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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
(RECONVENED FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2016)
AND OCTOBER 5, 2016)

NORMA GONSALVES,
Presiding Officer

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Wednesday, October 13, 2016
10:30 P.M.

1

2 A P P E A R A N C E S:

3 NORMA GONSALVES, Presiding Officer

4 RICHARD NICOLELLO,
5 Deputy Presiding Officer6 HOWARD KOPEL,
7 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer

8 STEVEN RHOADS

9 DENISE FORD

10 LAURA CURRAN

11 C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

12 VINCENT MUSCARELLA

13 ELLEN BIRNBAUM

14 LAURA SCHAEFER

15 DONALD MACKENZIE

16 KEVAN ABRAHAMS,
17 Minority Leader

18 ROSE MARIE WALKER

19 DENNIS DUNNE

20 JAMES KENNEDY

21 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

22 CARRIE SOLAGES

23 SIELA BYNOE

24 MICHAEL PULITZER,
25 Clerk of the Legislature

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: At this
3 time we are now reconvening the September
4 26, 2016 legislative meeting. Hopefully all
5 legislators will take their seats so can
6 begin the meeting.

7 I did say we are going to
8 reconvene the September 26th, 2016 Full
9 Legislative meeting. At this point I'm
10 going to ask for a motion to untable.

11 Motion, please.

12 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

13 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Second.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
15 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
16 Gaylor. All those in favor of untabling the
17 11 items here, and there are 11 bond
18 ordinances from the college that were tabled
19 on the 26th and then on the 5th of October.
20 I think I have that.

21 The items we're calling to be
22 untabled are Item 310-16, Calendar Item 2;
23 Calendar Item 3 --

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam
25 Presiding Officer, it is 10:30 at night and

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16
2 this Legislature is about to embark on
3 ensuring that the public is not
4 participating. I mean, we all want to see
5 the college go forward.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We could
7 have done it on September 26th. Okay?

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We are
9 reconvening a meeting at 10:30 at night on a
10 Thursday when there's no public here. You
11 talk about three men in a room in Albany,
12 this is no worse.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm sorry.
14 I got news for you, it was advertised that
15 we were going to do it. Item 310, Item
16 311-16, Item 312-16, Item 313-16, Item
17 314-16, this is all the College, Item
18 315-16, Item 316-16, Item 317-16, Item
19 318-16, Item 319-16, Item 320-16. 11 bond
20 ordinances in all.

21 Motion to untable those, please.

22 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Second.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
25 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16

2 Gaylor. All those in favor of untabling
3 those items signify by saying aye.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What are we
5 untabling?

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: 11 bond
7 ordinances for the college.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There is
9 language to change the bond ordinance?

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Let us go
11 first. We need to untable.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: This is
13 nonsense. I can't believe we're running the
14 place like this.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: There is a
16 motion on the floor to untable.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Is there
18 language --

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It was
20 moved by Legislator Dunne and seconded by
21 Legislator Gaylor. One step at a time.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There is no
23 reason to take the step if there is no
24 language here. We want to know how to vote
25 on the step.

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I said,
3 all those in favor of untabling the --

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: This is a
5 shame. This is awful. This is three men in
6 the room in Albany.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We are
8 following procedure. This is not your
9 way. I'm sorry.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: This is the
11 same exact thing. This is the same exact
12 thing people complain about.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Stop it.
14 Just stop it. The motion on the floor is to
15 untable and it was made by Legislator Dunne
16 and seconded by Legislator Gaylor.

17 Now I'm asking, all those in
18 favor of untabling the items I just called
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 Any opposed?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 I guess not.

24 The items are now untabled. Were
25 there abstentions to the untabling or we're

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16
2 just going ahead? Listen and listen
3 carefully.

4 There is procedure here involved
5 and very very delicately I'm going to
6 proceed to the next step.

7 So we now untabled the 11 bond
8 ordinances pertaining to the college.

9 Now I'm going to ask for an
10 emergency resolution to put them before the
11 body primarily because -- and I'm not only
12 going to include the 11 bond ordinances but
13 I'm going to include the 15 capital projects
14 as well.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. Now
16 we have just about had enough. We had
17 enough. Now you're going to lump
18 emergencies together with the bond
19 ordinances. You know what, good night.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Absolutely.
21 These were vetted through --

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good night.
23 This is shameful that at 10:30 at night that
24 you've decided to call a meeting, reconvene
25 a meeting from last week.

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Walk out.

3 Go ahead.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That is

5 shameful. You should be embarrassed.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm not

7 embarrassed. Good bye.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There is no

9 public here to debate it. There is no

10 public here to discuss it.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's

12 already been discussed twice. There was no

13 one here on the 26th or the 5th of October

14 except us.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: This is why

16 the county is under investigation. Awful.

17 I will not be a co-conspirator.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You should

19 be embarrassed.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I need the

21 clerk to read the emergency. Please read

22 the emergency.

23 CLERK PULITZER: An emergency

24 resolution declaring an emergency for

25 immediate action upon bond ordinances

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16
2 providing for capital expenditures to
3 finance capital projects.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I need a
5 motion.

6 CLERK PULITZER: That's item
7 310-16, 311-16, 312-16, 313-16 314-16,
8 315-16, 316-16, 317-16, 318-16, 319-16,
9 320-16.

10 414-16, 420-16, 424-16, 425-16,
11 426-16, 427-16, 428-18, 429-16, 430-16,
12 431-16, 433-16, 435-16, 445-16, 432-16, and
13 502-16. Pardon me, 428-16. That was a
14 typo. Sorry.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That was
16 to establish an emergency.

17 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
20 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
21 Nicolello. All those in favor of
22 establishing the emergency for the items
23 that were just called, signify by saying
24 aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16

2 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Can I say
3 something?

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You sure
5 can.

6 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: I have voted
7 no in the past on borrowing money for many
8 county projects because I have been
9 concerned as has been many of my colleagues
10 about the county's procurement practices and
11 lack of transparency.

12 But I have talked to constituents
13 and thought a lot about my obligation to the
14 county's taxpayers and I decided it's time
15 for government to move forward.

16 These are important projects that
17 the taxpayers expect us to complete. We
18 simply have to do everything in our power to
19 provide oversight in how the funds are
20 spent. As our constituents and taxpayers
21 expect us to do, and that's why I vote yes
22 tonight.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The
24 emergency passes, there are 13 votes, of
25 course, which are needed to establish the

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16

2 emergency.

3 Now, we have another step in the
4 process. I need a motion to amend the items
5 in the nature of a substitution.

6 We're talking about again the 11
7 bond ordinances for the college being
8 amended.

9 I believe someone would speak to
10 the amendment but I need first -- I need a
11 motion for an amendment in the nature of a
12 substitution for items, again, Items 310
13 through 320, 11 bond ordinances for the
14 college.

15 Motion, please.

16 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.

17 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
19 Legislator Gaylor, seconded by Legislator
20 Schaefer. All those in favor of the
21 amendment in the nature of a substitution
22 signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 Any opposed?

25 (No verbal response.)

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16

2 Will someone just please explain
3 what the amendments in the nature of a
4 substitution for the college bond ordinances
5 are? Who is going to speak to that? Go
6 ahead.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: My
8 understanding of that is that we are
9 changing the bond ordinances with respect to
10 the college back to the way things have been
11 done time in memorial in this county in that
12 they are now going to be project specific
13 and specific for the college. So that is
14 the nature of the amendment.

15 I just want to say that I am
16 gratified we are moving forward tonight in
17 doing the people's business which I think
18 will help the people of Nassau County, more
19 specifically, especially the college
20 students and the college community.

21 MR. PODLESACK: That is correct.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Well, I
23 was waiting for someone from the county.
24 Any questions regarding it? Laura?

25 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I just

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16
2 wanted to comment. I'm also very happy. I
3 appreciate that Legislator Curran sees the
4 need, the great need to move forward
5 together in government. We can't put a stop
6 to the things that have been put a stop to
7 any longer as you know.

8 Our constituents need for us to
9 act in their best behalf and that's what we
10 are here doing. So thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Once
12 again, I think we all have ties. And this
13 body, as a whole, in the past, has always
14 been unanimous when it came to anything
15 pertaining to Nassau County Community
16 College.

17 I, for one, know the benefits
18 that the college does serve the young people
19 of Nassau County.

20 Many of us have taken advantage
21 of the courses at the college. Many of us
22 had gotten our Associate Degrees from the
23 college.

24 So it does my heart good that we
25 are able to put these bonds forward tonight

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16
2 so the college can move forward and do the
3 business of the college.

4 So all those in favor of the
5 amendment in the nature of a substitution
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 We have the 13 votes needed.

11 And now I believe that the next
12 order of business -- and I did say 315.

13 Now I'm going to move on,
14 remember, we established the emergency for
15 all of the 26 items that are before us. I
16 believe it was 11 for the college and 15
17 capital projects. So the emergency was
18 established.

19 There is no amendment in the
20 nature of a substitution. The items are
21 what was presented to us in previous
22 meetings. Let us move on.

23 Just for the record, the capital
24 projects that we're going to move forward
25 tonight hopefully are 414-16, 420, 424, 425,

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16
2 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 435,
3 445, 502.

4 Just remember something. These
5 projects were vetted when the capital plan
6 was presented to us. So these do not come
7 to us without previous information.

8 So now a motion for these
9 particular 15 capital projects. All 26.
10 No, no. I did call the first one 414-16,
11 and all the other ones that I called were
12 '16. So rather than go back to them, I'm
13 not going back. They are all the year '16.

14 So now I need a motion please for
15 the 15 capital projects that I called.

16 Motion, please. What? I called
17 them separately.

18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I already
20 did the college. I did it separately.

21 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I second that
22 motion, Madam Presiding Officer.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: All those
24 in favor of the capital projects that were
25 just called, signify by saying aye.

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16

2 (Aye.)

3 Any opposed?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 We have 13 votes. The motion was
6 made by Legislator Gaylor and seconded by
7 Legislator Rhoads. Now 13 of us have voted
8 in the affirmative.

9 So those capital projects are now
10 going to move forward. There will be a lot
11 of happy people in Nassau County.

12 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I received
13 many calls from my constituents over these
14 projects. Road markings, certainly traffic
15 light issues.

16 I actually stopped to make sure
17 that the police knew a traffic light was not
18 functioning properly. While I waited there,
19 there is a very bad accident at that traffic
20 light. I just want to thank everyone for
21 supporting these projects and I know that
22 our residents will be very very happy.

23 Legislator Curran, thank you very
24 much for working with to us to assure this.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have to

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16
2 say that these capital projects really
3 impact on most of our districts. It's not
4 just a partisan effort on our part. This
5 goes in a bipartisan effort. I need a
6 motion to adjourn, unless Ms. Murray would
7 like to say something.

8 MS. MURRAY: I would just like to
9 say thank you very much to the 13
10 legislators up here on behalf of the 20,000
11 students at Nassau Community College. Thank
12 you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion to
14 adjourn, please.

15 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

16 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Second.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
18 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
19 Gaylor. All those in favor, signify by
20 saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 Any opposed?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 The September 26th meeting has
25 now been put to bed.

1 Full Legislature/10-13-16
2 (Whereupon, the reconvened
3 September 26th, 2016 Full Legislative
4 Meeting adjourned at 10:47 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and
Notary Public in and for the State of New
York, do hereby stated:

THAT I attended at the time and place
above mentioned and took stenographic record
of the proceedings in the above-entitled
matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true
and accurate transcript of the same and the
whole thereof, according to the best of my
ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 28th day of October, 2016.

FRANK GRAY