop so it could affect, you know, weather, whether  
39 your lights are out; it could be cyber; it could be, you know, just  
40 the street lights being out and how would you reflect, you know,  
41 operations.  
42

43 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

44 Excellent. Thank you very much.  
45

46 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

47 So that is the plan.  
48

49 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

50 That is perfect. Thank you very much. And the one other thing  
51 I'll just say, and I apologize for monopolizing, is that when we  
52 talk about leadership of the Legislature, I just want to make sure  
53 that all parties are involved and notified of any issues. I'm not  
54 saying that doesn't happen --  
55  
56

1 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**  
2 (Indiscernible).

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
5 I couldn't agree with you more, Legislator Richberg.

6  
7 **LEG. RICHBERG:**  
8 That's it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
11 I remember in the minority and being left out of almost everything.  
12 So we make sure that won't happen to you.

13  
14 **LEG. RICHBERG:**  
15 And I want to make sure that that doesn't happen.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
18 I would just, Commissioner Mastellon, just before I recognize  
19 Legislator Bergin, to Legislator Richberg's point when he asked you  
12:13PM 20 if the funding was good enough for security, that I asked you the  
21 same question in March of 2020, I think. And the answer was yes  
22 and then September happened. So I think we need to make sure that  
23 that yes answer is accurate and not just a guesstimate of where we  
24 are.

25  
26 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**  
27 Understood.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
12:14PM 30 Thank you. Legislator Bergin.

31  
32 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
33 Thank you very much. Chief Deputy Black, if you could just help me  
34 to understand this because I'm definitely not a computer person.

35  
36 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**  
37 Sure.

38  
39 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
12:14PM 40 If we were to set aside the money that Comptroller Kennedy is  
41 looking for for that program that he's hoping for, is there  
42 anything bad or wrong about just setting that money aside just in  
43 case that is the way that we want to go?

44  
45 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**  
46 Sure. We've seen estimates anywhere from 1.5 million to 14.5  
47 million. So I think that's quite a bit of difference and we'd like  
48 to get a better sense of that. And I just learned yesterday  
49 afternoon from the Comptroller that they did put a bid out to GSA.  
12:14PM 50 We haven't yet seen that so we'd like for our CISO to review that  
51 as well to ensure that it has all the security protocols. So to  
52 determine a cost at this stage without that information, I think,  
53 would be a little preemptive.

54  
55 **LEG. BERGIN:**  
56 Is this something that you'll be talking about later today when you

1 meet?

2

3 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

4 I hope to.

5

6 **LEG. BERGIN:**

7 Yeah?

8

9 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

12:15PM 10 Legislator Bergin, if I could.

11

12 **LEG. BERGIN:**

13 Yes, please.

14

15 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

16 Thank you. Comptroller Kennedy, could you just come up for one  
17 second, please? Because I think we all need to get on the same  
18 page now. The ask is for 5.5 million; is that correct?

19

12:15PM 20 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

21 Yeah, the ask is for 5.5 million. That is based on what has been a  
22 submission that has been provided by CGI. I'm unfamiliar with any  
23 cost raise that would go up to 14 million. And I do deal with the  
24 VP {James Titus} on a regular basis as far as the solicitation for  
25 an opportunity for other providers.

26

27 Let me be very careful in what I present to you as far as  
28 soliciting for another software vendor for providing our financial  
29 systems operation. I have been a strong proponent of it. And as a  
12:16PM 30 matter of fact, the Commissioner will agree I came to embracing the  
31 Cloud kicking and screaming. As a matter of fact, he started early  
32 on to talk to me about it. And I said clouds are in the sky and I  
33 got no interest. However, today I stand before you having been a  
34 convert, if you will, and understanding now a whole lot more about  
35 clouds that I ever wanted to know. But what I do know is that a  
36 CGI cloud meets the federal ramp standards and it is not an  
37 intermediary. And I'll also tell you I have no interest in ever  
38 being in an Amazon cloud because I have no interest in sharing with  
39 anybody else.

12:16PM 40

41 Part of what was talked about here today is something very, very  
42 important. I respect tremendously all my colleagues separate  
43 electeds, but I also know I don't carry their weight. I stand here  
44 before you regarding the financial operations of this County. And  
45 I'm speaking to you about preserving the integrity of the financial  
46 operations of this County. I'm talking to you about tomorrow  
47 morning 38 million being paid under Workday, which while it's had  
48 some improvements, my office has pulled their heart out through  
49 their nose in order to go ahead and make this thing work. I'm also  
12:17PM 50 talking about be an operating run that will go next Monday that  
51 will approach 40 million. My life cycle runs in 7 and 14 day  
52 cycles. The tabletops are important; the planning's important; all  
53 the other stuff is important. In our office the rubber hits the  
54 road every seven days. So what I'm speaking to you about is a  
55 viable financial proposal to take our operations into the Cloud and  
56 nobody out of 580 other entities that were solicited responded.

1 I don't know if we're too big, too complex or too whatever.

2  
3 And to Legislator Trotta's point, 4600 members in law enforcement  
4 are still being dealt with for UKG to be stood up into Workday.  
5 Not there yet; not there yet.

6  
7 So I would offer to you the request is a well-bound defined  
8 request; 14 million could be perhaps maintenance going into future  
9 years, but the cost to transition and to operate, that's the  
10 defined amount that Legislator Bergin spoke about. And she also  
11 brings up another very important point. Let's remember this above  
12 all else: The Capital Budget and the Capital Program are planning  
13 documents. They are preludes to the activities you will take  
14 subsequent that will actually effectuate the spending. Without it,  
15 we cannot spend. With it you retain the ability to decide is it  
16 something you will implement in the future. That said, that's my  
17 take.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

20 Thank you.

21  
22 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

23 You're welcome.

24  
25 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

26 Comptroller Kennedy, hold on a second. Legislator Bergin still has  
27 the floor.

28  
29 **LEG. BERGIN:**

30 Yeah, thank you very much. I just, John, if you could just clarify  
31 one thing for me. Is that ask for the 5.5 million for CGI?

32  
33 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

34 Yes.

35  
36 **LEG. BERGIN:**

37 Is it in this budget book right now?

38  
39 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

40 1782, yes.

41  
42 **LEG. BERGIN:**

43 1782, thank you.

44  
45 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

46 It is in -- the Executive's Office has elected to fund it at, I  
47 believe, about 3.2 in '24, balance in '25. My ask is to have it  
48 all included in '24.

49  
50 **LEG. BERGIN:**

51 Okay. Thank you. I'm done.

52  
53 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

54 Thank you, Legislator Bergin. Legislator Caracappa and then  
55 Legislator Trotta.



1 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

2 All right, so, we discussed this pretty at length yesterday and --

3  
4 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

5 Yes.

6  
7 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

8 What I mentioned yesterday, I'm not sure if you tuned in, is that I  
9 noticed ongoing investigations into this whole matter, there are  
10 three sides, if not more, to every story. I need to be informed.  
11 I need to know what's going on. As independent elected official  
12 for our financial business in the County, I trust our Comptroller  
13 and what he is asking for as I trust every commissioner that comes  
14 before us with their budget needs. In this particular case, this  
15 far exceeds your typical discussion.

16  
17 So a few questions I have and, again, I'm cognizant of the fact  
18 that there's an ongoing investigation. I'm not sure if this is the  
19 platform. This is a Budget Review contemplation here. But since  
20 we're asking questions, I'll ask the following: Number one, we  
21 talked about CISO. Yesterday the Comptroller said he has yet to  
22 hear anything about meeting anybody, a representative from CISO; is  
23 that correct, Comptroller?

24  
25 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

26 Yes.

27  
28 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

29 How do we go about and when will that be done, question number one?  
30 And then I'll get into the integrated segregated parts of this  
31 Cloud proposal, if even it's a cloud proposal, just a fact of the  
32 cost to -- that sets them apart. Integrated as far as segregated  
33 systems; the ability to, like, firewall protection, whoever may  
34 have it, if they are integrated, how can we keep them separated  
35 when they're under attack? And, again, these are some of the  
36 questions I would have brought forward at a different time.  
37 But since we're asking questions now, I'll do that.

38  
39 I think once we get to the housing and how much we're going to  
40 spend on this and how it's going to occur, how do we go about  
41 getting insurance in place at this point post attack? Probably one  
42 of the most significant details that is not being discussed is that  
43 we did not have the proper securities in place financially or  
44 technology wise. What is the effect on the possibilities if at all  
45 possible at this point to get insurance on the difference of  
46 integrated systems as opposed to segregated systems? I know that's  
47 gotta have some kind of impact. You're dealing with a system that  
48 could be potentially universally hacked as opposed to separately.  
49 And I know that's a big concern of not only Comptroller Kennedy's  
50 department but also the District Attorney. I know he has weighed  
51 in heavily on that as well. They would like to be independent of  
52 that possibility of being universally attacked.

53  
54 So when you have an integrated system, I need to know in no  
55 uncertain detail that -- or in no uncertain question that they can  
56 each be independently protected if in case this ever happens again.

1 And correct me if I'm wrong, but everything that I've heard so far  
2 is that there is no sure-fire methods to prevent this from ever  
3 happening again no matter what system you get. They want in,  
4 they'll get in. We learn from the criminals. Our federal  
5 government learns from the criminals about their technology,  
6 how they got in and how to prevent it again. One of the most  
7 successful jobs is to be a caught hacker because they're going to  
8 be recruited by the United States government to help prevent that  
9 from happening again. But I digressed. I don't want -- I don't  
10 want to digress from what we're getting into.

12:23PM

11  
12 So I know I just laid a multitude of questions on you and I put  
13 them out there because I didn't want to forget them myself, so  
14 hopefully you're taking notes, if not I got them here. So I want  
15 to talk about a CISO meeting with the Comptroller. I then want to  
16 talk about the insurance possibilities, how that's going to happen  
17 with the separation of either integrated or segregated. And then  
18 if we do -- if it is the integrated systems, what are the  
19 protections to protect individual departments? I know it's a lot  
20 but here they are. It's out in front of you. What have you got?

12:24PM

21  
22 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

23 No, absolutely. So as Chief Deputy Black had mentioned, that, you  
24 know, the CISO has been here for a little over a month and a half  
25 and has been working very hard to understand and evaluate the  
26 environment. And as such we are just about to engage with all of  
27 the electeds in addition to departments heads moving forward.  
28 So within the next --

12:24PM

29  
30 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

31 Well, when you say about to.

32  
33 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

34 Within the next two weeks. Within the next two weeks.

35  
36 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

37 You got that from the Chief Deputy or the Deputy? I want to make  
38 sure we're --

39  
40 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

41 That would be the Chief Deputy, yes.

42  
43 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

44 All right. Now I feel more secure. Sorry, Jon.

45  
46 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

47 The idea obviously we want to be able to get the Dr. Brancik, you  
48 know, acclimated to the environment; to the understanding of the  
49 technologies that are in place as well as some of the policies and  
50 procedures and allow him to kind of get that in in such a way that  
51 he can now --

12:25PM

52  
53 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

54 I guess that and I appreciate that. But are they going to have the  
55 forensics; are they going to have the details of integrated verse  
56 segregated systems and that we can know in, you know, in our

1 language because I don't get everything, I don't proclaim to be a  
2 computer specialist or a technology expert when it comes to  
3 internet security. But we may need to know the forensic sciences  
4 behind integrated and segregated systems and how -- if we do go  
5 with the integrated, how each department can, in fact, be -- again,  
6 I didn't mean to interrupt you, but --

7  
8 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

9 No, no problem. So we'll talk about insurance and then we can get  
10 into -- so cyber insurance --

11  
12 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

13 Great, great.

14  
15 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

16 A couple of components of cyber insurance that were necessary, you  
17 know, that unfortunately we did not have. You know, I think we  
18 kind of reviewed that at the prior, you know, budget hearings, I  
19 think, on the operating side last year, you know, multifactor  
20 authentication, actual appointment of a CISO and some other aspects  
21 were not in place. And, you know, not having those in place  
22 present significant challenges as it relates to, you know,  
23 acquiring cyber insurance. And furthermore, having independent  
24 operations within the organization that are completely responsible  
25 for certain aspects of the technology also present some challenges  
26 because what cyber insurance will look to do, the insurers will  
27 look to do is to understand, you know, how the overall environment  
28 is properly secured. So if there are multiple individuals  
29 responsible for various aspects, you now have to get the assurances  
30 of those multiple individuals -- and obviously, as you would  
31 expect, having multiple individuals that are responsible for  
32 certain things, could potentially lead to some issues and some  
33 risks. And that also further, you know, presents challenges as it  
34 relates to acquiring cyber insurance.

35  
36 Now a couple good things as it relates to what we've been doing.  
37 So multifactor authentication has been implemented within the  
38 County and has been -- and continues to expand within the County.  
39 As we bring on new technology we incorporate multifactor  
40 authentication and that's simply just a matter of having a  
41 secondary way by which to authenticate you as an individual as a  
42 user to accessing information within the County. Obviously the  
43 appointment of a Chief Information Security Officer and Dr. Brancik  
44 was another key aspect of, you know, being able to acquire and to  
45 honestly enough we just had -- I just had a conversation with Dr.  
46 Brancik, you know, just the other day as it relates to cyber  
47 insurance and his pursuit of looking into those different options.  
48 So, no question we are looking into it.

49  
50 And as it relates to integrated versus separated or segregated.  
51 So when I talk about integrated, what I mean is the ability to have  
52 -- Legislator Gonzalez put it very well, an overarching view of all  
53 aspects of security and enabling each individual department the  
54 ability to effectively define what their security requirements are  
55 in such a way that they're in control of that. However, if there  
56 is an issue that is -- that comes up within a particular area,

1 there's visibility to that issue within that area, you know, by a  
2 central, you know, organization that sits, you know, on top of this  
3 in such a way that we can now be in a position to do something and  
4 to react to that.

5  
6 When you have individual desegregated, you know, environments,  
7 networks, if you will, that are in control by other folks, we have  
8 absolutely no visibility, number one, to understand what specific  
9 issues may be on those -- in those areas, right? Or if we are  
10 somehow alerted to a particular issue within those segregated  
11 environments, you know, our ability to resolve that or to  
12 effectively address those issues are very limited. So having a  
13 centralized organization doesn't mean that you don't have  
14 individual responsibilities -- IT responsibilities within different  
15 departments.

16  
17 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

18 Which is needed. I mean, each department needs their own --

19  
20 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

21 Right.

22  
23 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

24 -- you know, they need their individuality in those departments,  
25 so.

26  
27 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

28 And when it comes to, you know, addressing the business needs of  
29 that particular department, *I need an application that does this.*  
30 *I need to be able to do these types of different things.* However,  
31 when it comes to security, when it comes to infrastructure, which  
32 is your overall arching servers, things of that nature, you know,  
33 there's advantages to having that centralized, you know, in the  
34 overarching, you know, enterprise fashion so that we can provide  
35 those specific capabilities at a lower cost, you know, to the  
36 overall county where they have an opportunity as individual  
37 departments to take advantage of that in such a way to meet their  
38 business needs. So our goal here is to create a centralized or  
39 unified security enterprise, security environment in such a way  
40 that we could, you know, protect, you know, all the individuals'  
41 departments from a security standpoint but also allow them their  
42 independence in such a way to meet their business needs. So I am  
43 certainly not suggesting that --

44  
45 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

46 Okay, lots of common ground we have to eventually get to.  
47 That's what we have to figure out here.

48  
49 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

50 Right.

51  
52 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

53 Then there's the, you know, like I mentioned, the insurance when  
54 you have the separated verse integrate systems, I mean there's just  
55 so much, and I don't want to stall this budget process, but since  
56 we're here, I would like to get a defining answer for the

1 Comptroller as when he would be involved in the meeting with CISO  
2 because he did make it a punctuated point yesterday. You couldn't  
3 pick the person out of a lineup if they were sitting in a room  
4 today. It was pretty much -- paraphrasing but pretty much what he  
5 said.

6  
7 So I know to know, we need to know as a body when is this meeting  
8 going to take place? Is this coming before or after we come up  
9 with a method of moving forward as far as cyber security goes; as  
10 far as integrated or segregated? I think my personal opinion, I'm  
11 one of 18 up here as I said earlier, but I think our Comptroller,  
12 as our DA, as our Clerk, they all have a right to at least have the  
13 -- be in on these meetings. Is that too far stretching or --

14  
15 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

16 Absolutely not; no question. It's -- you know what, and it's not  
17 just a meeting, right, it's a process by which we're going to, you  
18 know, effectively communicate throughout, you know, as things --

19  
20 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

21 This is going to be iterative. We plan on multiple meetings. And  
22 John and I are going to discuss when we can do the first meeting.  
23 And, frankly, there's going to be considerable amount of meetings,  
24 solicitation on both sides as to what the needs are and we have to  
25 be adaptable and flexible and move forward with those plans  
26 together.

27  
28 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

29 I get all that and appreciate all that, but is this -- Chief  
30 Deputy, is this meeting long overdue or is right on track?

31  
32 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

33 John, do you want to have the meeting tomorrow? Do you want to  
34 have the meeting next week? We can --

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

37 Let's address all comments to the Chair, Chief Deputy.

38  
39 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

40 The Chief Deputy was preparing to ask the Comptroller when he was  
41 available for a meeting.

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

44 Well, you two can discuss that.

45  
46 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

47 We can discuss that later today.

48  
49 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

50 You both in the same room together, that's great, that's a start.

51  
52 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

53 And we'll be reporting it back when we'll have the meeting. I'll  
54 let you know the schedule of when those meetings take place.

1 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

2 All right. And lastly for the sake of not taking too much time  
3 here, I think, it's important -- this process particularly here  
4 today is to, again, which has already been told, let's allocate --  
5 let's put the funding where it needs to be and ensure that we have  
6 enough to move forward. The allocation process will be down the  
7 road and we have time to review that. But let's be overly  
8 prepared. All right. Let's move forward so we can address the  
9 situations of each individual department and the needs of the  
10 County as well. I mean, if that makes sense, but, you know, let's  
11 move -- let's get this done.

12:33PM

12  
13 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

14 I couldn't agree -- overly prepared is better.

15  
16 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

17 Yeah, I agree. And my last thing for Commissioner is that there's  
18 no secret the change in administration. The only reason I bring  
19 this up is because it's been asked up here, when that does happen,  
20 what's the process at that point? Does everything -- is there a  
21 reset button? Does everybody get -- I mean, how does that work? I  
22 mean, there's going to be -- undoubtedly, it's going to happen.  
23 There's going to be changes -- significant changes in many of these  
24 departments. What are we doing? I mean, there's going to be  
25 people today that won't have access months from now and that's  
26 going to be -- the numbers are up there. So what do we do?  
27 I mean, how does that change then? We just reset.

12:33PM

28  
29 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

30 Oh, absolutely. We work with the transition team, you know, we  
31 work with the new administration to have them understand exactly  
32 what things are in place; what technologies are in place; what  
33 capabilities are in place; what securities are in place in such a  
34 way that they now have a complete understanding. The people  
35 themselves that are doing these jobs are going to continue in those  
36 roles moving forward.

12:33PM

37  
38 So, you know, what I see here is the ability to continue to  
39 leverage what has been done; continue to leverage the work that's  
40 been done by the great people of the IT Departments in such a way  
41 that we could continue to move forward. So, I see very little  
42 disruption from a technology standpoint. Now that being said, if  
43 there are different priorities that a new administration may come  
44 forth into as it relates to, you know, different types of  
45 applications and areas by which they'd like to focus, that's  
46 absolutely -- that's certainly understood and I can -- -

12:34PM

47  
48 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

49 We'll address that when we get to it, you know. I just wanted to  
50 have some --

51  
52 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

53 I mean we've done --

54  
55 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

56 -- I guess on the record that the question's asked and responded

1 to, so. And I'm sure there is absolutely, but just wanted to bring  
2 it up. I think all the other stuff that I brought up prior is more  
3 important. You addressed it both from your office and the County  
4 Executive's Office and the Comptroller's Office.

5  
6 Comptroller Kennedy, is there anything else you'd like to add for  
7 -- my comments, I should say?  
8

9 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

10 We talked yesterday about your due diligence. And everybody around  
11 this horseshoe should do an extensive amount of due diligence so  
12 that you are all comfortable with whatever the succession is. I've  
13 made my ask pretty clear, but I'll give you one other ask. And  
14 that is that we don't do anything that moves in a different  
15 direction regarding the installation of either a generic cloud or  
16 some other solution until sometime as we've had the vetting. Right  
17 now there is activity that's going on under Palo Alto that I have  
18 no particular knowledge of whatsoever. We are still in an  
19 emergency. This is an emergency now that's been ten months in  
20 declaration; correct?  
21

22 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

23 Correct.  
24

25 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

26 Okay.  
27

28 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

29 Please.  
30

31 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

32 And so I've been very clear previously about discussions regarding  
33 what was the underlying process to identify, all those other  
34 things. Look, ten months into it, whatever the investigatory stuff  
35 was is all done; put to bed; it's been booked. There is a  
36 three-page iteration that was put out by the County Executive, I'll  
37 take it with where it is. A lot of times I say to everybody, you  
38 know, I'm like that Ferrari driver that ripped off the rearview  
39 mirror and says I can't do backwards. I can only go forwards. But  
40 what I don't want to do is I don't want to wind up being pushed in  
41 a particular direction absent something that's been disclosed by IT  
42 or the Administration moving into either a generic cloud or  
43 something else. So while due diligence goes on here, that's  
44 important. But I'd ask that we get a same commitment on this side  
45 that there be no particular direction for a unified solution until  
46 that's fully disclosed as well.  
47

48 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

49 Is there any chance of that happening what he's bringing up? I  
50 mean, that's --  
51

52 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

53 I'm not really sure what he's talking -- -  
54

55 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

56 Neither am I. So, I mean, we're not going to go -- we're not going

1 to jump into a system that we're not all aware of or approved,  
2 right? I mean, that's not happening, right? I mean, declaration  
3 emergency or not, Palo Alto --

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

6 The declaration of emergency severely limits the Legislature's  
7 oversight and especially over procurement, which has been a topic  
8 of conversation with this body.

9  
10 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

11 Yes, sir.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

14 I've had that conversation with you.

15  
16 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

17 Yes, Mr. Chairman.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

12:37PM 20 And I'm not going to comment any further right now.

21  
22 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

23 I'm leaving up to you and the committee to make sure you get down  
24 to the bottom of that because if there are things going on, any  
25 measures being taken now to jump into something, I think that would  
26 be inappropriate without this body's knowledge or commitment to as  
27 well. So, I appreciate it. Mr. Comptroller's been very proactive;  
28 you've been very vocal in your needs. We as a legislature, as a  
29 board appreciate that.

12:37PM 30  
31 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

32 Okay.

33  
34 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

35 And because you're giving us information based -- the opportunity  
36 you bring it forward to question the other sides. And I'm looking  
37 forward to getting all that information. I'm looking forward to  
38 the due diligence of our chairman of the Cyber Committee Attack and  
39 the committee. And I just implore every part, all parts, parcels  
12:38PM 40 here that we need to move in a quicker direction. We have to get  
41 this resolved ten months. I know things take time, but, please,  
42 let's move forward here. Let's all work together and get this  
43 thing resolved as quickly as possible.

44  
45 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

46 Thank you very much.

47  
48 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

49 Can you.

12:38PM 50  
51 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

52 Thank you, Legislator Caracappa. Legislator Hahn.

53  
54 **LEG. HAHN:**

55 So, I'm not -- I'm not on the Gov Ops --



1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
2 The floor is yours, my friend.

3  
4 **LEG. HAHN:**  
5 So, you know, I'm sorry, if I'm not following entirely and up to  
6 speed as much as everyone on all the special committees. And I  
7 just want to make sure if the Comptroller's headed in a direction  
8 and things have to be kept separate for important reasons, but you  
9 all and as Chief Information Security Officer and our IT division  
10 and the County Executive folks at least review and see bid  
11 documents so that we know --

12:39PM

12  
13 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**  
14 Sure.

15  
16 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**  
17 Sure.

18  
19 **LEG. HAHN:**  
20 -- like you're at least -- while the stuff that needs to be kept  
21 confidential as you're independently elected official and things  
22 and the nature of protecting the financial security of the County  
23 and of the taxpayers, you are at least sharing bid documents.

12:39PM

24  
25 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**  
26 Absolutely.

27  
28 **LEG. HAHN:**  
29 -- and what's going out so that we're all working together.

12:39PM

30  
31 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**  
32 Let me speak very specifically to that, Legislator Hahn. And I  
33 want to thank the Administration and the IT because they fully  
34 supported in an expedited fashion our move for our audit software  
35 Teammate into the Cloud. As a matter of fact, it was a turnaround  
36 that was very expedited and we got support out of IT in order to  
37 assist us with the migration up into the Cloud. The proposal was  
38 fully vetted by all. And as a matter of fact, the cost was  
39 approved as well. And so, as I said yesterday, today my office is  
40 aiming independent cloud for all of the software for my 33  
41 auditors. So, absolutely, you know, while I've been called a rogue  
42 many times,  
43 I actually do work in conjunction with the other branches of  
44 government in order to achieve the outcome.

12:40PM

45  
46 **LEG. HAHN:**  
47 So to the Chief Deputy County Executive, like you're in those  
48 loops, too?

49  
50 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**  
51 Certainly and -- certainly regarding that product. The CGI bid I  
52 just found out about yesterday and we'll discuss that later today.

12:41PM

53  
54 **LEG. HAHN:**  
55 Yeah, so that's --

1 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

2 We'll review it.

3  
4 **LEG. HAHN:**

5 That's what I was getting at, you know, making sure that these --  
6 all the bid documents, that everyone's working together on  
7 everything, not just things that we already agree on but nobody can  
8 take rogue moves that could hurt the overall security.

9  
10 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

11 We have to do -- together we have to protect the data. And I think  
12 we're committed to doing that. Again, I found out about it  
13 yesterday. We'll have that discussion today.

14  
15 **LEG. HAHN:**

16 Thank you.

17  
18 **CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BLACK:**

19 Thank you.

20  
21 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

22 Thank you, Legislator Hahn. Comptroller Kennedy, could you just  
23 come up for a second because I'm going to be the last one to go  
24 here and I want to kind of finish this all up.

25  
26 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

27 Yes, let's keep going.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

30 Is it your opinion that not moving into the Cloud at the rate that  
31 you want to move into would put our financial system at risk?

32  
33 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

34 Yes. And I will tell you part of the reason that I say that is  
35 that we are seeing increasing levels of instability within the  
36 present locally posted version that we have. Now --

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

39 Hold on one second, Mr. Comptroller. Commissioner Mastellon, is it  
40 true that we had a recent golden ticket event?

41  
42 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

43 To be honest with you, with regard to security incidents, you know,  
44 this is something that I would rather -- I'm not going to talk in a  
45 public sense. I'll be more than happy to talk about it in  
46 executive session and I can provide you the details, absolutely.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

49 Okay. I need a motion and a second to go into executive session.

50  
51 **LEG. TROTТА:**

52 Motion.

53  
54 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

55 Second.

56

12:41PM

12:41PM

12:41PM

12:42PM

12:42PM

1 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

2 All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? We're in executive  
3 session. Please clear the room.

4 \*\*\*\*\*  
5

6  
7 **(Executive Session 12:42 pm - 1:21 pm)**

8 \*\*\*\*\*  
9

10 *(The following was taken by Alison Mahoney &*  
11 *Transcribed by Diana Flesher, Court Stenographers)*

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

14 Okay, we're out of executive session. We want to thank the  
15 Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for their time and answering  
16 our questions. Do we have any other questions for the  
17 Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Deputy or Deputy County  
18 Executive or Comptroller while we're here?

19  
20 **LEG. TROTTA:**

21 No.

22  
23 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

24 Nay.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

27 Okay. Seeing none, we will recess for 10 minutes so the  
28 Legislators can eat lunch. And we'll be right back. Sorry,  
29 there's a lot of hungry Legislators and I'm not fighting with them.  
30 So we're going to stand -- this is a union shop. He wants 25  
31 minutes. We'll be back at 1:30, folks. No, the Chair's not buying  
32 lunch.

33  
34 **(\*The meeting was called reconvened at 1:49 p.m. \*)**

35  
36 **ENVIRONMENT, PARKS & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

39 All right, folks, we're back from recess. We have our last  
40 committee of the day, Environment, Parks & Agriculture.  
41 Commissioner Smagin, if you'd like to come join us at the table.

42  
43 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

44 Mr. Chair, I think there's two members from the public who would  
45 like to speak.

46  
47 **PUBLIC PORTION**

48  
49 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

50 Yep, they'll be heard. Commissioner, I just have some public  
51 speakers so if you guys want to sit. Okay. I was alerted for two  
52 public speakers that didn't fill out cards so if can come up one at  
53 a time, please, state your name for the record and you'll have  
54 three minutes to address the committee. Good morning, ma'am.  
55 Thanks for joining us today.

1 **CATHERINE KENT:**  
2 Hi, good morning.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
5 Good morning.

6  
7 **CATHERINE KENT:**  
8 My name is Catherine Kent. I am from the Hamlet of Baiting Hollow  
9 in the Township of Riverhead and I am here today to speak in  
01:50PM 10 support of Capital Project 8701, preserving farmland, moving the  
11 funds from, I think, it's 2025 and 2026 into the 2024 budget. I  
12 think that it's a very smart proactive move with the changing real  
13 estate market that's happening right now. And in my district where  
14 I live, District 1, agriculture is of ultimate importance for us  
15 economically, aesthetically. It's our historical heritage. So on  
16 behalf of all of my neighbors out in District 1 I ask that you move  
17 that forward and support that. Thank you very much.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
01:51PM 20 Thank you, Ms. Kent, appreciate that. I share your concerns.  
21 Any questions for Miss Kent? Seeing none, next speaker.  
22 Good afternoon, sir. Thanks for being with us today. Please just  
23 state your name for the record and you'll have three minutes.

24  
25 **SID BAIL:**  
26 Yes. My name is Sid Bail. I'm President of the Wading River Civic  
27 Association. I'm going to make your task very, very easy. I agree  
28 with everything that the previous speaker said. So I would hope  
29 that you would make those amendments as Legislator Krupski has  
01:51PM 30 suggested. Okay? Thank you very much.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
33 Thank you very much. We appreciate it.  
34  
35 All right. Would anyone else like to address the committee?

36  
37 (No Response)

38  
39 Seeing none. Good afternoon, Commissioner. How are you?  
01:52PM 40 Mr. Maccarrone, nice to see you, sir. Always a pleasure.

41  
42 **TERRY MACCARRONE:**  
43 Always a pleasure, Legislator Piccircularlo.

44  
45 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**  
46 Good afternoon.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
49 The floor is yours, gentlemen, if you want to go through the  
01:52PM 50 Capital Project numbers at your pace. Just let us know what number  
51 we're talking about and just state your names for the record.

52  
53 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**  
54 Jason Smagin, Commissioner of Parks. I'm here with Terry  
55 Maccarrone, who's the head of our Capital Budget and all of the  
56 projects that come out of it. And I'm here with the Deputy

1 Commissioner, Don McKay.

2  
3 So really, you know, we are thankful for the Legislators'  
4 commitment to Parks and all of the projects that happened in Parks.  
5 You know, over the years we've seen a large portion go to the  
6 preservation of the parkland. And we're seeing that with the  
7 preservation of parkland comes the expense of having to maintain  
8 the management, and manage it, you know, with that comes costs.  
9 And we appreciate the support that the Legislature and the  
01:53PM 10 Administration has given towards that. And we're supportive of the  
11 recommended budget and are here really to answer any questions as  
12 we're very excited to keep moving with a lot of these projects, you  
13 know, in our historical buildings. A lot of the project, too, that  
14 have been in the pipeline in the campgrounds; and, you know, also  
15 the certain projects like the fencing and things like that, which  
16 is annual expenses that the County has to do because of our plovers  
17 and just fencing in general with our parks. So, really, we're here  
18 to answer any questions.

19  
01:53PM 20 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

21 That's good. Legislator Fleming, would you like to be heard?

22  
23 **LEG. FLEMING:**

24 I didn't have my hand up yet. Is there anyone else who has  
25 questions?

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

28 I was just trying to go in order.

29  
01:53PM 30 **LEG. FLEMING:**

31 Thank you.

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

34 You're welcome, Legislator Kennedy.

35  
36 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

37 Okay, first I want to say thank you, Parks. In the last two years  
38 you have been the most responsive of any department in Suffolk  
39 County in my opinion. That probably is because I call you every  
01:54PM 40 other day on some issue (*laughter*). I will be honest, but I am  
41 happy.

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

44 (*Inaudible*)

45  
46 (*Laughter*)

47  
48 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

49 We did speak a lot when I was in Real Estate as well, Legislator.

01:54PM 50  
51 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

52 We did, we did, we did. So I just want you to know that your  
53 actions are appreciated. Thank you for reminding me to appropriate  
54 funds this year for Commerdinger because that was sliding through  
55 my head. It's remembered when you deal with each individual  
56 Legislator, it's remembered and appreciated.

1 I don't have any issues with what you put in, in here. I added a  
2 few things, some of which you're aware of. I added in fencing in  
3 Raynor Park and that's my question. The fencing and the fixing of  
4 the clock I put in as a request. Some of those pieces of wrought  
5 iron have been out for three years. Why did we wait so long, is  
6 the first the question. I know we cannot -- we put in a guardrail  
7 where we could. There's gas lines, we could not put in in the  
8 other areas. And it's almost 20 years for that clock has been  
9 broken. Why have we waited so long? Was it just that nobody ever  
01:55PM 10 put in for, you know, financing of these things?

11  
12 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

13 So I can't speak for the entire 20 years, but what I can tell  
14 you that Parks has definitely done its best with stretching the  
15 money as best as it can. And I appreciate your help in trying to  
16 speak to the Town about adding the guardrail. Because, as we know,  
17 there is a dangerous section there that if a guardrail was able to  
18 go there would help with the prevention of future accidents because  
19 what we see is --

01:55PM 20  
21 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

22 But it's not --

23  
24 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

25 Yes.

26  
27 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

28 Because it wouldn't impede on the gas line.

29  
01:55PM 30 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

31 Correct. But, again, thankful that you were able to help us work  
32 with the Town and trying to get an answer for that.

33  
34 So what I can tell you is we have the work order in that's going to  
35 be done, you know, by -- not in-house. That's going to be done by,  
36 you know, services outside of the County. I'll look into the  
37 actual request but a lot of the issues has been the lack of money  
38 that was available for this.

39  
01:56PM 40 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

41 Okay. Somebody also from in-house told me that the reason why we  
42 didn't get fencing is because we owe a million dollars to the  
43 company. Is there any truth to that and why would that be?

44  
45 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

46 What I can tell you is that there's no outstanding money with  
47 Parks. I would have to look into that to see if any other County  
48 department, if there's an outstanding. But that's not something  
49 that Parks put in for all this fencing work and then didn't pay so  
01:56PM 50 I would look into that.

51  
52 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

53 You send in your vouchers, we know that. Okay.

54  
55 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

56 Yes.

1 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

2 Okay, thank you. That's it.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

5 Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. Any other -- Legislator Caracappa.

6  
7 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

8 Good afternoon, gentlemen, and thank you for your services to  
9 Suffolk County. As we're all aware we have some of the most  
01:57PM 10 prettiest and pristine parks in all of New York State and that's  
11 largely in part to the upkeep and maintenance that we provide to  
12 them. So thank you. Commissioner, I know we spoke several times.  
13 My concern is the staffing levels. As I mentioned, we have quite a  
14 few County parks, very large in size most of them. The upkeep,  
15 you're working with basically skeleton crews to upkeep all of these  
16 properties. Have you put in monies for -- I'm looking at it but I  
17 just want to hear it from you.

18  
19 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

01:57PM 20 Yeah, no. So this is Capital. We can have the discussion when we  
21 do the --

22  
23 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

24 For Operations, yes --

25  
26 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

27 -- Operating. For Operations. It is not a secret that, you know,  
28 how the, you know, current program works is that the County is  
29 acquiring around 10 to \$20 million of property annually and our  
01:58PM 30 number of staffing has an increase in line with the amount of  
31 properties that we've been acquiring.

32  
33 The, you know, additional issue is how large Suffolk County is.  
34 We're everywhere and we're acquiring everywhere. And it's a  
35 wonderful thing; the land and these assets that we have preserved.  
36 And we need to keep up with the line of putting in the commitment  
37 towards supporting these acquisitions that we're doing because  
38 preserving it is one thing. We also need to manage it correctly so  
39 that the public can use it with the intent of why it was preserved.

01:58PM 40  
41 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

42 Right. I had a chance to visit your offices in Sayville. That's  
43 a, very old building you have there, though it's maintained very  
44 nicely. We have the same situation across Suffolk County with our  
45 aging infrastructures and our historical properties. In your  
46 estimation, your opinion, are we under assessing what we need to do  
47 here? Because it looks like from what I can you put in a very  
48 conservative budget and just by looking at some of the places,  
49 Cathedral Pines is one of them, your establishment in Sayville,  
01:59PM 50 Smiths Point, I know we have extensive projects there in Smiths  
51 Point, I just want to work with you and your department to make  
52 sure that not only the quality of the conditions of the places,  
53 because they are visited by many, many tourists, you know, not just  
54 our residents, which is very important. I just want to make sure  
55 we're working with you in conjunction to make that you have the  
56 resources necessary to make sure our parks are where they should

1 be. I mean, you know, shoestring budgets are one thing but we're  
2 here to work with you. So I want to make sure that you're  
3 comfortable with everything you submitted here, so.

4  
5 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

6 Yeah, no, you know, I mean, we're very happy with the money we're  
7 receiving. And, you know, Terry has been with the department for a  
8 lot longer than I have. He's extremely happy because these  
9 projects that he's been trying to move forward for a long while  
02:00PM 10 that now money is coming in to move forward. So we're very  
11 excited.

12  
13 Again, we have a tremendous amount of assets and it needs to be  
14 cleaned carefully. Because you can't just throw all the money at  
15 once at all of the assets. But we're -- you know, we are trying to  
16 be active in the prevention of future damage to our historical  
17 buildings. One of the things is trying to make sure that the roofs  
18 are kept in, you know, a really good condition because that  
19 prevents water from going in, which would prevent further damage.  
02:00PM 20 So I don't want to see us on a small investment if we don't do it  
21 end up having to pay a huge investment later on because of us not  
22 spending the money.

23  
24 So, you know, Terry and the historic staff have been very active in  
25 trying to make sure we've been doing that. But, again, we're very  
26 happy with the -- with the support that we're receiving in this  
27 budget year. And it's just going to be something that's going to  
28 have to -- we hope that would continue for future years as well to  
29 receive this type of support. And, you know, we're very thankful  
02:01PM 30 of the -- you know, of being able to meet and discuss with you at  
31 the individual parks and the interest that the Legislature shows in  
32 supporting us for what we need. We're very thankful for that.

33  
34 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

35 Well, I'll echo the statement to Legislator Kennedy, your outreach  
36 has been very helpful. So, you know, when we have that -- because  
37 I don't get to every park admittedly and I don't have a crystal  
38 ball. So you and your department's outreach has been very  
39 instrumental in helping us make those decisions throughout the  
02:01PM 40 course of the year, allocating funds for equipment that's  
41 necessary, outdated, broken, you know, just -- so, you know, that  
42 makes our job all that much easier when we can depend on the  
43 leadership of each department and your staff to inform us. That's  
44 what we need. So I commend you on that and I appreciate that. Of  
45 course, as I said earlier, we don't have any other ways, really, of  
46 seeing what's going on. So we depend upon all of you. And it's  
47 essential to not only the job we do here in government but to those  
48 who access our parks and enjoy our parks, the families, the  
49 visitors. So, kudos to you. Thank you all very much, all right.  
02:02PM 50 And I don't think I have anything else at this point. But I know  
51 your phone line's always available; your doors are always open so  
52 and I enjoyed our little visit to some of the parks together and  
53 we'll be sure to continue that, all right.

54  
55 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**  
56 Absolutely.



1 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

2 And that goes for all of you. I appreciate the job you all did.  
3 Okay. Thank you.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

6 Thank you, Legislator Caracappa. Legislator Richberg.

7  
8 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And Commissioner and Terry, you probably  
10 know what I'm going to ask you about, Maxine Postal Park. I'm  
11 hoping we have -- I know we put in the SEQRA but I want to thank  
12 you all for the work that you have done to get us this far. But,  
13 you know, hopefully we can get this done in this year; am I  
14 correct?

15  
16 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

17 So the hope is this year and possibly into next year, but we are  
18 progressing very well. I know we've been working with DPW and  
19 making sure that the application submitted to the DEC is done  
20 correctly so that we can get a hopeful very quick approval from  
21 them so that the construction can begin there and the park can be a  
22 success for the public. I appreciate working with your office and,  
23 you know, we're willing to do whatever it takes and working  
24 together and making sure the SEQRA is done correctly and everything  
25 else.

26  
27 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

28 Yeah, Claire said she'll show up wherever we need her to show up to  
29 make sure. So just let me know. It's really important to us.

30  
31 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

32 No, absolutely. We appreciate it. And, again, it's another one of  
33 those parks, you know -- you know, on the coastline like that, it's  
34 an incredible -- going to be an incredible asset.

35  
36 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

37 I should just add maybe we should call it Presiding Officer Maxine  
38 Postal Park just -- because she was former Presiding Officer.

39  
40 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

41 I'm supportive, but I don't know if it would have to go through the  
42 Naming Committee. But --

43  
44 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

45 That's fine.

46  
47 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

48 Yeah, whatever would be needed.

49  
50 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

51 Thank you very much.

52  
53 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

54 Thank you, Legislator Richberg. Legislator Thorne.

1 **LEG. THORNE:**

2 That was quicker than I expected it to be. You know, I'll echo  
3 everybody else. You've been extremely accessible, Commissioner.  
4 And I certainly my first time really appreciate that. Do we have  
5 enough in the Capital Budget with the acquisition of that Avery  
6 property because we have some structural integrity issues to deal  
7 with over there. Is there something we should be looking at ahead  
8 of time, maybe you and I should meet over there with an engineer?  
9

02:04PM 10 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

11 Yes, so that hasn't been budgeted yet. That hasn't been into the  
12 inventory so that hasn't been budgeted yet but it's something that  
13 we should be preparing for because that is going to come into the  
14 inventory. There is going to be a need, an investment but, again,  
15 as we had spoken about the hope is that there's going to be, you  
16 know, members from the public and organizations from the public  
17 that will come --  
18

19 **LEG. THORNE:**

02:05PM 20 There are people going to bid to be host agencies, fear not,  
21 including the Patchogue Historical Society as you and I spoke of.  
22

23 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

24 Yeah, so we're very excited about those partnerships and what those  
25 can bring. And we have a lot of successful examples of that where  
26 those organizations' investments has made these properties the  
27 jewels that they are, so.  
28

29 **LEG. THORNE:**

02:05PM 30 Outstanding. Well, thank you for your assistance on it. We met  
31 several times over there. It's going to be a great Historical  
32 Society location in District 7. So we appreciate it. But I just  
33 wanted to bring it out and make sure it's public record that we're  
34 going to need some support over there as well. And thank you for  
35 your hard work, sir.  
36

37 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

38 Absolutely, thank you.  
39

02:06PM 40 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

41 Thank you, Legislator Thorne. Legislator Mazzarella.  
42

43 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

44 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you all, the Administration,  
45 the Parks Department. I won't repeat everything everyone's already  
46 said. But you guys know you do a good job. And we appreciate your  
47 open-door policy and your responsiveness.  
48

02:06PM 49 I had the benefit of being in a district where your busiest park is  
50 so you know I'm going to talk a little about about Smith Point.  
51 Before I get into that I just -- there's -- there's one project  
52 that affects Smith Point but I think it affects other parks as well  
53 and it's 7169 replacement of the parks reservation and point of  
54 sale system for, I'm thinking, that those are for the campgrounds;  
55 is that correct?  
56

1 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

2 So that's -- it's our entire system. So it's our golf  
3 reservations; it's our purchasing of the sites at the campgrounds;  
4 it's the green key.

5  
6 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

7 Reservation anywhere.

8  
9 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

02:07PM 10 Correct, it's everything.

11  
12 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

13 So very quickly, and we've had, you know, complaints about the  
14 reservation system for quite some time and it's, you know,  
15 predominantly about the -- you know, the campers and getting sites.  
16 So if you can, you know -- without belaboring and taking too much  
17 time, could you just let us know very quickly the improvements or  
18 what you expect in a new system and what residents can expect as  
19 far as improvements go?

02:07PM 20  
21 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

22 Yeah, no, absolutely. So this money is to be putting out a new RFP  
23 for a new system which will replace our current system in  
24 existence. So what the goal is is to have a system put in place  
25 that kind of meets the uniqueness of the County park system.

26  
27 So right now we have golf reservations going through it; we have  
28 the campground reservations going through it; we have the green key  
29 purchasing. And this system is kind of -- that we have in place is  
02:08PM 30 kind of -- had to have been continually altered to try to meet all  
31 these needs. Our goal is to kind of locate a responder that has --  
32 already has those systems built with the uniqueness of other  
33 municipalities. Because we know we're not the only ones who have  
34 campgrounds and who have golf courses and things like that. So,  
35 you know, nationwide this is, you know -- you know, this is  
36 something that should be very regular. So we're hoping that we  
37 have a product that comes out that the public gets to -- whatever  
38 niche, because not everyone who uses a park uses it in the same  
39 way. We have some that only use it for camping; we have some that  
02:08PM 40 only use it for golfing. Their complaints are going to be driven  
41 for that so we are trying to find the catch-all that is going to  
42 meet all those users' needs as best as possible; not just one group  
43 above the other.

44  
45 But the issues we have with reservations in our campgrounds,  
46 because I know, you know, particularly had mentioned that, the  
47 reason they exist is because our campgrounds are so beautiful and  
48 we have so many people trying to reserve these same spots. The  
49 issue is that not everyone can get to these certain sites. So a  
02:09PM 50 lot of the sites that the people are all fighting over are  
51 full-connect sites and/or just are electric sites. So the goal is  
52 to try to create more of those type of sites so that the public  
53 will now have more of a selection to go to.

54  
55 When we look at -- just, for example, like a campground like  
56 Southaven, half of it is electric, half of it's not. I could tell

1 you that the side that is regularly booked is the side that's  
2 electric. So if we provide more electric sites, those sites will  
3 be available for the public. So that instead of fighting over a  
4 small selection, they'll have a larger selection to pick from and  
5 then hopefully more campers will get to be able to be at these  
6 parks in the sites that they want to be at.

7  
8 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

9 Understood. And I know you had a project over at Southaven, trying  
02:10PM 10 to increase some of the sites with electric. So, okay, keep up the  
11 good work. I look forward to, you know, having some input and  
12 possibly hearing more about that system as you go through your  
13 process and hopefully we're successful in finding a good one.

14  
15 So can I just move very quickly to 7109? This is improvements to  
16 County marinas. And I just specifically want to ask about one of  
17 the marinas inside of that which is a marina called Tadsens in East  
18 Moriches. It says here adopted 2023-25 Capital Program includes  
02:11PM 19 100,000 serial bonds of planning at Tadsens; and a million in '24  
20 for construction at Tadsens. Seems to me at this point looking to  
21 do a ramp right now? I just want to hear a little bit more about  
22 that and know the status and maybe where we're at.

23  
24 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

25 So I'll let Terry speak to it, but this is a -- this is a property  
26 that's been in the County system for a long while that, again, is  
27 one of these amazing jewels that the County has purchased,  
28 preserved and we just haven't been able to do anything with it.  
29 So, again, the potential of what we're seeing in our marinas is we  
02:11PM 30 have wait lists in our different marinas. And so what should be  
31 certain things considered when you have these parks that have these  
32 type of credentials evaluating whether this would be good for that  
33 type of use at these locations. So I'll let Terry kind of take  
34 over because I know it's been something in the queue for a while.

35  
36 **MR. MACCARRONE:**

37 Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Legislator. So, this property  
38 is brought to us and had a dilapidated marina on-site. We recently  
39 were able to just demolish all of the land buildings that were on  
02:12PM 40 there; we did that in-house, took it all down. So there's still  
41 some dilapidated structures in water, the remains of the marina  
42 itself, the bulkhead, the pilings and whatnot. So the planning is  
43 to future develop that marina. How that extensively gets developed  
44 is going to be something that both the Administration and the  
45 Legislature and the Parks will determine in the long-term. At the  
46 very least, we'd like to put a boat ramp there. But do we --  
47 whether or not we develop a full-blown marina is what we're going  
48 to need to decide there.

49  
02:12PM 50 The community -- Legislator Krupski actually had previously reached  
51 out to the local community to get their input. And it ranged quite  
52 a bit in what they wanted to see there from full development to no  
53 development at all. So it's going to be incumbent upon us to then  
54 determine what's actually going to happen there. It really is a  
55 nice property. It's got a lot of potential and hope, I think,  
56 would be to at least have some minimal marina presence there.

1 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

2 I couldn't agree with you more. And it was -- Legislator Krupski  
3 was kind enough to point this out to me this morning because our  
4 district lines are changing and so they'll -- I'll inherit that  
5 area as a result. But do you know if there's enough water there if  
6 we put a ramp?  
7

8 **MR. MACCARRONE:**

9 So to my knowledge there hasn't been an in-water survey of how it  
10 might have silted up. But I believe it was being used up until  
11 fairly close to our taking of it, at least the ramp portion, you  
12 know, loading boats into the water there. I don't see a reason why  
13 it wouldn't be. And we could always talk to Waterways about  
14 whether a dredging would be feasible solution.  
15

16 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

17 Okay. I know it's a small property. I don't want to spend a whole  
18 lot of time on it, but I'd appreciate if I could stay engaged in  
19 it. Thank you.  
20

21 Okay, just moving to Smith Point, so I guess -- I'd like to ask  
22 maybe the Commissioner, he spoke about the potential to do some  
23 improvements on a building there. And I'd like to hear about that  
24 because if we -- you know, if we're looking to move some funding in  
25 order to accommodate personnel and maybe not prepared to lay out a  
26 complete plan right now but at least I'd like to hear, you know,  
27 your opinion and your wants over there right now.  
28

29 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

30 Yeah, no. So, you know, Smith Point, as you highlighted, is our  
31 busiest park used by the public. And with that, we actually have a  
32 lot of different types of assets on-site. We have our campground;  
33 we have our outer beach; we have our life-guarded beach. And, you  
34 know, so everyone knows there is a shortage of life guards that the  
35 nation has been facing and it's something that -- so we've been  
36 putting a lot of assets into the dedication of trying to attract  
37 guards. And what I can tell you is that this year's training  
38 program was the most successful training program that we've seen in  
39 years where we had up to 30 candidates trying to -- trying to make  
40 it as ocean guards; and if not, still water guards. We have a  
41 total of close to 20 that made it; 8 that made it as ocean guards.  
42 But with us attracting more guards, which is needed because when  
43 you have more guards, what you're able to have is a larger swim  
44 area for the public. That's the ultimate goal at these locations.  
45

46 So, we actually are running out of space there for our lifeguards  
47 of them having their locker room area. So, as we know, you know,  
48 the lifeguards have changing areas to get, you know, to get in to  
49 prep, to get into the towers and also have, you know, showers in  
50 place in locker room areas. And we have very condensed areas  
51 currently in existence. So the pavilion area has empty office  
52 spaces that we would like to take a small portion and turn it into  
53 a locker room area for the actual -- the Smith Point guards.  
54 However, I want to -- so there's a male locker room; there's a  
55 female locker room and there's a captain's locker room. And what  
56 we want to do is move the captain's locker room to this new

1 location. And the female locker room is -- adjoins the current  
2 captain's locker room and I would just want to make a doorway in  
3 between those so it would be one large-scale female locker room.  
4 Because what we're seeing in the candidates we're receiving, we're  
5 having a much higher female presence in the candidates receiving  
6 and the qualified candidates we're receiving.

7  
8 For our ocean guards it was a 50/50 ratio on female candidates and  
9 male candidates who successfully became lifeguards. I see that  
02:16PM 10 continuing. So we need to gear up to have the space for these  
11 female guards that are coming in. You know, predominantly four  
12 years ago I would say it was a male-dominated field, which no  
13 longer that is the case. So we just want to get in line with being  
14 able to kind of have this additional space for these guards so they  
15 have our -- are comfortably able to operate out of our busiest  
16 location. Especially with the, you know, with the attraction,  
17 we're looking to try to bring in these new guards, we want to have  
18 the space to house them.

19  
02:17PM 20 So, again, we tried internally to evaluate whether there was  
21 something that could be done. But due to the creation and the  
22 movement of certain plumbing aspects of it, it's not something that  
23 we can do probably cheaply in-house. It's probably more of like a,  
24 you know, \$100,000 to \$150,000 project that would have to be done  
25 at the pavilion to kind of get this locker room put in place. But  
26 I do think it is an investment that would be -- you know, that we  
27 would receive an incredible return on because of the potential of  
28 housing these additional guards.

29  
02:18PM 30 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

31 Thank you. And in my -- in my other life or my, so to speak, day  
32 job, I guess I represent lifeguards, Brookhaven Town and  
33 Southampton Town and we're seeing the same thing. We're seeing a  
34 growth in female population. I think it's great. I mean, I know  
35 so many of these female lifeguards out on Dune Road do an amazing  
36 job and they -- they're well respected and in a lot of instances  
37 are outrunning our male guards, so it's exciting. And the fact  
38 that we're looking at a 50/50 split up at Smith Point, hey, more  
39 power to the females.

02:18PM 40  
41 And let me just ask for your budget guide. So naturally there's  
42 money in the project line. Is this something that we should --  
43 could move up? Would that be helpful to get that locker room  
44 going?

45  
46 **MR. MACCARRONE:**

47 So there is -- there's some existing funding in the account right  
48 now, in the construction line, which we'll actually be using  
49 towards the pavilion doing some window and fascia board work.  
02:19PM 50 Being open to the elements there on the South Shore it gets beat up  
51 pretty good. Most of that money's being used. I don't know how  
52 much it would cost to convert that building. So if it's a 100 to  
53 \$200,000 it certainly helps. If you want to advance money, I am  
54 more than happy to spend it for you efficiently and properly.

1 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

2 Great. I just, you know, it's just something that -- it's not a  
3 big-ticket item but it's an important one and so --

4  
5 **MR. MACCARRONE:**

6 I think the Commissioner's assessment that the plumbing is probably  
7 the bigger issue there. The actual conversion of the building  
8 itself is probably within our capabilities of parks maintenance.

9  
10 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

11 I mean, just to give you an example, like we -- this year, which is  
12 the first time we're having to bring in a construction trailer to  
13 Meschutt Beach due to the amount of guards we have, it's a good  
14 problem. I want these guards there. I just don't have the space  
15 to house them. So we're bringing in a temporary construction  
16 trailer there, you know, for this. But, you know, as we look into  
17 making improvements to the parks, these are the things we have to  
18 kind of get ready for is larger spaces for these workers that we  
19 are bringing in.

20  
21 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

22 Fantastic. Okay. And, again, I'm not looking for an explanation.  
23 I also want to speak in regard to the Smith Point Marina.  
24 Obviously, we're building a new bridge. We know there's going to  
25 be a lot of construction over there. And I just want specifically  
26 budgetarily to keep in mind the timing and to let me know, you  
27 know, when you think the right time is to be able to get into that  
28 marina. Obviously, it's something I guess we're going to have to  
29 look at as an ongoing basis if we're going to be able to do any  
30 construction there at all while the bridge is being built. But,  
31 please, if it's something that we can have concurring construction  
32 going on at the same time for the public, I think it would just be  
33 so much better than if we finish one project and then have more  
34 construction again.

35  
36 So if it's something that, you know, we can accomplish while the  
37 bridge is being built and maybe it might even be more cost  
38 effective, I don't know. But if you can, again, just keep me in  
39 the loop on that. There's going to be a lot going on over there.  
40 So I'd love to be able to do it efficiently. And I think we spoke  
41 also about that recreation area. So, you know, maybe, you know,  
42 off-record we could speak a little bit more and try and get our  
43 ducks in a row there because the next two to three years are going  
44 to be crucial time at Smith Point. So thanks so much.

45  
46 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

47 No, absolutely agreed. You know, and, again, being our most  
48 popular park, it's so important that what we do, we do it right.  
49 So we appreciate your support and the continued conversation we'll  
50 have.

51  
52 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

53 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

54  
55 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

56 Thank you, Legislator Mazzarella. Legislator Bontempi.

1 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

2 Thank you, Chairman Piccirillo. Good afternoon, gentlemen.  
3 So I have to start off by saying thank you to all of you.  
4 We've had a lot of communication the last two years, or last  
5 year-and-a-half. You know, coming into this role, I have a  
6 historic park in my district that has been a very contentious topic  
7 and continues to be although it really shouldn't be. And you have  
8 all been so extremely responsive. And it's been a true pleasure to  
9 work with you. So thank you very much. So that's my first thing.

02:22PM 10

11 Then, let's jump to my colleague Mazzarella's Smith Point Park. So  
12 I have a resident who also complained about the reservation system.  
13 And it's my understanding, and maybe I misunderstood, that Suffolk  
14 County does not give preference to Suffolk County residents;  
15 whereas Nassau County does. Meaning Nassau County does give  
16 preference to their own residents. Is that the way it works?

17  
18 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

02:23PM 20

19 So in regards -- sorry, I'm tilting on my angle so I'm trying from  
20 different microphones. So in regards to the reservation, no, there  
21 is no preference for Suffolk County residents. But in regarding  
22 cost, there is. So regarding your green key purchase and the cost  
23 of the campground, that is. But since we offer the green key for  
24 out-of-county residents and stuff like that, there is no preference  
25 to just allow Suffolk County residents only at the parks. We're  
26 predominantly filled by Suffolk County residents, though, at our  
27 parks as we have that from our data of who is actually reserving  
28 these parks.

02:24PM 30

29  
30 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

31 Would it make sense to try to pursue that or would it be difficult?  
32 Or I don't know, that seemed to be something that this particular  
33 resident was pushing for, so I'm just wondering.

34  
35 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

02:24PM 40

36 So, you know, again, it's -- so we allow for people who are, you  
37 know, staying in the County, individuals to book these sites.  
38 Really what the investment should be in creating more sites that  
39 these public -- people from the public want. And then once you're  
40 able to satisfy the needs that the people are looking for, we won't  
41 have these complaints.

42  
43 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

44 Won't have that.

45  
46 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

02:25PM 50

47 You know, everyone is fighting for the same certain sites at  
48 certain locations. And it's difficult because, you know, when it's  
49 the prime sites to try to reserve, it's going to be a difficult  
50 fight for everyone to get there. So, even if you just restricted  
51 it to Suffolk County residents, it wouldn't even have an impact on  
52 the outcome.

53  
54 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

55 Okay, very good. And then just one last question because I have  
56 your idea in front of me, I heard something about a movie in the



1 park at Coindre Hall. Do we know what that is all about?

2  
3 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

4 So it's -- so the Parks Department working with Economic  
5 Development & Planning and Economic Development & Planning was able  
6 to locate a partner in hosting a movie series in the parks. And  
7 we're always supportive working with Economic Development as  
8 they're able to kind of put these programs in place and market  
9 these parks to people who may not be aware they exist.

02:25PM

10  
11 So last year there was a few lawn movies done at different parks;  
12 one of them at the Vanderbilt, that was very successful. So this  
13 movie series, again, through the Department of Economic & Planning  
14 was able to work with a group chambers to be able to sponsor these  
15 movies. So it's going to be three movies at three different park  
16 locations that are going to exist but it's going to be using our  
17 own equipment. We have a blow-up movie screen. It's a 40-foot  
18 movie screen that we're able to use. We've had successful movie  
19 series for the past three years. We were doing it regularly. The  
20 first year that we had the movie series, we were doing four movies  
21 a week. Actually we were doing it at Smith Point County Park  
22 mainly and the Brentwood Suffolk Community College Campus. This  
23 was heavy into COVID so we were trying to look for activities that  
24 the public could enjoy safely. So now we're introducing lawn movie  
25 series so it's not just sitting in your car. You're actually bring  
26 your chair and sitting out on the lawn. So, again, you know, a  
27 blow-up movie screen that gets placed in the park that causes no  
28 damage whatsoever to the park and it's a wonderful thing that we're  
29 able to have.

02:26PM

02:27PM

30  
31 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

32 I'm not the least bit worried. It was just brought to my attention  
33 and I wasn't aware of it.

34  
35 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

36 No, that was -- that statement was to others who might be listening  
37 who may have concerns about it, so.

38  
39 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

40 I understand (*laughter*). All right, thank you very much.

02:27PM

41  
42 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

43 Of course.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

46 Thank you, Legislator Bontempi. Legislator Hahn.

47  
48 **LEG. HAHN:**

49 Hello, Commissioner, and Deputy Commissioner and Mr. Maccarrone.  
50 Thank you so much for all you do for our parks. We have a  
51 spectacular park system here in Suffolk County and thanks to all  
52 you for doing what you can with such a shoestring budget. So,  
53 thank you. Cupsogue, where are we?

02:27PM

1 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

2 So, Cupsogue was pushed out a year in regards to it, but I actually  
3 want to meet with DPW regarding Cupsogue because I think there's  
4 additional work and buildings that need to be done there for the  
5 Cupsogue project. In the current design, there's actually no  
6 permanent structure for the lifeguards or the EMT staff. And I  
7 would like to see that included. They shouldn't just be working  
8 out of trailers if we have the potential to be putting permanent  
9 structures there.

02:28PM 10

11 **LEG. HAHN:**

12 Is that why it got pushed back?

13

14 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

15 That is not why it got pushed back but I am not --

16

17 **LEG. HAHN:**

18 Why did it get pushed back?

19

02:28PM 20

21 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

22 Administrative priorities.

23

24 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

25 Yeah -- we -- I can't state to why it got pushed back but it is  
26 pushed back a year.

27

28 **LEG. HAHN:**

29 Yeah, so I don't have the project number for that one in front of  
30 me.

02:28PM 31

32 **MR. MACCARRONE:**

33 7162.

34

35 **LEG. HAHN:**

36 I knew you'd know it by heart. Terry, I knew you'd know that.

37

38 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

39 7080.

02:28PM 40

41 **LEG. HAHN:**

42 Cupsogue. Yeah, this -- I mean, it is of all of our spectacular  
43 sites, this one is a real gem. And that's saying a lot because  
44 we've got -- we have some -- you know, like I said, I love our  
45 parks, they're all special and beautiful, but Cupsogue is a real  
46 gem. And to rely on trailers is just, in my mind, a disgrace.  
47 And it really should not have been put off this long to replace the  
48 facilities there and have them reflect the beauty of the location.  
49 So I just did want to say that. So I'm disappointed that that got  
50 pushed back, but it certainly should -- the planning should include  
51 the lifeguard accommodations, you're absolutely right, in that.

02:29PM 52

53 Peconic Dunes, the dining hall, are we done?

54

55 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

56 Oh, yes. Spectacular.

1 LEG. HAHN:

2 Yay.

3  
4 LEG. KRUPSKI:

5 I'm going for lunch tomorrow.

6  
7 LEG. HAHN:

8 Excellent, I'll meet you, maybe Sunday because I'll be there  
9 anyway. Okay. So the bathrooms at Smith Point, did that get --  
10 you didn't cover that directly? No.

11  
12 LEG. MAZZARELLA:

13 I did not.

14  
15 LEG. HAHN:

16 Every time I'm there so, you know, I'm not -- it's not in my  
17 district, so I'm not there as frequently as the ones local to me,  
18 but I feel like there's always a line for the ladies room and this  
19 is just always the case for ladies, right? We do not have enough  
20 women's bathrooms at Smith Point and probably other spots.

21  
22 LEG. CARACAPPA:

23 *(Inaudible)*

24  
25 LEG. HAHN:

26 I hope we can continue to, you know, recognize the realities.  
27 Women more often have to bring in their children into bathrooms and  
28 that bathroom is just too small. And I hope in the future we can  
29 find a way to address that. It's not here and I hope it's not --  
30 you know, it's just something I think we should think of. Have you  
31 gotten your sign machine yet?

32  
33 COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:

34 Yeah, our sign machine is working. We actually have material as  
35 well so we're very excited to start chipping away at the queue in  
36 existence.

37  
38 LEG. HAHN:

39 So we don't need to put in -- do you think we need to put in money  
40 for replacement? Should that go down again? Because that was  
41 really problematic *(laughter)*.

42  
43 LEG. CARACAPPA:

44 What kind of question is that?

45  
46 LEG. HAHN:

47 Two. Maybe two.

48  
49 COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:

50 So, again, we -- you know, beyond parks' in-house shine shop where  
51 we have, it's one individual who produces all the signs, DPW has a  
52 sign shop as well. So I don't know exactly how their equipment is,  
53 but I know if ours goes down, you know, we could try to rely on  
54 them. So I think there could be a discussion to see how all of our  
55 equipment is and what's needed and it should be kind of a larger  
56 discussion than just Parks. It should be what is the County.

1 **LEG. HAHN:**

2 Yeah, I think the fact that we, you know, did have to rely on them  
3 and it wasn't very reliable or it was long waits for, you know, for  
4 that backup measure when the sign machine was down, certainly think  
5 if not each department having their own backup, at least one backup  
6 for two departments if they're similar machines, you know, would  
7 make a lot of sense in this budget.

8  
9 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

02:32PM 10 So we are in the process of purchasing a secondary machine that's  
11 also going to be able to simultaneously kind of be used by the  
12 staff. It's -- you know, it is a large queue in existence but, you  
13 know, not in defense of the, you know, the marketplace and  
14 purchasing these things but everyone's aware that everything is  
15 taking much, much longer to purchase. So it's something that, you  
16 know, we were trying to do, that was like a year-long process and  
17 in past years would have been a lot shorter, so.

18  
19 **LEG. HAHN:**

02:33PM 20 And one more thing, Lakeland County Park. I just -- I love that  
21 spot and especially for disabled individuals who are  
22 wheelchair-bound, having a facility with a raised boardwalk really  
23 can get users in the middle of the woods. You know, it's such a  
24 unique experience. And I think we have to have a real long-term  
25 plan and you may, but might need to be moved up. Those boardwalks  
26 do need to be replaced. And it's miles, right; am I wrong? It's  
27 miles of boardwalk.

28  
29 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

02:34PM 30 Uh-huh.

31  
32 **LEG. HAHN:**

33 In there?

34  
35 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

36 Uh-huh.

37  
38 **LEG. HAHN:**

02:34PM 39 There's an extensive system through the woods and someone who's --  
40 like I said, someone's who's wheelchair-bound, it's just -- it's an  
41 extraordinary experience that they can't -- or it's hard to get  
42 elsewhere, especially for folks with motorized, you know,  
43 wheelchairs, they might not be able to go on a path that's rocky or  
44 dirt. And so can you talk to me about the -- what's in this budget  
45 for the replacement of those boardwalks, if anything?

46  
47 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

02:34PM 48 So, what I can say, and it's not that it's going to particularly go  
49 to this exact park, but the County -- and I'm very thankful to the  
50 Administration for the creation of the new line of 7212, which is  
51 inclusivity and accessibility, improvements at County parks. So  
52 this is something that I do believe is long overdue. And I'm happy  
53 to see the commitment from the County Legislature and the County  
54 Administration to try to make it more available to the disabled and  
55 the developmentally disabled community, to try to bring them access  
56 to certain parks that they may not have had access in the past for.

1 So, again, we're very excited about this line, which is very new.  
2 I believe it's just a year old, this line.

3  
4 **MR. MACCARRONE:**  
5 Yeah.

6  
7 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**  
8 Yeah. So this would be the first year. So we're very excited  
9 about this and very excited about the potential that this money  
10 could bring.

02:35PM

11  
12 **LEG. HAHN:**  
13 And how much is in that line?

14  
15 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**  
16 It's 250,000 for 2023 and 250,000 for 2024. So we're very, very  
17 excited about it.

18  
19 **LEG. HAHN:**  
20 And we should be. That's an excellent addition of a line. I think  
21 for that park we probably need to get to a place where, you know,  
22 where we're starting to replace -- and now I'm talking about  
23 Lakeland, the boardwalk -- raised boardwalk in Lakeland, where  
24 we're starting to replace sections soon. And I imagine it would  
25 eat right through those -- that line both years, you know, very  
26 quickly. And so we don't want those lines to be what funds the  
27 replacement of the boardwalk at Lakeland because it's existing and,  
28 you know, it should have its own commitment of funds that's  
29 separate from the very laudable goal of improving accessibility  
30 everywhere.

02:35PM

02:36PM

31  
32 And I think that boardwalk replacement will cost, you know, a lot  
33 and so it should be done in phases, priority order. Because there  
34 are sections that are worse than others, as you know, and the  
35 gazebo there, too, has to be replaced. So I think that we should  
36 talk about that as the Legislative body and those on that -- on the  
37 committee, Lakeland having more dollars; sounds like there's not an  
38 item now to get started on that boardwalk replacement; correct?

39  
40 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**  
41 So, again, it's -- so we do do certain maintenance of boards there  
42 that are -- you know, that are no longer able to be used. But if  
43 you're talking about the large-scale replacement of doing it  
44 throughout, no, there's no dedicated fund to do that. The Parks  
45 Department is always willing to accept additional funds for that.  
46 And if anyone would want to go there to tour the boardwalk, just  
47 let us know.

02:37PM

48  
49 **LEG. HAHN:**  
50 Yeah, no. I think it's important for folks to see what's there,  
51 the condition it's in and recognize that it'll need a longer term  
52 planning strategy. It probably couldn't be done in one year and we  
53 might need to start saving for it. Thank you.

02:37PM

54  
55 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**  
56 Thank you, Legislator Hahn. Legislator Caracappa.

1 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

2 Quick, real quick. Thank you, Chair. What's the feasibility of  
3 possibly thinking about expansion of Smith Point campgrounds? I  
4 know there -- you know, there's a high demand, we sell out, right?

5  
6 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

7 It's in very high demand. Again, that'll have to be a larger  
8 discussion because of where it is with the DEC and things like  
9 that, because you are talking about disturbing, you know, dunes and  
02:38PM 10 you're talking about disturbing plover areas and things like that.

11  
12 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

13 Is that plover area, is that closed? Because when we go down --

14  
15 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

16 We have nests in front of the campground area on the beach side.

17  
18 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

19 Oh, really, oh, wow.

02:39PM 20  
21 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

22 Yeah. Again, one of the things with having a successful plover  
23 program is that they continue to come and they continue to grow  
24 more and more. Last year we had the most of nests that we've ever  
25 had before. We were in the 40s, so it's --

26  
27 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

28 Does that make them still endangered, though?

29  
02:39PM 30 *(\*Laughter\*)*

31  
32 I'm only kidding, all you environmentalists out there. I'm only  
33 playing.

34  
35 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

36 Yes, I wish we could say that --

37  
38 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

39 I'm not talking about piping plovers. I'm just talking about the  
02:39PM 40 feasibility of having a conversation of going forward.

41  
42 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

43 I think the evaluation of possibly using certain sites there and  
44 trying to make them full hook-up or trying to maybe possibly turn  
45 campsites into sites that would be able to allow to have campers  
46 there, I think, that's a conversation we could have.  
47 But I don't know if we could increase the actual footprint there as  
48 of yet.

49  
02:39PM 50 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

51 All right. Well, we can always discuss it and see what we can do  
52 going forward. It's just an idea because I know it's in high  
53 demand and we do get -- I think we all get the complaints that, you  
54 know, *how does it work?* You know, it's like Ticketmaster, they  
55 call, they wait on-line and midnight they press the -- sold out.  
56 It's like Taylor Swift.

1 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

2 Yeah, I'd like to say we're more popular than Taylor Swift but  
3 everyone is fighting for that line overlooking the beach. I mean,  
4 you're talking about camping and being able to have a view of the  
5 ocean. It's an incredible -- to be able to have a vacation with a  
6 view of the ocean for that cost.

7  
8 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

9 Yeah, I opt for the hotel room overlooking the ocean. But thank  
10 you very much, anyway. You know, some of those trailers are nicer  
11 than any hotel I've ever been in, that's for sure, those campers.  
12 How are we doing on the Showmobile, just a quick update.

13  
14 **MR. MACCARRONE:**

15 Waiting.

16  
17 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

18 Yeah, we can look into it but, again, a projection we got was like  
19 an 18-month projection. So we can look into what the status is.  
20 But, again, it's just like ordering pick-up trucks. That's like a  
21 year wait. Our Gators, that's been six months, so it's everything  
22 is backed up. But the initial response we got is about an 18-month  
23 wait.

24  
25 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

26 Last thing, the park at Smith Point, the playground and the  
27 handicapped parking on the upper level by the playground, any plans  
28 on extending any of that?

29  
30 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

31 So -- so there's multiple playgrounds there. So you're talking  
32 about the one that's by the handicapped parking, almost closer to  
33 the pavilion? Because there is one at the campground as well.  
34 So there's been no discussion about increasing the parking spots  
35 there. If there is a concern, we could look into increasing  
36 handicapped parking spots in the large lot, if needed. You know,  
37 we do have a parking lot there that can hold, you know, about 3,000  
38 cars, so it's something we can look into it. And as you know, you  
39 know, those tunnels in the ramps, it is accessible so something we  
40 can look into.

41  
42 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

43 No worries. Thank you very much, guys.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

46 Thank you, Legislator Caracappa. Legislator Richberg.

47  
48 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll be quick. So, some constituents have  
50 reached out and they were actually complaining about the fact that  
51 Nassau County has an outdoor concert venue in a county park like  
52 they have at Eisenhower Park, I already see, I'm not trying to do  
53 anything.

54  
55 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

56 I will find you a place in Wyandanch. If you want, we can go

1 looking together.  
2

3 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

4 I would just say -- it's fine. I will say we have one over in  
5 Tanner Park, we have an outdoor concert venue there. In fact, my  
6 colleague, Legislator Hahn, and I came there. So one of the  
7 questions were, you know, is that even possible here? And I know  
8 -- I'm not saying we'll do it anywhere else but at a county park?  
9

10 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

11 So what I can tell you is that we have county parks that we've used  
12 for concerts. AME hosted a concert at Southaven County Park. It  
13 was very successful for its members. And the work that's being  
14 done at Cathedral Pines, we think, could be potential for a nice,  
15 large-scale kind of festival park. We've seen Jerry Jam be very  
16 successful there annually. We'd like to attract more of those  
17 concert kind of series festivals because we think that park would  
18 be very welcoming to that. You know, if anyone would want to see  
19 what the Jerry Jam festival is like, I would absolutely go with you  
20 and we could tour it while the festival is happening. But because  
21 of how that park is configured and being away from neighbors, it  
22 allows, kind of, to bring the people in without having disturbance  
23 to, kind of, the public. So we do think after this investment is  
24 made with Cathedral Pines, which is moving forward, we do think  
25 that could be kind of a wonderful place for kind of festival  
26 concerts.  
27

28 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

29 And that's sort of what they were looking at. They sort of said  
30 there were some things over in Eisenhower Park, which is, again,  
31 away from neighbors. It is on a major area but if you're not right  
32 in their park, you don't necessarily hear or see everything that's  
33 going on. So I think, you know, that's sort of their conversation  
34 is the fact that, you know, we don't really a festival or a concert  
35 area or community concert area. I know there is stuff in Heckscher  
36 Park where they have the classical music festival where they have  
37 playing but we don't really have anything for County -- in the  
38 County in that manner; anything that overlooks the water or  
39 anything like that. So I think it's important.  
40

41 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

42 Yeah, no, absolutely. And, I mean, again, we have incredible  
43 assets. And, you know, I have no problem saying that I believe our  
44 parks, you know, far surpass any other county's parks in the  
45 country. So I do think we have the capability to have a wonderful  
46 festival park there. I think with these investments and making it  
47 more comfortable for the campers and everything else, I think it  
48 will bring attraction where you possibly have a lot more of private  
49 kind of entities wanting to come to do these types of festivals at  
50 the park.  
51

52 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

53 And I think it would be important for our quality of life for our  
54 residents. And since we talk about Wyandanch, we do have a County  
55 park in Wyandanch that the community has no access to. It's right  
56 behind Wyandanch Park and it's actually constantly dirty. It abuts



1 the street. We found out that it's owned by Parks and not DPW.  
2 We thought it was a DPW property. We thought it was a water  
3 preservation area, but it's not. And, so, I'd love to sit down and  
4 do a walk-thru, if we can. There is a lake in the back there, but  
5 we can't -- you can't really access it because it's all chained up,  
6 but I'd love to figure out what we can do with that area to either  
7 make it, you know, some sort of a walking park or a passive park  
8 because it's right there in the community right off the Carll's  
9 River Watershed.

02:46PM 10

11 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

12 Yeah, no, if you could send me the address or the tax map number, I  
13 would love to be able to look into it. You know, and I know we  
14 have a tremendous amount of assets that we probably are not always  
15 fully aware that we have in the parks system.

16  
17 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

18 Richberg County Park.

02:46PM 20

21 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

22 No, I don't want my name on it but -- because --

23 (*\*Laughter\**)

24  
25 It's on Bliss Street and Wyandanch, right off Bliss Street and  
26 Wyandanch.

27  
28 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

29 Okay, if you could e-mail me, that would be great.

02:46PM 30

31 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

32 I will. Claire will. She's probably already listening and know's  
33 the e-mail is coming. So thank you.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

36 Thank you. Legislator Mazzarella.

37  
38 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

39 Sorry, we're not going to let you guys go. Another quick one.  
40 I just want an update on spillways at Southaven Park, the spillway  
41 project, where are we at?

02:46PM 42

43 **MR. MACCARRONE:**

44 Yeah, that's progressing forward. That should be starting this  
45 year. You're talking about the dam on Carmans River.

46  
47 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

48 Yeah. Yes. Thank you.

02:47PM 50

51 **MR. MACCARRONE:**

52 You're welcome.

53 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

54 Anyone else? Sure? Okay, good. Thank you very much. And I  
55 appreciate all the work you do in my district and across Suffolk  
56 County. It's made a measurable difference of the residents; for

1 all of our residents. So we appreciate your work and I look  
2 forward to working with you in the future. Thank you very much.  
3 And we will take everything into consideration. Hopefully we can  
4 do a lot of the work that you're suggesting, so we appreciate it.  
5 Have a nice day, gentlemen. Thank you.

6  
7 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

8 Sorry, Mr. Commissioner. It's Birch Street. Birch.

9  
10 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

11 Okay, if Claire could e-mail me, that would be great.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN PICCIRILLO:**

14 Okay. Does anyone else have anything else for the committee today?  
15 Seeing no further business in front of this committee, we stand  
16 adjourned.

17  
18 *(\*The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m. \*)*