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LONG ISLAND REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

9:00 a.m. - 11:56 a.m.

July 11, 2006

Nassau County Legislative Chamber

One West Street

Mineola, New York 11501

1 Present:

2 JAMES LAROCCA, Chairman

3 JOHN D. CAMERON, Vice Chairman

4 V. ELAINE GROSS

5 PAUL TONNA

6 JAMES LARGE, JR.

7 THERESA SANDERS,

8 Members of the Board

9 Also Present:

10 Seth Forman, Acting Executive Director

11 Patricia Bourne (representing Nassau County
12 County Executive Tom Suozzi, and Executive
13 Commissioner, Nassau County Planning
Commission)

14 Kevin Law (representing Suffolk County
Executive Steve Levy)

15 Howard Weitzman, Nassau County Comptroller

16 Janet Ioli (representing Suffolk County
17 Comptroller Joseph Sawicki)

18 Carrie Gallagher (representing Thomas Isles,
Suffolk County Planning Director)

19 Daniel Gulizio, Nassau County Planning
20 Department

21 Robert Brickman, Nassau County Planning
22 Department

23 Jackie Gross, Nassau County Attorney's
24 Office

25 Phyllis Seidman, Suffolk County Attorney's
Office

1 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Good morning.
2 This is a meeting of the Long Island Regional
3 Planning Board, subject to the notices and the
4 call of the Board at its last meeting.

5 I call the meeting to order.

6 In your binders you will find the
7 minutes of the June 20, 2006 meeting. I would
8 ask for any comments, deletions or additions,
9 and a motion to accept the minutes of the June
10 20 meeting.

11 MS. E. GROSS: I move to accept the
12 minutes.

13 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Elaine Gross makes
14 the motion.

15 MR. LARGE: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: The motion is
17 seconded by Jim Large. Are there any comments
18 or changes?

19 All those in favor indicate by saying
20 aye.

21 (There was a chorus of ayes.)

22 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Opposed?

23 The minutes are agreed to.

24 For my report, you will find in your
25 binders the Draft Work Plan that had been

1 Draft Work Plan

2 distributed in the time since the last meeting
3 and the Draft Budgets that would be associated
4 with that plan. We also have in your binder a
5 copy of the draft of the Executive Director
6 search announcement, as to which I have been
7 assisted in format, and so forth, by the
8 Suffolk Civil Service Office.

9 I also want in my report to review
10 with you the calendar of our meetings for the
11 remainder of '06 into '07.

12 The first order of business, then,
13 would be the Draft Work Plan, which is at the
14 second tab. I think the best way to view
15 this -- at least, the way I view it -- is that
16 this is a work in progress. I think we should
17 today adopt the principles that we are
18 operating under, at least in this interim
19 period, and move toward a more formalized plan
20 as we go. This is the product of both the
21 resolution of October '05 directing us to
22 develop such a plan, as well as the work that
23 was already in progress when we came in.

24 The first order of business, then,
25 would be to review the Draft Work Plan of the

1 Draft Work Plan

2 Board and the budget document that is
3 associated with it.

4 My comment is that I think it is a
5 good job. There are many things that we would
6 do sequentially if time might allow it, but we
7 are in the process of having to deal with a
8 great number of administrative matters that
9 grew larger than perhaps we expected they would
10 be. Now I think we can begin to turn to what
11 our work program would be during this time.
12 Contemporaneously, we will be dealing with the
13 staff leadership process and the Executive
14 Director search.

15 If I may, I will open it by asking
16 for a response to the Draft Work Plan.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I think the
18 concept we all support. I thank Seth for the
19 work that he has done to date. I think it is
20 important -- we have had this for a little
21 while, for a week or so -- to hear comments
22 from both Nassau and Suffolk Planning. They
23 have been involved for a long time. I would
24 like to have both Tom Isles and Patti Bourne
25 make comments, as well as any comments from the

1 Draft Work Plan

2 Board.

3 As Jim mentioned, this is a work in
4 progress, and I think something is going to
5 evolve over time, but I think the concept is a
6 good start. I will save my comments on the
7 budget issue, but on the text of the Work Plan,
8 I think it is a good start.

9 MS. GALLAGHER: Jim, if I might
10 respond to John a minute, I did actually
11 provide comments to Seth yesterday on behalf of
12 Tom Isles and myself. We went through the Work
13 Plan page by page, my separate comments and his
14 comments.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Did you write
16 those up?

17 MS. GALLAGHER: No, but I could
18 formally write those up. I have a marked-up
19 copy and I went over what those comments were.

20 MR. FORMAN: I just received it
21 yesterday, so we have to go back and review it.

22 MS. GALLAGHER: Perhaps we could put
23 it into a more formal memo in terms of
24 conceptual and specific comments.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: That would be

1 Draft Work Plan

2 good. We received some comments also from
3 Patti Bourne, so I think when we address that,
4 it would be worthwhile, and then the Board can
5 react to all that.

6 MR. FORMAN: I just wanted to get
7 some clarification on the Nassau County
8 comments that we received yesterday. Maybe,
9 Dan, you can speak to them. They were
10 basically three items that were out. Was it by
11 Patti and you, or was it just the memo from
12 Patti to me and the rest of the Board?

13 MR. GULIZIO: I think the e-mail was
14 directly from Patti. We discussed it briefly
15 in-house. I think in concept we support the
16 Work Plan. You did a great job with the
17 initial package under some difficult
18 circumstances. But, again, we would just like
19 the opportunity to sit down and talk about the
20 big picture in terms of the mission and how to
21 structure the Board to accomplish that mission.

22 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Elaine?

23 MS. E. GROSS: I guess the Work Plan
24 wasn't quite what I was looking for. We had
25 not discussed in detail what we were expecting.

1 Draft Work Plan

2 So it is with the understanding we will have
3 that happen.

4 In some ways I think the Work Plan
5 looks a little bit too internal, looks a little
6 bit like what we have been doing. I was really
7 looking forward to the presentation today in
8 the hope that it might provide some additional
9 input for us as we think about the Work Plan.

10 MR. LARGE: I don't think I have any
11 questions today. I gather we are not trying to
12 come to a conclusion.

13 Seth, if I may, I do have some
14 questions, and I will call you off line and ask
15 them. But it is a solid presentation and very
16 helpful. And, yes, I have some questions, but
17 I won't take the time today.

18 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: In response to all
19 of that, I think it is all right-on. Recall
20 that we have the calendar working that requires
21 us to put forward a budget, a number at least,
22 and we are committed to having a budget number
23 coming out of this meeting in order to be in
24 both County processes. It was correctly
25 observed the last time that it really was hard

1 2006 Budget

2 to make a budget in the absence of a Work
3 Plan -- we are trying to do these things in
4 tandem -- the reaction time, development time,
5 and so forth.

6 What I would ask is that what we try
7 to do today is respond to these, that is, other
8 responses that I think you will still want to
9 make to the plan as it evolves, including the
10 response you may have as we learn more from
11 Doug as to what goes on around the country and
12 other places, but also get to the budget, at
13 least so that we can put forward a number that
14 will allow us to be, I think somebody used the
15 term, a stakeholder. We need to give
16 sufficient information to both Counties at this
17 point to be in the budget process, which is
18 county governments where budget caucuses are
19 underway as we speak.

20 MS. E. GROSS: We have budget
21 questions.

22 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Just one more
23 thing about the work itself. I think what we
24 are doing is continue this process of
25 developing and working on our plan, to find our

1 2006 Budget

2 mission and our work program, but at the same
3 time go ahead and give the best case we can on
4 what the budget ought to look like so we get a
5 number for the County Executives as an outcome.

6 MR. LARGE: Jim, are we trying to get
7 a decision on the remainder of 2006 or also the
8 2007 question?

9 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Both. But
10 actually the pressure is more on the 2007
11 request, because the County Executive offices
12 are both now developing their budgets for the
13 process. '06 we can talk about. We have some
14 control over what we are doing at the moment.
15 This is really the budget request for the next
16 year.

17 MS. E. GROSS: I just had a few
18 clarifying questions. On the '06, on those
19 items, are those expenses that we had already
20 where we had someone who was at 15 percent of
21 full time, such as the demographer? Do we have
22 those people already?

23 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Yes. Let me just
24 say that I will say yes, but with the following
25 complication, if you will. We are part way

1 2006 Budget

2 into the year under which for the first five
3 months, let us say, the old arrangements of a
4 contract to the Foundation, to the Center, and
5 so forth, were presumably in operation,
6 although there was no contract signed for '06.
7 '05 operated under that old arrangement that we
8 attempted to understand.

9 You should be aware that Dr.
10 Koppelman has, within the last week, requested
11 payment of \$180,000 with respect to the
12 Foundation, the Center, for staff. I have not
13 responded to that request. I haven't had it in
14 writing. It was a verbal request. But I
15 understand he has also made it to the Suffolk
16 budget officer, also just verbally.

17 What I was asking to do for this '06
18 budget was to reflect that, as of May, the
19 arrangement via the Foundation and the Center
20 of Stony Brook is no longer in effect, and that
21 we have to accurately reflect the costs that we
22 are incurring and including in the form of
23 people who have given to us of their time. So
24 this is meant to reflect the actual costs of,
25 for example, the Acting Executive Director of

1 2006 Budget

2 Suffolk, full-time assigned to us. His number
3 will remain for a period of time and should be
4 reflected here, and so forth. This is meant to
5 be as accurate a picture as we can of where we
6 are for the balance of '06.

7 MS. E. GROSS: And these numbers are
8 only from 6/25 on. But all of these other
9 people are real bodies. We have an obligation,
10 is what you are saying, to the other numbers
11 that are listed here?

12 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Yes.

13 MS. GALLAGHER: That means that the
14 numbers are for the purpose of reflecting what
15 the budget would cost if you were to stand
16 alone, where in fact most of the costs are
17 being covered right now by Suffolk County or
18 Nassau County. Could you clarify?

19 MS. E. GROSS: The bodies exist?

20 MS. GALLAGHER: The bodies exist.
21 They are employees of mostly Suffolk County.
22 We are saying that is the percentage of their
23 time that is being billed. Well, that is the
24 percentage of their time that is being spent on
25 Regional Planning business.

1 2006 Budget

2 MS. E. GROSS: OK.

3 MR. FORMAN: Yes. These would not be
4 charges to the Regional Planning Board. Right
5 now, I told you it is roughly 6,000-something.
6 So it wouldn't be charged to that. As it
7 suggests here, those are the Suffolk and Nassau
8 contributions that are waiting to come on line,
9 which hasn't yet, but we have been told is
10 available.

11 MR. LARGE: Seth, I don't see
12 anything in here for physical facilities.
13 Would their rates be the same?

14 MR. FORMAN: That is a good question.
15 We have been using, again, mostly Suffolk
16 County office space and Nassau County Planning
17 Department space, whatever they contribute.
18 But again historically we have used similar
19 staffs and we have been located in the same
20 buildings as county employees, and we have not
21 had a charge for physical space.

22 MR. LARGE: I am embarrassed, I don't
23 know where you hang your hat.

24 MR. FORMAN: The H. Lee Dennison
25 Building on Veterans Highway. That is the

1 2006 Budget

2 County Center in Suffolk.

3 MR. LARGE: So there is an assumption
4 that, in addition to everything else, there
5 will be a physical facility donation on the
6 part of Suffolk?

7 MR. FORMAN: Yes.

8 MR. WEITZMAN: I just have a couple
9 of questions on the remainder of 2006. You
10 have here cash on hand at the start of the
11 year. Is that 6/06 or January 1?

12 MR. FORMAN: That is from January 1.
13 Fortunately, we have only spent maybe \$5,000 or
14 \$6,000 since then.

15 MR. WEITZMAN: How much money do you
16 actually allot?

17 MR. FORMAN: None.

18 MR. WEITZMAN: So there are no bills
19 in Nassau that Jim spoke about as to the
20 Foundation?

21 MR. FORMAN: That's right.

22 MR. WEITZMAN: And the 42« percent
23 employee benefit rate, that is the rate we are
24 actually using?

25 MR. FORMAN: Yes. That is what we

1 2006 Budget

2 were told by the Suffolk County Comptroller.

3 MR. WEITZMAN: Is that because of the
4 health insurance in relation to low salaries?

5 MR. FORMAN: That I don't know.

6 MS. IOLI: I don't understand the
7 question. What do you mean in relation to low
8 salaries?

9 MR. WEITZMAN: In other words, if
10 somebody is getting \$30,000 a year and is
11 getting full-paid health insurance, it is a big
12 percentage. If somebody is making \$150,000 and
13 gets health insurance, it is a small
14 percentage. That is a big percentage.

15 MS. IOLI: I have to honestly say I
16 don't know where that 42« percent came from. I
17 would imagine that is across-the-board, the
18 percentage that they use for federal grants or
19 any other reimbursable expense, say fringe
20 benefit rate they use as a general figure.

21 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: It was explained
22 to me as the planning number to reflect. I am
23 sure it is an average.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: These numbers
25 that are presented here are prorated for the

1 2006 Budget

2 year, Seth?

3 MR. FORMAN: Actually, that is not
4 precisely the case.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: That is per
6 year?

7 MR. FORMAN: Yes.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: It is not a
9 six-month salary.

10 MR. FORMAN: No.

11 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Paul?

12 MR. TONNA: No questions.

13 MR. LARGE: Seth, what are the
14 additions on the '07 budget to existing staff?
15 You have direct staffing. I assume some of
16 these are new positions.

17 MR. FORMAN: The Executive Director,
18 the Administrative Assistant, all of those, we
19 don't really have direct staff except for
20 myself who is 100 percent assigned to the
21 Regional Planning Board.

22 MR. LARGE: So all of these are --

23 MR. FORMAN: These are soon-to-be
24 positions. Again they can be existing but they
25 need to be assigned to the Regional Board on a

1 2006 Budget

2 full-time basis.

3 MR. LARGE: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: They were
5 previously hired at Stony Brook.

6 MR. FORMAN: Right. New only in the
7 sense, as Jim said, that they were previously
8 hired positions at Stony Brook.

9 MR. LARGE: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: It is not an
11 addition to staff in any way.

12 MR. LARGE: I'm sorry, then I am
13 confused. Is there an Administrative Assistant
14 currently working with us?

15 MR. FORMAN: Not currently, but up
16 until the last meeting that we had in Nassau
17 County there was.

18 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: When Lee resigned,
19 his assistant resigned as well. She was at
20 \$8,000 a year.

21 MR. LARGE: I'm sorry?

22 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Jim, there was an
23 assistant whom you may have met at the first
24 meeting, whose salary was \$8,000, who also
25 resigned as of the date of his resignation. So

1 2006 Budget

2 when those appear in next year's budget as
3 positions, they appear to be new but they are
4 only new as to this form of category but not as
5 to function.

6 Hearing no further discussion, can we
7 have a motion on the '06 operating budget for
8 the remainder of 2006? Is there a motion?

9 MR. TONNA: I move approval of the
10 '06 budget.

11 MS. E. GROSS: I do have another
12 question. On the web page design, is that a
13 quote from someone as to compensation?

14 MR. FORMAN: Yes. We have been in
15 contact with the Special Collections and
16 Technical Unit of the Stony Brook University
17 Libraries, which runs the web page for Stony
18 Brook University, and they told us that the
19 digitization and the web page design would run
20 us about this amount, and not the maintenance,
21 but to initially get all of the objects would
22 take this figure.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Right now,
24 that is a stakeholder, because if we are going
25 to move forward with that, which I assume we

1 2007 Budget

2 are mostly like to do, we will solicit
3 proposals from various companies before we
4 select.

5 MR. FORMAN: Oh, absolutely.

6 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: If the
7 stenographer would note the arrival of the
8 remainder of the Board, Theresa Sanders. The
9 motion was by Paul to move the '06 budget. Is
10 there a second?

11 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I will
12 second.

13 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Second by John
14 Cameron.

15 Any further discussion?

16 All those in favor indicate by saying
17 aye.

18 (There was a chorus of ayes.)

19 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Opposed?

20 The budget is agreed to.

21 And now for the draft for '07, I will
22 hear from Seth.

23 MR. FORMAN: Most of what you see in
24 front of you was done at the request of what
25 members may have talked about at the last

1 2007 Budget

2 meeting in Hauppauge, where I was asked to try
3 to match up some of the work functions and
4 responsibilities with what the costs would be.
5 The result is what you see in front of you.
6 Obviously, I was taking direction on the
7 positions, especially the Executive Director
8 and the Deputy Director, that were outlined in
9 the enabling legislation for the new Regional
10 Planning Board.

11 Is there any discussion, any
12 questions? Paul.

13 MR. TONNA: Thanks, Seth. The first
14 question is, and I can understand 2006, but for
15 2007 I think we should try to define the
16 in-kind costs. In other words, conversations
17 about budgets have always been in the nature of
18 the question Jim asked: Where do you hang your
19 hat? -- although a lot of people don't wear
20 hats anymore. The concern that I have is that
21 we somehow in the budget be able to define the
22 in-kind costs. I think, from a municipal
23 standpoint, either Suffolk County or Nassau
24 County, Suffolk should be able to say, for
25 example, Here's what we have done, here's what

1 2007 Budget

2 we give in-kind over and above what we are
3 asked for in budget requests. That will give
4 our Board and future Boards a much fuller
5 financial picture of what is taking place.

6 I know that is going to be a little
7 tougher to define, but in dealing with
8 municipal finance, I think you really have to
9 define everything.

10 So I think this is not really the
11 total budget. The total budget for the Long
12 Island Regional Planning Board effort might be
13 over a million dollars, given the in-kind
14 services or whatever else.

15 MR. FORMAN: Just a comment.
16 Actually, there is something of a history
17 behind that, you are probably aware of it, but
18 for a long time Nassau County has felt, because
19 Dr. Koppelman was a Suffolk County resident and
20 had the headquarters of the Regional Planning
21 Board in Suffolk, that the Regional Planning
22 Board served Suffolk County to a greater degree
23 than Nassau County. Their contribution
24 certainly indicates there has been more of a
25 commitment to the Regional Planning Board on

1 2007 Budget

2 the part of Suffolk County.

3 MR. TONNA: Financially.

4 MR. FORMAN: Financially. With the
5 revisions in the Planning Board legislation and
6 the attempt to revise, Jim and I had talked
7 about it and we really would like to see
8 contributions from each county, and for each
9 county also, in turn, to feel that they are
10 being equally well served by the Board. That
11 is what we tried to reflect, although I know
12 there is a balance in that, that we are trying
13 to address.

14 MR. TONNA: My concern is that I
15 think this Board, from taking the oath of
16 office, has been inclined to clean up the past
17 as far as any type of ambiguities and be able
18 to say, let's professionalize it as much as
19 possible. I think probably the easiest one,
20 although it has been probably the most hair
21 raising, has been the financial issues. But I
22 think that we have to define what are the
23 in-kind costs, both from Nassau County's and
24 Suffolk County's standpoint, to provide space,
25 to provide printing or whatever else we have,

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2 service we can provide would be public
3 education. I would recommend that we have at
4 least a placeholder in here in our budget for
5 next year, such as the creation of a video to
6 educate the public on Long Island. I think all
7 of us are aware that the public, while
8 frustrated with a lot of the challenges that we
9 face on Long Island, still needs to be educated
10 as to what our needs are. For educational
11 materials on various and sundry issues, I would
12 like to propose a line item of \$100,000 for
13 next year, to be defined and not to be expended
14 until it has been basically proposed, vetted
15 and reviewed by the Board. I think it is
16 important that we advance public education to
17 alert our residents on Long Island as to what
18 the issues are and what the potential solutions
19 would be.

20 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Other comments?

21 MR. LARGE: I would agree with that
22 and suspect you are coming in low.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I am fine
24 with that, Jim, and if possibly the
25 presentation today will shed some light as to

1 2007 Budget

2 what we have seen in other areas of the
3 country. But I think we need something in
4 there. If we can come up with some more ideas
5 to justify a higher number, I support that
6 also.

7 MS. SANDERS: Just one additional:
8 The continuity of the web page design and
9 technology services. If we are going to set it
10 up this year, it should be maintained, it
11 should be projecting some kind of maintenance.

12 MS. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, if I may,
13 where it indicates the budget for next year,
14 cartographer (GIS) for Suffolk, we would offer
15 that service too, I want you to know. One
16 thing I suggest you add onto the budget would
17 be the cost of the stenographer. Right now, we
18 are dividing it and we can continue to divide
19 it as at present. We understand from our
20 counsel, Jackie Gross, has been working very
21 closely with Phyllis on this, and with clerical
22 support, and probably Suffolk is providing a
23 little bit more than we are, it has been in
24 Suffolk, but Debbie is trying to do whatever
25 she can do for you in there.

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2 MR. FORMAN: She, by the way, has
3 been excellent. Thank you for her.

4 MS. BOURNE: I'm glad. But also
5 right here we have -- again, I am just
6 mentioning Suffolk initially has been able to
7 provide for support -- right here today,
8 besides myself, we have four people from our
9 Planning Department, besides Debbie, and there
10 is the attorney and others. So there is a lot
11 of in-house from Nassau, as there is from
12 Suffolk.

13 MR. WEITZMAN: Jim, I just want to
14 make one more comment in this year's budget,
15 and I wouldn't suggest you make a change in the
16 budget for it but it is a practice we started
17 in our office and it might be helpful too. We
18 started scanning all paper documents that come
19 in. Instead of distributing the document, we
20 distribute it electronically. We get a lot of
21 paper from the Planning Board. It cuts down on
22 a lot of paper that is sent out. It also sends
23 out a message as to what we are doing to
24 conserve resources. It just actually works
25 better. I don't know if you have access to a

1 2007 Budget

2 scanner, you probably do in Suffolk. But I
3 wouldn't change the budget.

4 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: What I would like
5 to do is to ask your approval. At our next
6 meeting we will have further perfected this,
7 and we can then make it a practice, at least in
8 these early months, to adjust each fund as part
9 of our financial report, but today agree on at
10 least a whole number that we think it should
11 be.

12 MR. TONNA: Just to report: The
13 consulting resources, I just would like to go
14 over it a little bit in detail. It seems to me
15 that we have a huge, obviously, salary line.
16 The vast majority of the money where we are
17 asking for increases is in the salary line.
18 Again, I think part of that is because we are
19 finally doing some charge-backs with the budget
20 of the counties and stuff, so they are already
21 providing this. It is not really from \$200,000
22 to \$716,000. That is a misnomer. What we are
23 doing is, we are calculating in some of the
24 charge-backs, which is good; we need to do more
25 of that.

1 2007 Budget

2 But as to the consulting resources we
3 are talking about, we need to come in with it,
4 but what do we anticipate?

5 MR. FORMAN: For example, if you look
6 through the Work Plan, there are several items
7 that probably require some consultant help.
8 Let's say you try to work up a policy-options
9 paper on, say, the energy farms. We would
10 certainly need some kind of engineer or energy
11 consultant on that. We don't have an in-house
12 capability for that. So that's the kind of
13 thing that we are thinking of when we put a
14 line for that. Is that what you see?

15 MR. TONNA: I am concerned about just
16 having it defined. The concern that I have is,
17 when we have broad topics like consulting
18 resources, in the legislature we had it broken
19 out by funds. I think it is a 529 or a 411
20 fund, let's say. That is when the legislature
21 decided to do a study. So we knew we had
22 dedicated funds where that money would come
23 from. For example, John just mentioned public
24 education. Would you have seen that coming out
25 of that line, normally?

1 2007 Budget

2 MR. FORMAN: If you are thinking
3 about making a video or a web site, yes.

4 MR. TONNA: Have we anticipated that
5 in the money? Not really, right? We don't
6 have an interactive web site right now, with
7 the bells and whistles, that we can access,
8 talking about Long Island Regional Planning
9 update, talking about meetings or whatever
10 else; right?

11 MR. FORMAN: No. Kevin has offered
12 the assistance of people in Suffolk to help us
13 get on the Suffolk County web site. But the
14 Board will have to determine if they want to be
15 part of another department's web site or have
16 our own stand-alone web site. That would be a
17 decision of the Board.

18 MR. TONNA: Can I make a suggestion,
19 then? And, again, it might not be for this
20 time. But I think, similar to what colleges go
21 through and what counties go through, we might
22 want to flesh this out a little more in the
23 future as far as dedicated funds and lines, so
24 that, as a Board, we can say we might have to
25 transfer money from one fund to another or from

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2 one line to another or something like that.
3 You know, consulting resources, \$50,000, that
4 is a large, broad topic that could be open to
5 someone's discretion down the line, and I want
6 to try to limit that as much as possible.

7 MR. FORMAN: I would agree, by the
8 way, that this is not as specific a line-item
9 budget as we should ultimately have. We are
10 trying to come up with an aggregate total to
11 present to the counties.

12 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: I think we are all
13 in agreement on that. I see the number as
14 having relatively two large components. One,
15 the services that we might contract for, and
16 then expertise. I only have the vaguest idea
17 at this point as to what they might be.

18 MR. TONNA: Right.

19 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: But, as to the
20 larger point about this being not as specific
21 and detailed as necessary for a governmental
22 budget, absolutely. And as to the expenditures
23 that we put out on a line like that, because
24 last week you had taken back from the Board the
25 authority to contract for any but a de minimis

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2 "Consulting Resources," right? Because that
3 would be public education and --

4 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Maybe
5 changing the term of "Consulting Resources" to
6 "Contracted Services" or something like that.

7 MR TONNA: Yes.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Something
9 like that.

10 MS. SANDERS: Yes.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Which would
12 give us a big umbrella. Are we in favor of
13 that?

14 MS. E. GROSS: I am in favor of that,
15 but I have a question about the incoming staff
16 versus the actual staff that we have to pay
17 for. The budget number that we are voting on
18 right now relates to the cash portion, although
19 we don't really have the in-kind fleshed out
20 completely. If that is the case, do we take
21 out this Assigned Staffing number?

22 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: It's neither.

23 MS. E. GROSS: OK.

24 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: This was intended
25 to show actuality of the cost of the

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2 operations. We are not appropriating for
3 ourselves all of these numbers that are coming
4 to us from other places, but we are reflecting
5 that the bottom line is the total cost of
6 operations. So when you say it comes out of
7 cash, not per se.

8 MS. E. GROSS: All right. Then I
9 guess my question to the two counties is: Do
10 they need this kind of a budget, which is a
11 little bit of a mix? It is not fully cash and
12 in-kind. Or today what do they need from us?
13 Do they need the cash number?

14 MR. LAW: This is a great improvement
15 over the past, but I think it's important for
16 you to have a Work Plan associated with this.
17 We get that from all of our funds.
18 Unfortunately, what we will be forced to do,
19 because of our county purchase process, is to
20 get something to us now, because we are going
21 through that process right now.

22 I think what you need to accept is
23 that in the first year or so it is known to be
24 a moving target because you are new, this is
25 all new, and we can do a much better job of

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2 this next year. We are trying to give you some
3 more resources to get this Board off the mark
4 and running. I think it is going to be OK to
5 have some flexibility built into it, realizing
6 that you are going to figure out how you want
7 to proceed as we move along. The important
8 thing is to get a number to us.

9 You asked me last time, does this
10 shock the conscience, and I said no, it didn't.
11 As you continue to add things on, it gets more
12 and more dubious. Since we met last June in
13 Suffolk County to discuss the budget items, we
14 tried to the legislature to pass a bill, a
15 uniform fee for court documents, which they
16 held up, tossed out a big chunk of change. And
17 we have legislators who are playing games with
18 gasoline taxes to try to cut the gasoline tax 2
19 cents or 3 cents, which consumers aren't going
20 to see but is going to amount to \$30 million or
21 \$40 million. So, with those two unknowns, our
22 budget situation continues to be precarious,
23 and that is true as to all departments.

24 I think the closer you stick to the
25 number you showed me last week, the easier it

1 2007 Budget

2 is going to be for us to advocate for or to try
3 to get you close to that. As you get toward a
4 million dollars this year, I think you are
5 asking more from us than we are probably going
6 to give you at this point.

7 I think you are heading in the right
8 direction. Next year I am sure this is going
9 to be a much easier process and a much more
10 educated process, but they are moving targets
11 right now.

12 MS. E. GROSS: I think maybe the only
13 thing we need to do is to just to add in-kind
14 next to those items that we are expecting to be
15 in-kind.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Like the
17 Assigned Staffing?

18 MS. E. GROSS: Right.

19 MR. TONNA: Yes.

20 MS. BOURNE: I think that would make
21 it easier for both counties to understand what
22 your needs are, based upon what you are looking
23 for, cash versus services. I agree with what
24 Kevin said. Nassau has some of these issues
25 too. Our targets for all departments for '07,

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2 based upon our four-year plan, are not growth
3 targets. In fact, we have budgets that we are
4 required to work on which are at reduced
5 levels. The reality is that now we have to
6 accommodate the costs and have flexibility.

7 I believe also that, as we you
8 develop the Work Plan and move into the actual
9 action items, your priorities may change. In
10 other words, if you are proposing a full set of
11 activities, you are not going to start them all
12 at once. You want to get an Executive Director
13 on board. You have some priorities. So there
14 will be a transition period and during that
15 transition period I think both counties will be
16 ultimately providing more in-kind staffs for
17 transition into your needs.

18 MR. TONNA: Both Nassau and Suffolk
19 have talked about the political realities with
20 budgeting. I think we need them to look at
21 putting this in a format that says, Here is
22 what we need from direct contribution and here
23 is what we are assuming has already been
24 ongoing, the in-kind services that I think that
25 we can expand also to provide rental space,

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2 however you do that. So this actual number,
3 Kevin, will come down. When you split \$150,000
4 of education money, or split between 200 and
5 100, it will actually still be smaller than
6 \$116,000 that we are expecting as direct
7 revenue.

8 I think that that might be a way of,
9 first of all, saying, Look, we have a
10 reasonable budget, we are now defining our
11 terms; we are only asking, when we redo all of
12 this, for maybe \$400,000 from each County or
13 something like that, because we are already
14 assuming the in-kind services that are being
15 provided. I think that might be a way.

16 We are going to have to sell this,
17 too, to the legislatures and stuff like that.
18 I think, by splitting that, it might look
19 politically correct.

20 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: We were closer to
21 what you just described in the way we presented
22 it last time. There was discomfort in the fact
23 that we weren't acknowledging the actual cost
24 of the in-kind. The question is the
25 representation of what we did last year, what

1 2007 Budget

2 we did this year, in terms of change.

3 We also do not at this point have a
4 full picture of what our year-end budget will
5 come to look like for the current, which will
6 carry into it as well.

7 I would caution against the
8 characterizations that we used to operate on
9 216 and now we have a million dollars. We
10 never operated on 216. We just had a budget
11 process that didn't reflect that. In this
12 transition budget we will. What we did here,
13 in part in response to the conversation at the
14 last meeting, was to bring up into here the
15 real numbers, that which we were still
16 expecting but wanted to reflect in our bottom
17 line. The question would ultimately be up to
18 both counties as to their processes concerning
19 how they treat the actual placement of those
20 numbers. They are not going to show that this
21 cartographer was here 24 hours a week and there
22 24 hours a week. That is a decision as to
23 division. We are just actually reflecting
24 these are the services, the value of which we
25 are getting in this budget.

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2 MS. E. GROSS: I think we are in full
3 agreement on that. I think we are only saying
4 that in order to be clear we should identify
5 those items that we expect to be in-kind by
6 just saying "in-kind" on there.

7 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: So I will change
8 the terminology back to "in-kind."

9 MR. TONNA: I don't care about the
10 terminology. Maybe you can just break it out
11 as: Here are the items that the budget amount
12 of the direct subsidy, or whatever we call it
13 from each county, is going to go to, and here
14 is the portion of the budget that is defined,
15 space, fees, positions, whatever else, that is
16 going to be paid for or in-kind out of their
17 own budget process.

18 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Can we take that
19 all along the line?

20 MS. E. GROSS: I would say you have
21 two columns.

22 MS. SANDERS: And then you have the
23 total. It is important, based on what Patti
24 said, if you are really going to look at
25 projecting budgets in the future, you have to

1 2007 Budget

2 for example, are listed under that column that
3 says Assigned Staffing. That is just the
4 benefits associated with those in-kind people;
5 is that right?

6 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: That is another
7 line. Look at the upper section, Employee
8 Benefits, actually.

9 MS. E. GROSS: I really would like
10 somebody to look into that benefit number,
11 because that percentage seems in the
12 stratosphere.

13 MR. FORMAN: Janet is actually
14 correct when she said that is the rate that the
15 Federal Government requires when you get the
16 grant. So we used that. But as Mr. Weitzman
17 has pointed out, it is only that high for
18 low-salaried employees. As you get higher on
19 the salary scale, the percentage is lower. So
20 you are not wrong. We should do better on
21 that.

22 MR. TONNA: And health.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I think we
24 all recognize our goal here is to find out what
25 is the out-of-pocket contribution of each

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2 MR. TONNA: -- Contracted Services to
3 about 200,000, then?

4 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: What I see
5 here is, we don't have the web site
6 maintenance, as Theresa mentioned; we don't
7 have stenographer costs. Those are the items
8 of contracted services.

9 MR. TONNA: Those are in-kind. This
10 is going to come from the counties.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Is the
12 stenographer a county employee? Web site
13 maintenance may also be Contracted Services.

14 MS. BOURNE: Whether it is in-kind or
15 the county is paying cash, it should be in
16 there.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I am just
18 trying to keep separate what is contracted for.
19 Right now, let me assume we are contracting for
20 web site creation and web site maintenance.
21 That is one item we have to pay for. But right
22 now I don't think we can assume that. And the
23 counsel is not outside counsel; it is in-kind.
24 Both County Attorneys have provided services,
25 so we should have a line item increase there.

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2 Right now, on these numbers under
3 in-kind services, which is under the category
4 of Assigned Staffing, it is about 136,000, it
5 is probably closer to 200,000, and then we have
6 to pick a number we are looking for, for
7 funding for both counties.

8 MS. GALLAGHER: Also, John, with
9 respect to the staffing, Executive Director
10 should actually be under Assigned Staffing,
11 because he is a Suffolk County employee.

12 MR. FORMAN: The Board would have to
13 decide.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Right. Right
15 now, we assume, on the direct staffing, that
16 these would all be Regional Planning Board
17 employees. We recognize also benefits. We
18 don't have our own benefits package. We have
19 to work with the county on that. But I think
20 what we have to do is come up with what is an
21 established budget item for both counties.

22 MS. BOURNE: One housekeeping issue.
23 When one turns the microphone on, the little
24 light goes on. If someone is speaking and
25 there are a lot of other buttons on other

1 2007 Budget

2 microphones that are on, it distorts the sound
3 and makes it harder for the people to hear, and
4 makes it harder for Bill to take it down. If
5 you are not speaking, keep your buttons off.
6 It is a peculiarity of the audio system.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Right now, we
8 have \$716,000. If we took 136 off that, we are
9 getting down to, I guess it is, 580, if I do my
10 math right. And we are increasing that, we are
11 going to have additional costs, etc. I think
12 we are looking at probably what would be
13 \$700,000 as a line-item budget utilized by both
14 counties. I would like to have other people
15 comment on that. It looks like 350,000 for
16 each county right now.

17 MR. FORMAN: I would like to
18 complicate this issue a little bit. It would
19 be crucial for the function of the Regional
20 Planning Board that this issue be settled. We
21 have Assigned Staffing. We have broken out
22 direct staffing. By the way, I am saying this
23 at a very high risk of alienating Patti and Tom
24 Isles in his absence, and Carrie, but I hope
25 that they will bear with me on this. I too

1 2007 Budget

2 would like to see a distinction made between
3 in-kind and direct staffing, but a little bit
4 more specific than we have it right now. In
5 other words, I would like to be able to know,
6 as the Acting Executive Director, what staff
7 members I will be able to call on and who will
8 be responsive to requests for service and
9 information from me as I work on planned
10 studies. I would like to call direct and say,
11 I will need a spreadsheet by next week on the
12 number of people aged 60-75. Right now, I
13 don't have that. If the Regional Planning
14 Board is going to function independently to any
15 degree, it is going to have to have staff,
16 whether it is assigned or direct, that it has
17 some autonomy over, some supervisory ability
18 over.

19 I would like the County Planning
20 Department heads, and Kevin, or whoever else is
21 involved in these matters, to try to identify
22 the names of the people who I would be using as
23 we move forward up to the various areas that we
24 go into.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: My

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2 understanding is that those people are actually
3 going to vary, depending upon the issue. For
4 example, in Nassau County, if there is a
5 transportation issue, Patti will probably
6 assign Bob Brickman. If there is a housing
7 issue or environmental issue, maybe it is Dan
8 Gulizio. So our understanding was, we are not
9 identifying names because that is going to be
10 up to the Executive Directors of each
11 respective County Planning Department. They
12 will assign those people. I think if we are
13 not getting the support and cooperation of
14 those planning people, that is another issue,
15 but my understanding is that we are all going
16 into this with good intentions, and both Tom
17 and Patti are committed to that. These people
18 are, again, placeholders for positions but the
19 names themselves may change.

20 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: I have been
21 charged to exercise a little discretion here.
22 We are getting a little bit too far afield, if
23 I may, in the sense that these are all good and
24 valid matters, not all of which we can resolve
25 right now, in part because we are still

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2 evolving the Work Plan, in part because we are
3 still defining how the interim Executive
4 Director will operate, in part because we have
5 had this history of lack of clarity about how
6 we actually account for the services that
7 people receive, and the lack of, finally, not
8 being able to read the future as well as we
9 would like if we have all of these things in
10 place.

11 What I think I am hearing from all of
12 this discussion is that it takes us back a
13 little bit maybe to where we were in the
14 beginning a month ago, but I think what
15 everybody wants to see is sort of an all-in
16 expression of what it costs to operate this
17 business we are in and then a more specific
18 description of what kind of appropriations are
19 being sought from each county in terms of new
20 money.

21 If that is the case, what I would
22 like to do is work with Seth on re-forming what
23 we have here into a format that reflects all of
24 that, leaving open so many of these problems
25 that have surfaced here today, but agreeing to

1 2007 Budget

2 at least a whole number that gets us into the
3 processes which Seth is coming out with today.
4 The next time we see all of that, it will be in
5 a much cleaner, divided format, if you will,
6 sort of the all-in and then the cash actual,
7 whatever the terms are of these things. I
8 think it will help clear how we go forward.

9 MS. SANDERS: Just one more thing on
10 the revenues. Are there any grants or any
11 additional revenue sources that can be possibly
12 projected? I know it is not listed under '06.
13 Any grant sources?

14 MR. FORMAN: We would like to make
15 that a priority. At this point we haven't.

16 MS. SANDERS: OK.

17 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Let's make it a
18 high priority of the CFO to see that it might
19 flow actually.

20 MR. TONNA: I think that is a good
21 summary.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Short of
23 that, we can't budget for it.

24 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: It is the
25 pie-in-the-sky column.

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2 Is there a motion on the floor?

3 MR. TONNA: I make a motion, based on
4 the gentleman's caveats, that we approve this
5 budget, although this is the most amorphous
6 budget I have ever moved to approve, but I
7 think we are moving in the right direction. If
8 this facilitates it and we need a motion, I
9 make the motion.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I believe we
11 need a number to make the motion on.

12 MR. TONNA: A number? Since I make
13 the motion, I make the motion based on John's
14 recommendation, and make it \$816,780.

15 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Understanding from
16 the assent of all of our voices that that is
17 not a cash number, it doesn't represent a
18 quantum leap in the work of this Board, but it
19 is an attempt to reconcile the actualities. As
20 we go forward, it will become clearer and
21 better.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Recognizing
23 that, Jim, I would recommend that we don't try
24 to make it such a defined number, \$780,000,
25 because that is too defined. I think we should

1 2007 Budget

2 pick a number, \$820,000, or whatever it is.

3 MR. TONNA: \$820,000. Sold.

4 MR. LARGE: Discussion?

5 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Yes.

6 MR. LARGE: I don't know whether it
7 has to be in the motion or whether it just has
8 to be in the understanding, but this is not a
9 final budget, there are a lot of loose ends,
10 and if it implies to the counties, at least
11 those persons that aren't here, that this is
12 our solid understanding of what we are
13 ultimately going to propose, I think it would
14 be inaccurate. It strikes me that what this is
15 is a very useful placekeeper. I would suspect
16 it is the right order of magnitude before any
17 attempt to access additional third-party funds.
18 But I would be very hesitant to approve it and
19 recommend it to the counties as an approved
20 budget.

21 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: It is exactly
22 that. What the counties will do, as Kevin
23 described, will now render from this what the
24 actual cash number is that they would seek for
25 an appropriation.

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2 MR. LARGE: But I would ask of Kevin
3 or somebody, can we, as we continue to refine
4 this, come back and adjust either up or down
5 for your consideration?

6 MR. LAW: Sure. By September 10 we
7 will have this out. We have some time.

8 MR. LARGE: And even thereafter as a
9 special appropriation.

10 MR. TONNA: Actually, what we can do
11 is, if there is a change, if the County
12 Executives submit their budgets, you don't have
13 a chance to revise their budget once it is
14 submitted, but you can always go to the
15 legislature and make an argument, and then the
16 legislature can change that budget, take
17 another bite out of the apple, the legislature
18 can change that budget, whether they like it or
19 not. But we will have another opportunity and
20 we will have better numbers by then if there is
21 any egregious issue or something that we
22 miscalculated or didn't anticipate. So you
23 really have through October.

24 MS. BOURNE: We have a similar
25 process. We have time.

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2 we reopen?

3 MS. BOURNE: Yes.

4 MR. WEITZMAN: Our legislature has
5 the ability to modify anything, and has
6 exercised that.

7 MR. TONNA: At any time.

8 MR. WEITZMAN: At any time before or
9 after the fact.

10 MR. LARGE: I just will repeat, as
11 everybody else has said, it is a very good
12 start, but I will add, as others have as well,
13 there is a lot of work between this and what I
14 would consider a budget that could be voted on
15 in any final sense. But I do think the order
16 of magnitude, barring third-party funds, is
17 about right.

18 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: It is very much a
19 work in process.

20 Any other comments?

21 All those in favor indicate by saying
22 aye.

23 (There was a chorus of ayes.)

24 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: The '07 budget
25 request, such as it is, is agreed to, and we

1 Position of Executive Director

2 move on.

3 The next item up is the draft of
4 notice for the position of Executive Director.

5 This, I apologize, was distributed to
6 you only this morning. I have had some
7 assistance from the Suffolk County Personnel
8 Director in shrinking the size of the type, and
9 he has given us some insight into where and
10 what we might place in these announcements. It
11 seems there is a terrific process on line in
12 the world of the American Planning Association
13 for a very modest cost of a couple of hundred
14 bucks. The business of going to make an ad in
15 The New York Times is the most expensive thing,
16 but it is my sense that in a national search,
17 with the quality that we want to solicit, we
18 should be in The New York Times. We don't have
19 to be there for a month, but we should be there
20 in the appropriate section once or twice.
21 There will be some other formats.

22 So what I would like to do is to have
23 you agree to this posting, that we authorize
24 that it go out, and we put it into these
25 various advertising formats, and we begin the

1 Position of Executive Director

2 search.

3 The current Director has agreed to be
4 the recipient of all incoming responses. If
5 this works appropriately, we will hear directly
6 as well as from people who might suggest to us.
7 This will not be exclusive. We will also deal
8 with any names and other proposals that come to
9 us from anywhere in the universe.

10 So I would ask your response as to
11 the motion authorizing the advertising for the
12 position of Executive Director.

13 MR. TONNA: Jim, just two quick
14 questions. The first is -- and it is a
15 question that was raised: Technically, is the
16 County Executive employing them, is the County
17 of Nassau employing them? If I were applying
18 for a job, I would want to know my employing
19 agency. And I think that at the bottom of this
20 it says Suffolk County is an equal opportunity
21 employer. I think it should say Nassau also.

22 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Very good.

23 MR. TONNA: And I think it should
24 state that we are a nationally recognized
25 regional planning agency serving municipalities

1 Position of Executive Director

2 of Nassau and Suffolk counties or something

3 like that. In other words, I think that,

4 whoever these candidates are, they should

5 understand that it should be very clear from a

6 legal standpoint that there should be some type

7 of articulation of exactly who their employer

8 is. We know who they are reporting to, the

9 six-member Board and County Executives, County

10 Legislatures, but I just think that would be

11 helpful in the process.

12 My second issue with regard to this

13 is -- well, let's stop there. I will come back

14 to the next one in a little while.

15 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: What I am hearing

16 is, we will modify the bottom of the

17 announcement to indicate that Nassau and

18 Suffolk counties are equal opportunity,

19 affirmative action employers.

20 MR. TONNA: Right.

21 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Up at the top, the

22 Board is a nationally recognized Regional

23 Planning Agency serving -- I'm sorry, the

24 language?

25 MR. TONNA: The municipalities.

1 Position of Executive Director

2 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: -- the
3 municipalities.

4 MR. LAW: -- serving Nassau and
5 Suffolk counties and its municipalities.

6 MR. TONNA: Yes, that is fine.

7 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: That works a
8 little bit better. Counties and their
9 municipalities.

10 MS. E. GROSS: You consider it
11 "their" municipalities? I don't know if
12 "their" municipalities is appropriate.

13 MR. LAW: We are all creatures of the
14 state. So it is counties and municipalities.

15 MR. TONNA: Again, the only concern
16 that I have there is that the candidates know
17 exactly who they are working for.

18 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Let me come back
19 to that. I don't know that we need to express
20 it here, but it is one of the points, as we
21 perfect our own structure, whether the staff
22 ultimately becomes a creature directly of the
23 Board or not.

24 MR. LAW: Jim, some of the issues
25 have been discussed. The Regional Planning

1 Position of Executive Director

2 Board is not a legal entity, and so the
3 individual, unless we change things, will not
4 be an employee of the Regional Planning Board.
5 We will make the decision, Is this person going
6 to be under the budget line item of the County
7 of Nassau or the County of Suffolk, or some
8 day, as you guys continue to figure out how
9 this Board is going to operate going forward in
10 the future, maybe it will make sense to make
11 the Board some type of entity with its own
12 staff and then you have to worry about your own
13 benefits and 401(k)'s and all that. That is
14 jumping a little bit, but I think it is
15 definitely something that this Board should be
16 thinking about.

17 But, for now, we are going to have to
18 put this in funding position either in Nassau
19 or Suffolk County, and then if they were
20 employees subject to either county they would
21 be entitled to those benefits.

22 MR. LARGE: Jim, one of the things we
23 talked about at the last meeting was that the
24 Board was going to focus more in the future on
25 the support of planning by the other

1 Position of Executive Director

2 municipalities and the coordination of the
3 activity between the municipalities. It seems
4 to me this might be a good vehicle for
5 reaffirming that commitment that you made last
6 week. He doesn't mention that in here. By the
7 same token, it doesn't mention the need to
8 coordinate. You don't want to make this too
9 long, but that focus on listening and
10 coordinating is something that we haven't
11 stressed, and I don't see it in here.

12 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: I do say there is
13 a lot that is not here.

14 MS. GALLAGHER: Let me say I actually
15 did take the time to prepare a more extended
16 version of this position description. It is
17 two pages but it lists much more in detail the
18 qualifications and also responsibilities. I
19 looked at the best practices around the country
20 that have this position.

21 MR. LARGE: I think it is fine for
22 that purpose. My observation had to do with
23 whether or not this is the way of communicating
24 to the planning entities around the Island that
25 we were serious about our commitment to them.

1 Position of Executive Director

2 There are many other ways to do it. I think it
3 is fine the way it is, but I do think we have
4 to continue that message that we think of
5 ourselves as being a support and a coordinator
6 in a broader sense.

7 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: We will as a Board
8 very carefully review the full job description
9 that we will use in making the selection.

10 MR. LARGE: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Any other comment?

12 MS. BOURNE: In terms of the
13 qualifications, it indicates that a Ph.D. is
14 preferred, a Master's is required. My feeling,
15 through my experience, is that if this were a
16 job involving teaching in connection with a
17 university a Ph.D. would be very helpful. But
18 in terms of a dynamic person who can work with
19 the multiplicity of municipalities and issues
20 and opinions and getting everyone to the table
21 and working together, the idea of bringing up
22 the Ph.D. is an asset, but by putting it first
23 as preferred it focuses some people to apply
24 because they think it is one thing and others
25 may say that is not what I have in the

1 Position of Executive Director

2 background and that is not what I want to do.

3 I know some of the discussions in the
4 past have been about whether people with
5 degrees be candidates and whether you prefer
6 candidates with degrees with a specific
7 planning background, the planning degree, and I
8 think the discussion was that it was not
9 necessary, though they have a need to
10 understand planning and to have worked in it.

11 I think the dynamic of the experience
12 and track record and where they worked before
13 is more important than the degree. You might
14 just soften that reference to Ph.D.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I agree. I
16 don't see the need of a Ph.D. I think it is a
17 positive, but I think it is going to limit the
18 search, and I think we ought to eliminate it.

19 MR. LARGE: We are going to hear
20 Mr. Henton in a minute, who has experience in
21 this area. Subject to any comments that he may
22 make, I think this makes sense.

23 Carrie, I did have one question.
24 What about fund-raising? Is that part of the
25 description?

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2 MS. GALLAGHER: The piece that I did
3 does include that, as being able to raise and
4 implement funding strategy.

5 MR. LARGE: It strikes me that is
6 fairly important. Thank you.

7 MS. GALLAGHER: I was looking at it
8 in the perspective of being an applicant for
9 the position. Looking at this does not give me
10 per se a lot of details. I would make a phone
11 call to find out some more information. But I
12 would like to know, what am I really going to
13 be doing? I am happy to share that with Jim.

14 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: We are not able to
15 run a two-page ad. What you produced there
16 will require that. You say that this is not
17 enough to induce an applicant to apply.
18 Compared to the listings in the American
19 Planning Association, The New York Times
20 Education Section on Sunday, this is very
21 consistent with the level of information.

22 As to the kind of candidates we will
23 hopefully get, they will be people who are
24 involved enough with this universe to know this
25 area potentially, what this government is and

1 Position of Executive Director

2 what this function is. I am happy to expand it
3 further or not, but I think we have enough
4 information to attract eligible candidates.

5 MR. TONNA: I don't think we should
6 expand it.

7 MS. GALLAGHER: Let me clarify. I
8 was putting something up for internal purposes,
9 not that it would be the ad, but it would be
10 when you screen the candidates and you bring in
11 to us or select four or five candidates, you
12 would be able to give them more information,
13 and you would be able to answer questions based
14 on that. That is all I meant.

15 MR. LARGE: Carrie is making the
16 important point that I would further suggest
17 that the Board really ought to be approaching
18 the initial description with more intensity
19 than, say, the details of the ad. That broader
20 description of what we are looking for is also
21 very important.

22 MR. TONNA: Yes.

23 MS. BOURNE: I want to suggest that,
24 if you want the expanded description or other
25 information, it can go on both county web sites

1 Position of Executive Director

2 in your ad location on the web site for more
3 information or update, if you want to do it
4 that way. We do that very often.

5 The other thing I would ask, and I
6 don't have the answer now, is whether there is
7 a possibility that in the event the eventual
8 Executive Director be hired by Nassau County,
9 that this should really be reviewed by our
10 Civil Service Commission or Personnel Office as
11 well as Suffolk's, unless you decided that the
12 person might be hired by Suffolk.

13 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: We have to have a
14 point of submission. This Personnel Director
15 will receive the original responses. All of
16 the responses will be shared equally with every
17 member of this Board in both counties, with
18 both County Planning partners. I am not asking
19 the Suffolk Personnel Director to do anything
20 but be the recipient. I am not asking him to
21 make judgments about respondents. That is
22 something we want to do ourselves.

23 MS. BOURNE: I probably didn't
24 explain myself, I'm sorry. My point was that
25 if there is a possibility that the person will

1 Position of Executive Director

2 be hired by Nassau County, I would like the
3 chance to show it to our H.R. Department before
4 you run it to make sure it meets our needs.

5 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Have you shown it
6 to that department since the last meeting?

7 MS. BOURNE: No, I haven't.

8 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: We are trying to
9 get this process going. You are asking that
10 the process begin today. In light of what you
11 are asking, we can't go forward with it today.

12 MS. BOURNE: I can have her look at
13 it in a day or two to see if we have any
14 objections.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: To me, this
16 notice is solicitation for expressions of
17 interest. We are not committing to any
18 individual, any job description, etc. That is
19 all going to follow. We need to get the ad
20 going. We need to get an Executive Director.

21 I make a motion we move forward with
22 the ad as modified, as discussed.

23 MS. SANDERS: Second.

24 MS. E. GROSS: Does that include
25 removing the face sheet?

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2 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Yes.

3 MS. SANDERS: I will second that.

4 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Let's discuss for
5 a moment the Ph.D. requirement.

6 MR. FORMAN: If I can make a comment.
7 The Ph.D. requirement indicates that the
8 Regional Planning Board is somewhat different
9 from local planning commissions and from the
10 County Planning Commissions, in the sense that
11 some of the activities that they are involved
12 in require knowledge of advanced social science
13 researching. We did that in relation to the
14 program that required a large-scale survey of
15 high school students on drug use, it entailed
16 advanced statistical methods.

17 We are a data center for the U.S.
18 Census Bureau, as is well known, so that also
19 requires a sophisticated understanding of
20 research, citation, and other kinds of accepted
21 standard measures. That is why that is in
22 there. Nevertheless, I would say that you
23 could say something on the order of Ph.D. or
24 its equivalent in practice or employment.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I just don't

1 Position of Executive Director

2 see that. I think we are limiting our field of
3 respective candidates. It is something we can
4 consider when we consider respondents. Right
5 now, I don't think it is necessary.

6 MR. TONNA: I agree with John. The
7 concern that I have too, and I mentioned at the
8 last meeting, and Seth's comments jogged my
9 memory, that we are putting out an ad, I think
10 the ad is fine. I am not so sure I want a
11 technician. I have said this before. First of
12 all, if we wanted somebody to teach, we should
13 relate it to Ph.D.'s. I have a Master's in
14 theology, you know.

15 MR. WEITZMAN: That explains it all.

16 (Laughter)

17 MR. TONNA: Exactly. So how does a
18 Master's in theology help in the planning
19 department?

20 I envision the Executive Director as
21 a person on the Long Island Regional Planning
22 Board who is able to get out there and
23 coordinate whatever has to be done -- if we
24 need a technical expert in planning, whatever
25 else, we have those people -- and then sell the

1 Position of Executive Director

2 plan. He will be the spokesperson for Long
3 Island Regional Planning, with more of the
4 vision of the big picture, CEO, you know. That
5 is why I think the Ph.D. is not essential.

6 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Let me suggest,
7 then, that we simply be silent on the question
8 of what the educational requirements are.

9 MR. TONNA: OK.

10 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: So that I would
11 remove this line entirely.

12 MR. TONNA: You are going to get a
13 few more resumes but that's OK.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: It might be
15 something like appropriate educational
16 experience required.

17 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Well, that is
18 meaningless. At this point, to be specific, we
19 will just leave that reference out entirely.

20 MS. E. GROSS: There is something
21 wrong with this thing that a Master's degree is
22 required. I don't think people need that.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I think that
24 is fine.

25 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Then we are back

1 Position of Executive Director

2 in the same discussion with the Master's.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Make sure we
4 get people with college educations, at least.

5 MS. SANDERS: Can I make a
6 recommendation? I think we are either going to
7 throw this thing open and receive too many
8 resumes, or we are going to narrow it down and
9 not receive enough. So I think that there was
10 a recommendation that we just switch the
11 emphasis in the line, which is Master's degree
12 required, Ph.D. preferred. I have to agree
13 with staff that I really believe that we are
14 going to need a person who is able to
15 articulate data, we are going to need a
16 multitasking person, not just sell it, but to
17 then transcribe that information. It is going
18 to take somebody who really understands what
19 they are talking about.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I have to
21 disagree. I agree more with what Paul is
22 saying. We discussed this at the last meeting
23 in executive session, that we may need more of
24 a rainmaker here, somebody who is going to go
25 out and advance public planning, regional

1 Position of Executive Director

2 planning, on Long Island, and not necessarily a
3 technical person. So I am not sure. I don't
4 really want the reference to the Ph.D.

5 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: We have to get
6 through today's agenda. By leaving the
7 language, we leave open all possibilities. So,
8 rather than preferred, desired, why don't we
9 just leave it open and see what we get?

10 MR. LAW: The alternative could be
11 that a graduate degree is required.

12 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: That is fine with
13 me.

14 Any other comments or suggestions to
15 the announcement?

16 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I make the
17 motion.

18 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: The motion has
19 been made by John Cameron. Is there a second?

20 MR. TONNA: I will make the second,
21 as long as we add the language of Nassau
22 County.

23 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: That will be
24 added, and we will say graduate degrees.

25 All those in favor indicate by saying

1 Position of Executive Director

2 aye.

3 (There was a chorus of ayes.)

4 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Opposed?

5 Agreed.

6 Related to that, we have taken to
7 ourselves to approve expenditures, it says, of
8 \$1,000 to run this ad nationally in The New
9 York Times on the jobs line and perhaps two
10 other publications, which comes to something in
11 the neighborhood of \$8,400. So I would ask for
12 that.

13 MR. TONNA: I make a motion to
14 approve.

15 MR. LARGE: Second.

16 MR. WEITZMAN: One question, Jim.
17 Whose procurement rules do we follow here?

18 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Whose procurement
19 rules?

20 MR. FORMAN: Suffolk.

21 MR. WEITZMAN: That is policy?

22 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: The question has
23 not been asked directly.

24 MR. WEITZMAN: That is fine. In
25 other words, somewhere in the rules of the

1 Position of Executive Director

2 Planning Commission is that they will follow
3 Suffolk's procurement rules, so if somebody
4 looks back as to how something was procured and
5 they are looking for a base rule as to how it
6 was procured, that is in Suffolk's rules.

7 MR. FORMAN: That is not in any of
8 the rules or laws. It has been practice.

9 MR. WEITZMAN: At some point -- it
10 doesn't have to be now -- I think you should
11 formalize it. It doesn't have to be Suffolk's,
12 it could be Nassau's or New York State's, but
13 there should be a reference point for the
14 Planning Board as to whose procurement rules
15 they follow.

16 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Thank you for
17 that, Howard.

18 There is a motion, then, for the
19 expenditure of advertising. Motion made and
20 seconded.

21 All those in favor indicate by saying
22 aye.

23 (There was a chorus of ayes.)

24 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Disapproved?

25 Agreed. Thank you very much.

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2 MR. TONNA: One last, and it is going
3 to be short. It is something we need to think
4 about. I would be very interested to assemble,
5 to articulate, how this Regional Planning Board
6 is going to process these applications.
7 Usually on a board there is a committee that is
8 set up to do some of the legwork, and they
9 report back to the Board. But I would be very
10 interested in finding out how we are going to
11 get to the point where we narrow down the
12 number of candidates for the interview process
13 and everything else.

14 I don't think we have to determine it
15 today. I am open to the Chairman determining
16 it. And if there is a committee set up, I
17 would volunteer and I would want to be on that
18 committee. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: We did have a very
20 brief discussion back a ways where I think the
21 sentiment was that we are a small-enough Board
22 not to form our own search committee.

23 MR. TONNA: There is a problem with
24 that. The problem is that then it is open to
25 all. I mean, a committee on hiring is able to

1 Position of Executive Director

2 cull through a lot of stuff without a large
3 public viewing. They are able to look at
4 things and do a lot of the legwork in being
5 able to narrow down the ten or fifteen
6 candidates or whatever else we want to do in
7 the interview process when we meet as a Board.

8 I will ask the legal counsel: We
9 meet in open session; right?

10 MS. J. GROSS: You are raising a very
11 good point about privacy issues also. This is
12 something we need to figure out, but certainly,
13 at a minimum, if you are going to review these
14 at an open meeting, I would suggest you, for
15 example, redact home addresses, things like
16 that.

17 MR. TONNA: I think we need to think
18 about that.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I should
20 think we could have an ad hoc committee of the
21 Chairman and two other members, Paul being one
22 of them.

23 MR. LAW: Couldn't the Board in
24 executive session do it themselves?

25 MS. J. GROSS: They have to separate

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2 out, though, what is in executive session and
3 what should be in public.

4 MR. LAW: Right. If I could just say
5 something I said before. The Board does have
6 the power to hire employees. The issue is as
7 to Suffolk County employees or Nassau County
8 employees.

9 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: If we are able as
10 a Board to receive and review the applications
11 in executive session, these are employment
12 applications, which I think will allow us to do
13 it in executive session. I would prefer to do
14 that and involve the Board.

15 MR. TONNA: Then we just have to
16 create a couple of meetings, because it is
17 going to take some time.

18 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Next up, I just
19 want you all to take a minute to talk about the
20 calendar for this Board. We are scheduled to
21 next meet on September 12 in Hauppauge.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Jim, as
23 discussed with Board members, I don't know why
24 we are bypassing the month of August. I know
25 it is summer, but we planned to meet monthly.

1 2006 Calendar

2 I recommend we still try to meet in August.

3 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: I think what will
4 work for us is to pick a regular day a month, a
5 meeting that works for us on a continuing
6 basis. Do you want to set a date for August?

7 MR. TONNA: August 15.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: No religious
9 overtones there. Assumption? The Day of
10 Assumption.

11 MR. WEITZMAN: That is not marked on
12 my calendar.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I didn't
14 realize that.

15 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: All members
16 available on August 15? OK. And that would be
17 in Suffolk at 9 a.m. on the 15th. We earlier
18 set aside September 12. That date is still
19 good to be held back here in Nassau.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Is that 9
21 a.m.?

22 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: 9 again. I want
23 you to know that your Chairman traveled 84.3
24 miles to get here. 9 o'clock requires a very
25 early start. For those who observed, I was the

1 2006 Calendar

2 first one here today.

3 MR. TONNA: I was in the Police
4 Precinct. I went to the wrong place.

5 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: How does that
6 second Tuesday work on a continuing basis?

7 MR. TONNA: Pretty good

8 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: That would be
9 October 10.

10 MR. LAW: Jim, do you want to make
11 it Tuesdays in Suffolk County? Tuesday is
12 typically a legislative day in Suffolk.

13 MR. TONNA: That is a great time to
14 do it, then.

15 MR. LAW: You won't be getting the
16 chamber if that is what you prefer in Suffolk.

17 MR. TONNA: I think the Media Room
18 is a better place in which to meet. It is a
19 little smaller and a little less formal. I
20 think it is a good place.

21 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: October 10, then,
22 also 9 o'clock.

23 MR. TONNA: It also gives us an
24 opportunity, Tuesday being the legislative
25 meeting, we already have the day set aside if

1 2006 Calendar

2 we have something in front of the legislature.

3 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: November 14. And
4 December 12.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: December 12
6 does not work for me. We can do it later that
7 week, the 14th.

8 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: December 14.

9 MS. SANDERS: I can't do it the 14th.

10 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: The 14th does not
11 work.

12 MR. TONNA: How about the next
13 Tuesday, then?

14 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Tuesday, the 19th.

15 MR. LARGE: What date is that?

16 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: We are back
17 in Suffolk County, December 19.

18 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: And if you have
19 January, let's just look at January.

20 Having said that, I am not ready to
21 talk about January, because I will be away.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I would
23 rather wait for January if we can.

24 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Those are the
25 dates that will show up in the next

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2 announcement, and the locations as we noted
3 them. Thank you.

4 Now for the Executive Director's
5 Report. I just remind everybody that we are
6 now at 10:40, so let us try to go forward
7 expeditiously.

8 MR. FORMAN: I will try to be fast
9 about this. The expenditure report for the
10 month of June is behind tab 3. There are only
11 two expenditures. One total is \$184.12.

12 The other thing is to please make
13 sure to leave your binders with me. I have
14 provided a large, maroon-colored binder, as
15 Paul had requested, so you could take materials
16 home with you, but please leave me the tabs and
17 the binders that you find before you. That
18 makes life a lot easier and a lot more
19 inexpensive. Because the clerk at Staples is
20 getting a little bit annoyed at me. That's a
21 joke -- which didn't get a lot of response.

22 I just wanted to also take a minute
23 to engage the Board in some of the kinds of
24 things that the Regional Planning Board is
25 involved in with regard to its responsibilities

1 Report of Executive Director

2 as data center and a disseminator of U.S.
3 Census information.

4 This summer, the U.S. Census produces
5 an update or an annual release of several
6 different surveys that it does on population
7 and graphics. One of them is the American
8 Community Survey, which is a household survey,
9 which has a significant number of problems
10 because it has a very low sample and a very
11 high margin of error. So they are going to
12 release it in weeks.

13 They are going to release another
14 survey that we did that we call a Population
15 Estimates Program. That has become very
16 important in recent years, because demographics
17 and demographic groupings have become a very
18 big issue, especially with regard to workforce
19 issues and economic development and the high
20 cost of housing. The Long Island Regional
21 Planning Board has always been concerned with
22 affordable housing. The new members have made
23 it also a priority as an issue. So I want you
24 to understand that in a couple of weeks the
25 Population Estimates Program is going to come

1 Report of Executive Director

2 out.

3 What we have been noticing in the
4 last couple of years is that some of the
5 standard modules or the standard beliefs about
6 age group population growth in parts of Long
7 Island have been, to some degree, refuted. We
8 have seen, for example, a small but steady
9 growth in the number of people or residents age
10 20-29 on Long Island. Very often we hear about
11 the loss of young people and young workers on
12 Long Island. That is a big concern because of
13 the high housing costs.

14 What I am trying to point out to you
15 is that the Regional Planning Board has long
16 pointed out that demographic issues,
17 particularly birth rates and death rates, have
18 a great deal to do with how many people exist
19 in a certain population group. During the
20 1990s the number of an arbitrarily formed
21 category, 20-, 30-, 40-year-olds, had indeed
22 declined by roughly 120,000, 130,000 people.
23 The Regional Planning Board had always felt
24 that that was primarily a result of what we
25 call a "birth dearth" in the 1970s, where there

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2 were roughly 120,000 fewer children 0-9 born in
3 the 1970s. Those folks were in between the
4 ages of 20 and 29 in the 1990s. In fact, we
5 saw that "birth dearth" group population wend
6 its way through the life cycle when many Long
7 Island high schools had to consolidate certain
8 buildings. This group of kids was going to
9 high school at that time. Half Hollow Hills
10 East closed their high school, Commack South
11 closed their high school, Smithtown East closed
12 their high school. That pattern has continued.

13 What is happening now -- and I am
14 pointing this out to you because I don't want
15 you to be somewhat bamboozled or manipulated
16 into believing that the problem we face with
17 affordable housing is still not with us. I am
18 sure most of you are not easily disabused of
19 that. But some people may start to point to
20 these numbers and say, Well, we have increased
21 the numbers of 20-29 year-olds, so maybe
22 affordable housing and living costs aren't such
23 a big economic development. What I am trying
24 to point out to you is that the two may not
25 really be related to one another and you should

1 Report of Executive Director

2 be careful to understand the age and the
3 population birth rates that dictate the number
4 of people in those age groups.

5 I pointed out in this memo tonight,
6 providing a table that I hope you will look at,
7 that basically the people who were born in the
8 1970s became 30, the oldest people in that
9 group turned 30, in the year 2000. Now they
10 are 36. The group that is between 30 and 40
11 years of age has continued to decline from 2000
12 00 now. The 20-29 year-old population, which
13 was born after that birth dearth, in what we
14 call the mini-baby boom, has now started to
15 increase. So there has been a 25,000-person
16 increase of 0-9 year-olds between 2000 and
17 2004. When the numbers come out for 2005, no
18 one can know, but I suspect that it is going to
19 show another increase for that age group.

20 There may be people out there who are
21 going to try to attribute this to some kind of
22 an event that is taking place in the economy or
23 a lessening of housing costs or a cooling off
24 of the housing market. It really can't be
25 attributed to any of those things. It is

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2 really because the birth dearth population is
3 now 30 or older. In another 10 years we are
4 going to start to see the 40-49 year-old age
5 group decline as well. When that happens, you
6 shouldn't necessarily attribute it to external
7 factors, although they do play a role.

8 I would like to point out to you a
9 couple of things on the table I handed to you.
10 It is page 3 of the memo that I handed out. I
11 just wanted to illustrate to you that if you
12 look at the 0-9 year-old group as of 1970,
13 which is really a 1969 number, that group of
14 persons was 486,000. You could see that in the
15 top left-hand number. Then I bolded the 1980
16 number, because you see that the 0-9 year-olds
17 declined to 342. So from 486 to 342, that is
18 140,000 people. You can see that in the next
19 decade, 1990, the 10-19 year-olds are also
20 around that number, a decline from 1980 by
21 about 150,000. That remains consistent. I
22 think that that is an important number. 20-29
23 year-olds are illustrated in the graph below
24 that table, where you could see there was an
25 incredible drop from 1990 to 2000, and that is

1 Report of Executive Director

2 what has concerned everybody. But in the last
3 four years we have seen an uptick, and I expect
4 that that uptick will continue, although again
5 we do not know that. This is more art than
6 science. I wanted to point that out to you.

7 The tables that follow the memo that
8 I gave you are also kind of interesting. This
9 is a table prepared by the Census Bureau on
10 movers and nonmovers, migrants out and migrants
11 in, to Suffolk and Nassau counties. It shows
12 you that different population groups move at
13 various rates. This is from '95 to 2000. So
14 it was before the very high run-up in housing
15 costs that we have experienced in the last four
16 years or five, now six, years.

17 If you look at Suffolk County, which
18 is the first page, you will see that the number
19 of 15-19 year-olds underneath migration --
20 which means that is the number of in-migrants
21 minus the number of people moving out,
22 out-migrants, who are 15-19 -- was negative and
23 lost about 2000 in those five years. And then
24 the 20-24 year-olds also lost about 6«
25 thousand. That's a net migration loss.

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2 However, when you get to the 25-29
3 year-olds, you see that there was a slight
4 increase of about 2000, and then from 30 to 34
5 year-olds, they increase by about 6,652.

6 This is a pattern that is not
7 unintelligible for Nassau and Suffolk counties,
8 because we know that we sent a lot of young
9 people to college. Our college going rate grew
10 from 1990 when it was 80 percent to, in 2004,
11 90 percent. So we are sending even more kids
12 to college than we were in the past.

13 At any rate, we see that that
14 population that goes to college seems to be
15 moving in, and then seems to be moving out,
16 possibly relating to college, and then when
17 they move in or move back, possibly those
18 numbers are reflected there. But it could be
19 any number of things.

20 At any rate, the group of 19 or 20 to
21 34 year-olds contain a lot of different
22 patterns, and different people at different
23 times in their lives.

24 I wanted to point out to you the
25 numbers should be out in a week or two, and we

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2 can discuss what the 2005 numbers mean at that
3 point.

4 That is my report, and I thank you
5 for having a look.

6 MR. WEITZMAN: Jim, can I just make a
7 comment on that for a moment. Unfortunately, I
8 am not going to be able to stay much longer,
9 but I wanted to talk about what Seth just
10 discussed in conjunction with what is going to
11 be heard later, the report on Planning Board,
12 and specifically strategic planning. This has
13 really been a major pet peeve for me.

14 I believe very strongly in strategic
15 planning, and I am glad to see we are going in
16 that direction, although I am not clear how we
17 are going to differentiate between Nassau and
18 Suffolk. There is clearly a major difference
19 between the two counties. One is built out,
20 one has room to build. One is close to 12
21 miles from Manhattan, one is over a hundred
22 miles from Manhattan, or wherever Jim happens
23 to live these days. But there clearly is a
24 major difference, and that needs to be taken
25 into account, because although we are a region,

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2 we are a region with tremendous disparities in
3 terms of development potential.

4 But the issue I want to talk about is
5 the demographic data and the way it has been
6 manipulated in the press and the way it is
7 being manipulated by associations.

8 We never see positives come out of
9 these demographics; we only see negatives come
10 out of these demographics. The newspapers are
11 very quick to point out the outward migration
12 from Long Island. And I am going to talk to
13 that for a second. But they never point out
14 that there are no empty houses on Long Island,
15 and therefore for every outward migration there
16 is someone coming in. They never interview
17 those people and say, Why did you come to Long
18 Island? What are the characteristics of the
19 people coming to Long Island? They only talk
20 about the people who are moving off of Long
21 Island.

22 You look at these numbers and you see
23 that the net migration numbers form a very
24 predictable pattern. Here, from what I have
25 seen, it is income-related. The inward

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2 migration is the family groupings, from 30 to
3 49, people who are building families, looking
4 to come to the suburbs with higher income. The
5 outward migration is, as Seth pointed out, the
6 college-age group, maybe right after college.
7 Quite frankly, if I were graduating from
8 college, I wouldn't want to live on Long Island
9 either. But it is where you build your family.
10 The inward migration, though, is higher income
11 in the income level here. We never see that
12 written about any place. We never see anybody
13 coming out and saying what the rents are in our
14 region because these are the people that we
15 need to attract.

16 I was at a Newsday meeting the other
17 day and they talked about this issue. One of
18 the big retailers on Long Island got up and
19 said that his whole staff is leaving and they
20 are all moving to South Carolina and they are
21 moving to Georgia and they are moving to
22 Tennessee because the cost of living is lower
23 and they can't afford to live on Long Island.

24 The fact of the matter is, we don't
25 compete with those areas. The people who want

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2 to live in North Carolina or Tennessee don't
3 want to live near a big metropolitan area,
4 don't want to live near New York City, and
5 therefore they are making another choice.

6 I believe, in terms of our strategic
7 plan, we have to compete with those areas that
8 are competing for the same kinds of people that
9 we want to attract. As to those people who
10 want to live near a metropolitan area, who want
11 to have a higher level of education, we are
12 competing with Westchester; we are competing --
13 well, Nassau and Suffolk are obviously
14 competing with each other; we are competing
15 with Bergen County, we are competing with
16 Fairfield County; and, outside of this area, we
17 are competing with the suburbs around Boston,
18 the suburbs around Philadelphia, the suburbs
19 around major cities. That is where our focus
20 should be.

21 What are our strengths and weaknesses
22 in competing in those areas? I think, if you
23 look at that, number one, you will come up with
24 a real plan that is meaningful for this area,
25 number two, you will find out we have a lot

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2 more strengths than people give us credit for.
3 Once again, I would point out that for every
4 person who out-migrates from this area.
5 Somebody in-migrates to this area. And there
6 is a reason. We are never going to be able
7 compete with the rural areas of the South. It
8 is just never going to happen. But, on the
9 other hand, there are a lot of people who are
10 attracted to regions like this, and those are
11 the people we should be focusing on.

12 Having said that, we still have the
13 problem of affordable housing. That is clearly
14 a problem. I think it is more solvable in
15 Suffolk than it is in Nassau, only because of
16 the availability of land. But the fact of the
17 matter is, we can't have a homogeneous society
18 that is all at high-income level because that
19 is not going to work. It is not in the best
20 interests of the community. I am an accountant
21 by training. Accountants also know that the
22 real strengths in accounting are coming to the
23 conclusion you want, getting the numbers that
24 will get you there. The fact of the matter is
25 that there is a prejudice out here on Long

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2 Island about the high cost of living, and
3 numbers and conclusions are being manipulated
4 to achieve that. We really have to work hard
5 to overcome that.

6 You look at these numbers. These are
7 not negatives. We are getting educated people
8 coming out here who are probably entrepreneurs,
9 who are probably bringing their businesses out
10 here, and the reasons they are coming out
11 nobody is talking to. They are only talking to
12 the other group that is moving out. We can
13 learn a lot more from who comes here than who
14 leaves here.

15 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Thank you very
16 much, Howard.

17 In talking to Seth about putting this
18 paper together, I think it is a good indication
19 of where this Board can really play an
20 important role. In this debate there is a lot
21 of information, misinformation, and
22 misapplication or interpretation of information
23 that is out there. It has become a cliché that
24 we are losing all our young people. But it has
25 been a while since somebody has broken it out

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2 to figure out which young people, how do you
3 define these categories, and so forth.

4 MR. WEITZMAN: It is clear to those
5 of us who have a little more gray hair that
6 have young people in the 20-35 year-old group,
7 we send them off to college -- those who want
8 to stay in the metropolitan area I am talking
9 about -- and they come back from college and
10 chances are they are looking to Manhattan for a
11 job or the city for a job. The question is,
12 then, how do we get them to come out here when
13 they want to complete the family group? We are
14 not competing with South Carolina, we are
15 competing with the metropolitan region, which
16 is why, just as an example, East Side railroad
17 access is so important. Because those family
18 groups, those individuals who end up being
19 employed on the East Side, living in Manhattan,
20 when they look to move out, today they go to
21 Westchester because you can't commute there
22 from Long Island. Those things start to fall
23 into place about regional projects.

24 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: I think where the
25 Board and staff can be so helpful and play a

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2 role in the region is that we are a source of
3 credible, objective information that can be
4 served up without an agenda, so that everybody
5 understands what is actually happening, and
6 then, from there, can reach the policy
7 questions and decisions that you describe.
8 Theresa?

9 MS. SANDERS: No. I just agree with
10 it.

11 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: The other thing I
12 say to you, again as we try to get to the
13 substance of what we do here, is in the
14 discussion about affordable housing, to try to
15 quantify, to the extent it is quantifiable,
16 what we know about the presence of illegal
17 secondary or auxiliary apartments in the
18 region. There is the Newsday report, there is
19 a lot of anecdotal information. So my
20 instruction is attempting to compile some
21 housing data that has not yet been disseminated
22 through the region. You know, it is not just
23 the bike riders and all the rest; we try to get
24 our heads back on the substantive work of the
25 Board.

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2 MS. GALLAGHER: Can I add one thing
3 before we close that. Having worked on this,
4 it is very important that when you do put out
5 the information and you are going to take a
6 position based on it, to be very clear what the
7 caveats are, what data source you use, what
8 methodology you are using. One of the things
9 that would be in that is opinion polls to find
10 out, well, if this is happening, why, and who
11 is saying it. So we are able to cull out all
12 the college-educated population and age group
13 on Long Island who are thinking of leaving, how
14 they are thinking of leaving, why they are
15 thinking of leaving, and is it institutional
16 populations or not.

17 I just want to have that caveat out
18 there, to make sure that we are going to be
19 clear, so it doesn't become us versus the LIA
20 versus the Index versus whoever else. So it is
21 very clear up front what our sources are and
22 our methodology is.

23 MR. FORMAN: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Moving ahead, I am
25 going to reverse the order for one more item,

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2 and then turn it over to Doug and his very good
3 presentation. And that is to ask if there is
4 any other business before the Board before we
5 go to the presentation.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: Yes, Jim. As
7 I mentioned at the last meeting, I think it
8 might be worthwhile for our meetings to have a
9 theme for the meeting, and we discussed
10 possibly starting in the fall. I think, as we
11 discussed, there are a number of issues --
12 energy, environment, economic development,
13 social equity, etc. I think it would be
14 worthwhile, maybe at our next meeting, to
15 establish a theme for each of the meetings and
16 devote some attention to those specific topics,
17 get various stakeholders in to do
18 presentations, and let's have some healthy
19 dialogue.

20 Prior to that, there are a number of
21 issues which we know are out there in the
22 public debate right now, as we are discussing
23 today. I know there is a public hearing on
24 wind farms, Paul, by the FPL Project maybe
25 yesterday or today, and I think it might be

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2 worthwhile if Seth advised the Board maybe with
3 some form of fact sheet, if you will, on the
4 wind farm project as well as others. I know
5 that Suffolk County has taken a strong position
6 on it. But I still believe that the Regional
7 Planning Board should be advised of these
8 issues, receive a fax on them, let us come to
9 our own conclusions or at least be sufficiently
10 apprised of them. I am not saying we take a
11 position on these various issues, we may elect
12 not to, but I believe maybe Seth can give us,
13 if the Board is so inclined, a fact sheet or at
14 least some discussion on the FPL project, and
15 then, Paul, I would like to have LIPA, possibly
16 in conjunction with Keyspan, various
17 environmental groups, to present a master plan
18 on energy, it is a key issue, as well as other
19 issues. I would like to see some focus on
20 that.

21 MS. E. GROSS: And if I may mention
22 one other thing in a similar vein. I know that
23 our budget is tight, but if there are some
24 publications that would be good for Board
25 members to receive, whether it be a monthly

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2 journal or something of that nature, it would
3 be good to do a little survey of what are the
4 various publications that might be useful for
5 us to receive.

6 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Perhaps we can do
7 it in terms of the planning issues, ask that we
8 have the key publications, and then we can make
9 some choices.

10 With regard to John's suggestion, I
11 would describe what I think was said like an
12 options paper, to lay out the issues in these
13 two projects against the background that, as we
14 do get into the fall, we will begin to devote
15 meetings to broad issues. Energy issues might
16 be first, housing, transportation -- there is
17 no shortage of issues. So I think that is very
18 well taken. And, Seth, in connection with
19 those two projects, give us an orientation
20 paper, an options paper, on those two.

21 Is there any other new business to be
22 brought? OK, failing that --

23 VICE CHAIRMAN CAMERON: I'm sorry,
24 Jim, there is one. I read in The Times the
25 other day about completing the Master Plan, and

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2 I am just curious as to who is completing it
3 for us. I don't believe it is for us, but I
4 just, in reading the articles, have questions
5 about who is funding that and who is taking
6 ownership of that Master Plan. Because right
7 now I don't believe it is ours, but maybe the
8 Chair knows something about it.

9 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: I saw the article
10 as well. I read the resolution of October of
11 2005 as being the most recent directive to this
12 Board as to how it conducts its business, what
13 its work program is, and the completion of the
14 Master Plan is one of the directed items. So
15 that it is very much a function of this Board
16 to oversee it to its completion. Seeing that
17 article, I thought I might communicate to Dr.
18 Koppelman that that is our function; that
19 obviously as a citizen he is entitled to speak
20 publicly, but as to the work product of this
21 Board, the studies of this Board, the work
22 product of the staff, of the counties, of
23 various different entities, that is the
24 property of and is the subject matter of this
25 Board.

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2 think what is basically out there are three
3 basic questions. One is: Where are you now?
4 That is why I think the point that was made
5 earlier was made so well by Seth, that is, the
6 importance of having access to good data, good
7 information, where you are examining current
8 reality, both the external and internal forces
9 shaping that reality. One of the things a
10 board like this can do is put the good
11 information out in a technical way. The
12 discussion you just had about demographics is a
13 good example of that. What are the facts?

14 This Board has an opportunity with
15 this mandate to really ask the question: Where
16 do you want to be? Really start thinking about
17 the future, thinking about it not only in a
18 somewhat narrow way, but you have the
19 opportunity in a broader way to really ask the
20 questions about what is the vision, what are
21 the values that people in this region have?
22 What are the most critical issues that you
23 think are most important? And then, clear
24 goals in achieving those visions. I think that
25 is where you want to go with regional planning.

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2 Then there is the question of how you
3 you get there, and to articulate strategies for
4 achieving results. Looking at strengths and
5 weaknesses. I think the point was made earlier
6 that every region has strengths and weaknesses,
7 and not just focus on weaknesses. And then
8 looking at strategies. What are the strategies
9 that you can develop that allow you to get
10 there?

11 When I focus on goals, one of the
12 things I am going to show you in some of the
13 examples is that a lot of the groups that are
14 working out there really are focusing on goals
15 and measurements. How would you know when you
16 get there? And that is when indexes, the Long
17 Island Index and other indexes around the
18 region, I think, are very helpful to you.
19 Hopefully, you will be developing those things
20 as the Board goes forward. But looking at
21 goals, indicators, and eventually benchmarks.
22 What are the goals that you really set for
23 yourself? What are the important areas that
24 you really want to set for yourself in the
25 future in measurable terms? Those are the

1 Doug Henton

2 critical elements of regional planning that are
3 out there.

4 But I think there are some critical
5 process lessons as you start to get into this.
6 I think you really started to do this. The
7 most successful regional planning efforts
8 involve all the stakeholders and your getting
9 their support. You need to have that from the
10 standpoint of making sure people are involved
11 and bringing in the local municipalities, as
12 you have done, the counties and support groups,
13 and making sure they are involved, and also to
14 think about how to listen to what is out there
15 in terms of the community.

16 I think other things that regional
17 groups are doing is to make sure that things
18 are bottom up, not just top down. There are a
19 lot of different processes for doing that.

20 Then I think the other piece is
21 prioritization. I have looked at some of your
22 material, and I am trying to suggest maybe
23 steps that you might want to go through. One
24 of the things that you are telling with your
25 Work Plan, I think, as you look at the initial

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2 stages is the scope, the goals, and how do you
3 prioritize what is in the plan. One of the
4 things that I think you don't want to do, and
5 it is one of the challenges of the plan, is
6 that you don't want just a list of goals, what
7 some people might call a laundry list of goals.
8 I think what this Board might do as it moves
9 forward is to help to prioritize which are the
10 most important goals -- there are a few areas
11 you want to start with -- and how do you move
12 forward with those? Articulate a plan that is
13 succinct and is articulated in such a way that
14 the community could understand that.

15 I think many groups that have been at
16 this for a while really work on that. So that
17 you are not just talking in a language that
18 only planners understand, but you are talking
19 in a language that citizens can understand.

20 I can give you examples of that. I
21 was in Portland, Oregon, recently and they
22 spent a lot of time trying to work very hard to
23 articulate their goals and ways that are really
24 meaningful to citizens. I want to make that as
25 a critical point.

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2 want to briefly talk about something that I
3 think most of you are familiar with. Many of
4 these regional groups are also metropolitan
5 planning organizations designated by the state
6 government to be transportation planning
7 organizations for Federal funds. This can be a
8 very valuable activity, particularly as you
9 think about implementation. And then, finally,
10 the critical lessons for what you are doing
11 here.

12 So, again, the Alliance for Regional
13 Stewardship defines regional stewardship as
14 working together in new ways across boundaries.
15 I think you have a couple of opportunities.
16 Obviously, you have the two counties that are
17 working together regionally, but I think also
18 thinking about how you would involve other
19 actors in this region, again the
20 municipalities, the private sector, the civic
21 sector. That is what regional stewardship is
22 all about: It is about working across sector
23 boundaries.

24 Also, it is understanding that
25 regions are the unit where the action is taking

1 Doug Henton

2 this concept of regional stewardship.

3 I bring that up because I think you
4 have an opportunity here to think about a
5 Regional Planning Board a little bit broader
6 concept than maybe has obtained in the last 30
7 years.

8 In our survey -- we have a fuller
9 report which I can give to you -- I have
10 identified over 500 regional groups throughout
11 the coutry, regional councils, planning
12 councils, Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
13 These are public sector groups that are
14 established by state or local law. These
15 regional groups perform an array of functions,
16 which I will come to in a second.

17 But I also want to mention the MPOs,
18 which are the organizations that do the
19 transportation planning for regions around the
20 country.

21 The regional councils, the Regional
22 Planning Organizations, again like yourself,
23 are established by law at the local level.
24 They carry out functions for the federal
25 government and state government.

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2 What they really do, I think, and
3 what you are trying to do here, is to build
4 consensus around some critical issues, promote
5 partnerships maybe where they haven't existed
6 before, and solve problems in new ways.

7 Now some of the most effective
8 ones -- and I will give you three specific
9 models in a second, Boston, Kansas City and
10 another one -- really try to think hard. Some
11 of your Work Plan, I think, addresses how you
12 might reach out to other partners, and maybe
13 they might be grant-giving partners or they
14 would be groups like federal, state, or local
15 partners, or even philanthropic partners. We
16 see examples where regional groups have worked
17 with foundations. For instance, the Chicago
18 Metropolis 20/20 is a group that has both
19 private-sector groups on it, public sector, but
20 also works closely with the philanthropic
21 community. So you might think about how you
22 could reach out to other groups to be engaged
23 in those activities.

24 Now, as to regional groups, their
25 biggest responsibility in terms of developing a

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2 Work Plan: How do you find these pragmatic
3 solutions for problems that are going to work
4 on quality of life for your area? Again
5 focusing on priority setting, building these
6 partnerships, the notion of being a neutral
7 platform collaboration.

8 The one other thing I think you can
9 do -- and it is a good starting point, and
10 again I think it is something that is mentioned
11 in your Work Plan -- is to be a data source,
12 good information source, in terms of technical
13 assistance. A place that is a repository of
14 information is a great starting point, using it
15 to synthesize data, a place where people can
16 come; also, providing assistance to other
17 groups.

18 The other thing about Regional
19 Planning Boards is that, as they get started
20 and as they evolve, they tend to have a little
21 bit longer-term perspective, particularly in
22 areas like transportation planning, and
23 housing. You have to have a little bit
24 longer-term perspective, 30 years, sometimes
25 transportation up to 60 years. But I think it

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2 is also very, very important, and you will see
3 that those of us need to have the support of
4 the local communities to be effective.

5 The core principles of regional
6 groups are: to develop an agenda to regional
7 problems; to provide a neutral platform for
8 decision-making; to engage in partnerships; to
9 seek the buy-in of local groups; to try to be a
10 balancing force for the various entities in the
11 region.

12 One of the topics that came up in
13 your conversation -- and we have some
14 information on this, and if you want I can
15 provide some benchmarking on this -- is this
16 concept of staffing. One of the things about
17 Executive Directors in recent experience we
18 have seen is that there is a complete, tough
19 process you go through. I think the method you
20 are talking about is very important to have a
21 professional, somebody that is familiar with
22 groups, somebody that is familiar with public
23 administration, somebody that has the ability
24 to reach out to community and economic
25 planning, to be the kind of person who is a

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2 consensus builder, who can be the external
3 person who can work in the community and
4 communicate.

5 I do think, as you look across the
6 different regional groups, there is a variety
7 of staff functions, depending on how large the
8 organization is. Many of them have added the
9 technical people that are necessary to do the
10 type of planning functions, professionals, for
11 instance, in GIS planning, which is, I think,
12 very important in doing physical planning,
13 functional specialists who have expertise in a
14 particular area, who have been doing the type
15 of work in transportation. You will see people
16 with transportation background, economists,
17 looking at people that are trying to do
18 additional fund raising. You may even have
19 people on the staff who are grant experts.

20 One of the things that you will find
21 about these groups is that, as they become a
22 certain size, they will have technical staff
23 but they will tend to have an Executive
24 Director who has an external function, who
25 basically is communicating to the public and

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2 has the ability to interact with all the
3 different partners.

4 With respect to what the regional
5 groups do: About 200 of the 500 that we
6 surveyed that are out there were doing what
7 essentially is your main mandate here, which is
8 growth-related planning, creating long-range
9 plans for growth, physical development, land
10 use, infrastructure and, in many cases,
11 transportation. That is 200. There are, out
12 of the 500, those that are involved in economic
13 development, and many of those have been
14 designated actually by the U.S. Department of
15 Commerce as economic development districts. So
16 there is another set of regional groups that
17 are involved in economic development, and they
18 put together comprehensive plans for economic
19 development as well as transportation and
20 physical land use.

21 There is a group of economic regional
22 council groups that are involved in workforce
23 development. Some regional groups have been
24 designated as Workforce Investment Boards. So
25 they have actually taken on that responsibility

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2 as well. Then, of the 500, 155 are also
3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, designated
4 as MPOs, or transportation planning under the
5 Highway Act and the Urban Mass Transit Act.
6 They have that dual function.

7 MR. LARGE: And that is a source of
8 funds?

9 MR. HENTON: That is. The federal
10 government allocates funds for planning for
11 MPOs. They also allocate when they make
12 decisions about how they are going to allocate
13 portions of their funding for the federal
14 government. The MPOs make those decisions.

15 Let me give you three case studies of
16 examples that may be of use to you. One of the
17 things I want to suggest at the end of this
18 presentation is a possibility -- and I think it
19 is out there -- that these cases and others
20 that are part of this presentation are all
21 members of this Alliance. At some point in the
22 next period of time, in the next couple of
23 meetings, if you are interested in having
24 people come in and talk to you about some of
25 their experiences, we could help make that

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2 happen.

3 For instance, David Salter, who is
4 the head of the Boston Metropolitan Planning
5 Council, is on the Board of the Alliance for
6 Regional Stewardship and did a lot of the
7 research that I am sharing with you today, and
8 he was in that position for ten years.
9 Somebody like that, who is retired, is now at
10 Northeastern University, might be someone who
11 could come and speak to you about some of their
12 experiences there. He is also active in an
13 organization called the National Association of
14 Regional Councils, which is an association of
15 regional groups.

16 What you have in Boston is the
17 Metropolitan Area Planning Council. It has
18 been in existence for a number of years. It is
19 a regional planning agency that represents 101
20 cities and towns in that region. Its
21 membership consists of community
22 representatives and appointees. What they do
23 is collaborate in the development of
24 comprehensive plans and recommendations in the
25 areas of population and employment growth,

1 Doug Henton

2 transportation, economic development, regional
3 growth, and the environment. You can see they
4 have a fairly comprehensive set of activities
5 that they are responsible for.

6 Their funding comes from a variety of
7 sources, municipal but also state and federal,
8 some private grants. In that technical
9 assistance function, they developed a data
10 resource and a planning capacity. In some
11 cases they contract their services to other
12 groups. They have memberships in the
13 community. The communities in that region help
14 provide support to them. That is one example.

15 Another example, probably one of the
16 most successful regional groups in the country,
17 is the Mid-America Regional Council in Kansas
18 City, headed up by a fellow by the name of
19 David Warm, himself a very experienced
20 individual who can be, again, available to you
21 in terms of the Alliance of Regional
22 Stewardship, giving you some ideas and advice.
23 This organization works in a bistate region of
24 Kansas City, in Kansas and Missouri, and again
25 it is on transportation, but it has a little

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2 broader set of activities, in human services,
3 child care, aging, the Homeland Security area
4 of emergency preparedness, environmental
5 issues, and a host of others.

6 In this case, they have taken on a
7 whole set of regional issues for that area.
8 What they do is act as a forum. You go to
9 their material that talks about what they do
10 and talks about what their responsibility is.
11 They are a forum where people come to them to
12 talk through regional issues, regional
13 objectives, on a diversity of issues. They do
14 the long-range planning for the region, and
15 again they provide technical assistance as
16 support to local governments. They act as a
17 sort of regional support service.

18 A very interesting case, which I
19 think is a real good example of some of the
20 evolution that is happening in regional
21 planning, particularly in the direction of
22 regional stewardship, is the Birmingham
23 Regional Growth alliance, which won an award as
24 one of the more effective organizations in the
25 country. This is an interesting example of

1 Doug Henton

2 collaboration.

3 What happened there was that there
4 was a citizens group called the Region 20/20.
5 There was a regional planning group, which is
6 very similar to the Regional Planning
7 Commission of Greater Birmingham, representing
8 elected officials. The Regional Chamber of
9 Commerce represented the business community.
10 The government decided it would make sense to
11 collaborate, so they created a group called the
12 Regional Growth Alliance. They did this
13 because they recognized they needed a forum for
14 business, citizens, and government to come
15 together to check these critical regional
16 issues.

17 What happened was that they created
18 this mechanism for coordinating their
19 activities, mobilizing citizens to address these
20 critical regional issues. Out of that, they
21 identified top issues, and then they launched a
22 set of activities.

23 For instance, they created a task
24 force to work on transportation issues around
25 their critical highways. They created the

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2 Alliance for Transportation Alternative to work
3 on some of their transportation issues around
4 transit issues, which was a big topic for them.
5 They were looking at environmental issues to
6 the creative group that worked in that area.
7 They worked on an area around water drainage.
8 They worked on an issue around economic
9 development, again trying to develop something
10 along their economic corridors.

11 The point of that one is that I
12 believe one of the things that is out there is
13 that regional planning boards can play a really
14 interesting role in being a catalyst for
15 working with other organizations. In this case
16 the Regional Planning Board of Birmingham
17 reached out to organizations to help launch a
18 set of initiatives as they moved from your
19 Regional Planning Board as a partner.

20 Talking about partnerships, this
21 group talked about the Metropolitan Planning
22 Organizations. The 350 Metropolitan Planning
23 Organizations are organized in the state, in
24 some cases at the local-state level. The
25 federal government authorizes this Metropolitan

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2 known as the Long Range Transportation Plan,
3 limited to the Transportation Improvement
4 Program. That is responsible for approving
5 what is going to be a portion of the federal
6 expenditures in their region.

7 It has become an important part of
8 overall transportation planning. Again, it
9 goes back to the original concept of the idea
10 that urban areas ought to be able to do more
11 planning for themselves. Again, the Intermodal
12 Surface Transportation Equity Act, otherwise
13 known as ISTEA, actually made all this possible
14 by designating officially expanding their
15 responsibilities and making them available for
16 state and metropolitan planning.

17 While MPOs do not directly tax and
18 implement user fees in their local areas, some
19 groups such as in San Diego, called SANDAG,
20 have been successful in moving forward on some
21 specific activities that they have developed
22 around the local areas.

23 But the basic point about all this is
24 that there is an integration that is taking
25 place of regional plan, transportation

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2 planning, when you are able to connect these
3 two activities.

4 MPOs are regional organizations in
5 cities, counties and towns in an urban area.
6 They maintain a staff of transportation
7 professionals. Because they get the federal
8 funding, sometimes that group is a little more
9 able to do more extensive planning in an area
10 because of their resources, but they also are a
11 source of data and also the opportunity to
12 develop a regional plan.

13 One of the things about these is that
14 it allows you to project into the future,
15 permitting you to look at a longer-term plan.
16 You have to look at longer-term demographic and
17 employment data in a more sophisticated way and
18 basically are looking also to coordinate this
19 with other activities, for instance
20 environmental, social and historic activities.

21 One of the things that happened here
22 is that there have been some very interesting
23 experiments with some of this type of funding
24 around the country, where there has been active
25 citizen participation. Some of the examples

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2 within the Alliance for Regional Stewardship
3 are in Utah, where thousands of people,
4 literally, were involved in a visiting process
5 that involved engaging people in their
6 planning. Similar processes were done in other
7 parts of the country using this type of
8 resources.

9 So if there are Metropolitan Regional
10 Organizations, MPOs, what are the lessons of
11 all that and where you are today?

12 Listening to what you are saying
13 today and worrying about where you are, it
14 would seem to me that, in order to get started
15 in this evolutionary process of trying to
16 figure out where you want to go, probably the
17 best thing for you is to look at some of these
18 examples and where you want to go to develop
19 what is best known as a strategic plan or
20 essentially a plan for what you want to plan.
21 Develop a strategic plan based on best
22 practices from other regions. You might want
23 to consider -- and we could certainly help
24 facilitate that -- inviting some persons from
25 other regions to speak to you specifically

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2 additional information as you reach out to
3 other people here, to yourself and others, to
4 do what you are doing in staffing, and identify
5 the goals and strategies and then really kick
6 off the full regional planning process at the
7 beginning of the year based on that strategic
8 plan.

9 What I think a strategic plan process
10 would do, building on what you are doing,
11 starting already with your Work Plan, is ask
12 these questions: Defining mission, choosing
13 scope, identifying functions, and then
14 designating the organizational structure that
15 is most appropriate.

16 In the language that was given to
17 you, the basic mission is preparing a
18 comprehensive plan for Nassau and Suffolk
19 counties by conducting surveys and research
20 programs on regional issues; working with other
21 levels of government on regional planning
22 issues; establishing relationships with local
23 universities and colleges.

24 Clearly, there is an opportunity
25 there for the types of things you were talking

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2 underneath that to fulfill those functions.

3 I think you are already on your way,
4 and I think anything that can be done to help
5 you with that in terms of preparing a strategic
6 plan by sharing best practices is something
7 that I would be happy to help you with. I
8 think the strategic planning process could
9 involve and has already begun to involve
10 consulting key leaders and groups in the
11 community, outreach, learning what their views
12 are, identifying the core mission and scope and
13 functions, and then developing the
14 organizational plan to support the mission,
15 scope and functions.

16 I think what you have the opportunity
17 to do here is to take the time to do this
18 right. You have been given the opportunity to
19 think about what is a model, if you will, maybe
20 even a national model, for how you can develop
21 a Regional Planning Board. I think there are
22 some examples out there that you can draw on.
23 You can build on some of those other examples.
24 You can maybe do something that hasn't been
25 done before. You can bring along some of these

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2 about the amount of affordable housing, you are
3 talking about issues related to energy, and
4 other issues. What are the critical issues
5 that are motivating and that this group can
6 really put good information on the table?

7 Then I think the next thing is to
8 build these partnerships that are broader than
9 just government. One of the things that we
10 have learned with regional stewardship is that
11 there are certain things that government can do
12 but there are certain things that the private
13 sector has to do in its own time.

14 I will give you an example. Recently
15 the Alliance for Regional Stewardship had a
16 meeting in Chicago, and one of the groups that
17 was formed in Chicago in the mid-1990s was a
18 group called the Chicago Metropolis 20/20. It
19 is a very interesting group. It was put
20 together by a combination of the Chicago
21 Commercial Club and the MacArthur Foundation
22 where Daly was involved. It was a regional
23 private-public group. It came about because at
24 the turn of the century there was an effort,
25 after the development of the Chicago World's

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2 this is not part of the master plan, that it
3 actually retards our growth, it doesn't build
4 livable communities?

5 What is the role of a Regional
6 Planning Board with regard to the issue of
7 denouncing -- it's a strong word. But we see
8 on Long Island, for example, the Long Island
9 Association has done both, and under a lot of
10 heat with some of the -- my words --
11 dysfunctional attitude that New York State
12 takes with regard to maybe affordable housing
13 issues or whatever else. At what point does
14 the Long Island Regional Planning Board get
15 involved in naming things maybe that are not
16 consistent with best practices?

17 MR. HENTON: There are a few examples
18 of that. I wouldn't use the word "denounce"
19 because I think that is probably too strong,
20 but I do think here is an example I will give
21 you.

22 MR. TONNA: That is my word.

23 MR. HENTON: Yes. One of the groups
24 that I work with in California is a group
25 called the Joint Venture of Silicon Valley.

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2 MR. HENTON: I think it is a little
3 more difficult. I think there is a little
4 danger, I will be very frank. Recent planning
5 organizations have to be cautious about their
6 role relative to local authorities. I think we
7 need to be more bottom up rather than top down.
8 There are very few examples in recent
9 government in this country. There aren't any.
10 There is sort of an interesting dialogue.

11 I used the example of Portland,
12 Oregon. Portland, Oregon, is the only place in
13 the country that elects regional people.
14 Everybody thinks it is regional government. It
15 doesn't work that way. They still have local
16 government, all those local entities exist, and
17 they develop a regional plan in a consultative
18 process. There has been only one example where
19 the local community did not go along with the
20 regional plan and that is where the Regional
21 Planning Organization didn't follow its own
22 process. So these are very consultative
23 activities.

24 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: I would just make
25 the observation that the previous Executive

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2 Director did from time to time denounce.

3 MR. TONNA: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: Any questions?

5 MS. SANDERS: Just a question
6 regarding the Board dealing with social issues
7 in terms of any of these planning boards
8 inequities, race relations. What has been your
9 experience?

10 MR. HENTON: I think many of them have
11 dealt with the social issues in a variety of
12 different ways. I think, as they look at
13 housing issues, they obviously had to deal with
14 equity issues. I think a lot of them have
15 dealt with it in terms of trying to think about
16 the transportation issues, in terms of how
17 transportation is allocated in terms of what is
18 equitable. I think some of these groups have
19 also got involved in economic development of
20 the workforce. They are dealing with what are
21 really critical equity issues, to make sure
22 that everyone is included in the economy, and
23 also in basically participating in the broader
24 region. So I think several of them have dealt
25 with it.

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2 of an organization to speak for critical issues
3 and to communicate on issues can be as powerful
4 as anything that these regional groups can do.
5 Because what happens is, there is so much of a
6 complexity and there is so much noise in the
7 system that just the ability to identify some
8 critical issues, put good facts on the table,
9 good information on the table, articulate that
10 and to try to move things forward is probably
11 the most effective thing that these groups do
12 in fact.

13 MR. TONNA: One of the things, maybe
14 it would be a departure from efforts in the
15 past, is that when coming up with comprehensive
16 plans, talking about this collaborative
17 public-private partnership, I think part of
18 that document should also include those groups
19 that we can collaborate on and set certain
20 initiatives. So if we are advocating
21 affordable housing, there should be the ten or
22 fifteen groups that collaborated. And again I
23 think some of my own perception would be that
24 we have regional plans, we have boxes of plans,
25 but there wasn't anybody listening. Or, at

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2 is not just the planner's plan.

3 So I think one of the challenges here
4 is to get the right balance between leadership,
5 which is what this Board is all about, it has
6 to reach out to the community; participation,
7 reaching out to all the partners; and
8 expertise. Where things get out of whack is
9 where you have only one of those.

10 I will give you another area where
11 things don't work out. I have seen examples
12 where there is a lot of visioning that goes on
13 but no implementation. That is not enough.
14 Then you can end up in a situation where you
15 have leaders who go off in a room and think
16 this is the way to go and nobody believes them.
17 So it is a combination of those things.

18 Having large documents is not the
19 same thing as having a plan. Some of the most
20 effective plans that I have seen are actually
21 small. One example is what became known as the
22 Denver Compact, where the parties there were
23 the local government and the private sector
24 which came together. They said these are the
25 principles that we have agreed to for growth in

1 Doug Henton

2 Denver, and we have basically signed onto a
3 document together. That was their plan. The
4 plan itself was about ten pages. It had a lot
5 of research and background that supported it.

6 So I think having these agreements is
7 as important as having large documents. That
8 is one area where sometimes people think that
9 planning is the same thing as the plan. I
10 think it is bigger than that.

11 There are other disasters. One
12 disaster that can happen is the politicization
13 of planning. The real challenge is to be a
14 neutral forum and to be able to speak for many
15 voices, and not see an organization that is
16 only for one political party or one candidate.
17 That is something that can happen. You have to
18 be careful about that. That is always going to
19 be something that you are going to deal with in
20 a political setting. That is why having people
21 from a variety of different backgrounds in a
22 lot of collaboration can be critical to the
23 long-term success of something like this. It
24 is not something that simply lasts for the term
25 of one political leader.

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2 There are some examples where
3 leadership has been willing to set things up to
4 say, Look, this is going to last beyond the
5 term of my office. I think that is really
6 important. Some of these things have lasted
7 much longer than that. That would be an area
8 where you would have some problems.

9 MR. TROIANO: I represent the very
10 local level of government. First of all, I
11 think it is a great approach to proactively go
12 out and communicate a philosophy to the various
13 zoning boards. I think that, even though that
14 is a time-consuming approach, it is fragmented
15 as we are on Long Island with 64 villages in
16 Nassau and another 30-plus in Suffolk, it is
17 good to get that master philosophy out to the
18 local planning boards.

19 In that sense it sounds to me that in
20 your travels you have come across probably a
21 fair number of people and Executive Directors
22 throughout the country who have lived this
23 process and possibly even encountered much of
24 what was communicated today.

25 Not to put you on the spot, can you

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2 off-line communicate to this Board some of the
3 better people who might be actively recruited
4 by this Board to possibly fill some of these
5 staff positions that have been identified
6 today?

7 MR. HENTON: I would be happy to do
8 that. One of the things about this Alliance
9 for Regional Stewardship is that we have now
10 somewhere in the neighborhood, it is hard to
11 determine the number of people, but we have 40
12 regions of people who have gone through similar
13 processes, and I would be happy to share
14 information with this Board as to people out
15 there who have done successful things, and also
16 make this position description available to the
17 Alliance for Regional Stewardships so people
18 inside the Alliance will know about it and be
19 willing to apply for it.

20 The exciting thing about this is that
21 there are a lot of interesting experiments
22 going on out there, people trying these
23 collaborative approaches that we have been
24 talking about who would be very interested in
25 participating in trying to help you design

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2 CHAIRMAN LAROCCA: We stand
3 adjourned.

4 (The meeting was adjourned at 11:56
5 a.m.)

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