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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

RULES COMMITTEE

LEGISLATOR NORMA GONSALVES
CHAIR

County Executive and Legislative Building
1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

September 25, 2017

4:00 P.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR NORMA GONSALVES

5 Chair

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7 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

8 Vice Chair

9

10 LEGISLATOR VINCENT MUSCARELLA

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12 LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO

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14 LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

15 Ranking member

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17 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

18

19 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

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2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Mr.

3 Pulitzer we need a roll call for Rules

4 Committee. We have a few contracts.

5 MR. PULITZER: Roll call for the

6 Rules Committee. Legislator Siela Bynoe.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia

9 DeRiggi-Whitton.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

11 Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Ranking Member

13 Legislator Kevan Abrahams.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: Alternate

16 Presiding Officer Howard Kopel.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

18 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Vincent

19 Muscarella.

20 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman

22 Richard Nicolello.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

24 MR. PULITZER: Chairman Norma

25 Gonsalves.

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2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Present.

3 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum
4 ma'am.

5 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
6 very much Mr. Pulitzer.

7 We have I believe four, possibly
8 five items, that we will call and beginning
9 with item number A-19-17. Make sure I mean
10 the year '17. A resolution authorizing the
11 director of Nassau County Office of Purchasing
12 to award and execute a contract between the
13 County of Nassau acting on behalf of the
14 Nassau County Information Technology
15 Department and Infosys International Inc.

16 A motion please. Moved by
17 Legislator Nicoletto. Second by Legislator
18 Muscarella.

19 MR. EISENSTEIN: Ed Eisenstein,
20 information technology. This is a PO for
21 Infosys for \$488,000 for services at the
22 Social Services Department for programing.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any
24 questions or comments for Mr. Eisenstein? Any
25 public comment? I'm being very nice.

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2 Ms. Mereday.

3 MS. MEREDAY: On the item. I'm
4 happy that the first question I wanted to pose
5 was answered. Second question, who are the
6 principals of this company and what was the
7 vetting process as far as again, the
8 inclusion, whatever the percentages were, to
9 make sure there was effective outreach for
10 minority women-owned businesses, service
11 disabled businesses, things of that nature.
12 And how long has the relationship been between
13 the county and this company?

14 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: You can
15 answer those questions, correct?

16 MR. EISENSTEIN: Sure. Would you
17 like me to answer?

18 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Yes.

19 MR. EISENSTEIN: This vendor has
20 been in the county for at least eight years
21 from before we got here. They have been the
22 DSS vendor for their custom programing for a
23 number of years. They're a great vendor.

24 Please keep in mind that IT does
25 make an effort to bring in-house what we can.

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2 That's how our long-term planning is. We use
3 the vendors where necessary and where we don't
4 need them we program in-house.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The
6 principal is Rog Meta.

7 MS. MEREDAY: As far as the
8 principals, this company has been doing
9 business with the county for eight years which
10 is prior to at least the initial or surface
11 vetting process to make sure that companies
12 doing business with the county do not have
13 prior relationships or possibly relatives in
14 higher positions.

15 So again, since there were no
16 questions posed by this body to the public, I
17 unfortunately have to ask these questions in
18 the hope that maybe the elected official might
19 ask for them. And I'm always happy to know
20 that there is training and those types of
21 resources because we are in dire need of them
22 in social services.

23 So again, the principals involved
24 with this and has this vendor been through the
25 process that was recently instituted that was

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2 trying to vet out the patronage, cronyism and
3 nepotism. And that's not a negative
4 statement. That's the reality of the county
5 and it's costing the taxpayers.

6 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
7 very much. There being no other comments, all
8 those in favor of contract A-19 signify by
9 saying aye. Any opposed? The contract passes
10 four to three.

11 The next contract is E-188. A
12 personal services agreement between the County
13 of Nassau acting on behalf of the Nassau
14 County Department of County Traffic Safety and
15 New York Coalition of Transportation Safety
16 Incorporated.

17 Moved by Legislator Nicoletto.
18 Second by Legislator Kopel.

19 MR. MISTRON: Christopher
20 Mistron, director of Nassau County Traffic
21 Safety.

22 This particular grant is one that
23 is for New York Coalition. They are able to
24 provide me with additional people to do child
25 safety seat inspections. In fact, many of the

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2 legislators here, if anybody did remember Mark
3 Haphacker, that works with me, he provides
4 special needs training. So he's able to do
5 the car seats and installation for people with
6 children with special needs. So he does
7 attend a number of the sessions with me.

8 They are also the ones that provide
9 the special programs for everything from the
10 bike rodeos to the other safety educational
11 programs that go on within the different
12 legislative districts.

13 So I'll pre answer the questions.
14 They happen to be operated by a female staff.
15 And in terms of the contract in this
16 particular case, they are actually vetted out
17 through New York State with regard to the
18 grant. I actually act more as a pass through
19 for these programs.

20 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any
21 questions of Mr. Mistrion on this contract?
22 Any public comment?

23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
24 have a question Norma if you don't mind. Just
25 a comment more. I appreciate your program and

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2 I think it's excellent. I know that this was
3 ten months late and it is on the list. So
4 we're doing well with that. This contract is
5 coming up in a couple of months. Are you set
6 to go for January 1, 2018 for the new
7 contracts?

8 MR. MISTRON: This one was '17.
9 All the '18 ones are actually in the process.
10 We've altered -- as grants you will actually
11 be getting a large package in the coming
12 meeting also of some current and past. We've
13 reorganized the way in which we are doing the
14 contracts. A number of them actually have
15 taken an auditing role with the state or on
16 behalf of the state and contracts are being
17 issued directly through state funding as
18 opposed to a pass through. We've actually
19 worked to try and prevent any delays in the
20 future. In fact, all of our DWI contracts for
21 2018 are actually in place.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
23 That's wonderful. We are happy to hear that.
24 Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any other

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2 public comment? Pearl. On the item.

3 MS. JACOBS: I'm speaking on the
4 item. How wide spread is this program?

5 MR. MISTRON: It's throughout the
6 county. As a matter of fact, Legislator Bynoe
7 has utilized their services for the bike rodeo
8 and so on. We're throughout the county. As a
9 matter of fact, when we can, because money has
10 been limited as far as from the state, we are
11 the ones that do the child safety seat
12 giveaway programs for the low income and for
13 different communities. But this particular
14 program, if I haven't been in somebody's
15 legislative district at one point or another I
16 would be shock. It is county wide.

17 MS. JACOBS: Have you been in
18 District One as far as Uniondale, Roosevelt,
19 Freeport district? He has. Okay. Thank you.

20 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: There
21 being no other questions, all those in favor
22 of contract E-188 signify by saying aye. Any
23 opposed? It's unanimous.

24 The next item is E-189. A personal
25 services agreement between the County of

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2 Nassau acting on behalf of the Nassau County
3 Office of Emergency Management and Tectonic
4 Engineering and Surveying Consultants P.C.

5 Moved by Legislator Nicoletto.

6 Second by Legislator Kopel. We have before
7 us.

8 MR. DELANEY: Thomas Delaney,
9 Office of Emergency Management. This is a
10 contract amendment. The original contract was
11 \$82,400. The amount of this amendment is
12 \$28,000. Bringing the total to \$110,400. The
13 original contractor developed a county
14 emergency, not developed, updated our county
15 emergency management plan. Something that's
16 required for us to have by New York State.
17 What the amendment is going to do is allow the
18 contractor to test this plan. No plan is
19 worth anything but the paper it's written on
20 if you don't test it to make sure it works.
21 It's 100 percent grant funded.

22 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any
23 questions of Mr. Delaney? Legislator Bynoe.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Hello
25 Mr. Delaney. What will the testing of this

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2 plan actually look like?

3 MR. DELANEY: What they wanted to
4 do in fact was to have a flood situation. I
5 went back to the vendor and I just said you
6 know, we've been through that. I think we're
7 pretty good at dealing with coastal flood
8 situations unfortunately. Let's do something
9 that's more terrorism related because that's
10 what these grants are all about anyway. So
11 what I wanted to do was a radioactive
12 dispersal device. A dirty bomb.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

14 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES:
15 Ms. Mereday.

16 MS. MEREDAY: I just love those
17 comments off mic.

18 My question has to do with the fact
19 that residents are still basically dealing
20 with the fact that their homes have been
21 flooded. I'm just curious as to why we're not
22 doing something that addresses flood planning
23 and shoring up residents who still have their
24 homes that are still sitting on pallets as we
25 speak. And we have our neighbors and other

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2 citizens who are impacted by storms because we
3 still have not been able to come up with any
4 type of significant sustainability or
5 resilient plans.

6 Again, as a 9-11 first responder, I
7 get it with response to the dirty bomb issue.
8 Right now I think we need to get better
9 educated and informed about what we need to do
10 with incoming storms from a flood standpoint.
11 But you are all going to decide what you are
12 all going to do anyway. I'm just hoping that
13 maybe someone will say if we can get funding
14 to test dirty bombs but we can't get funding
15 to put together a directory for veteran
16 businesses to help keep our veterans here so
17 they can do the work to help shore up our
18 vulnerable county, I just don't get it. I
19 really just don't get it.

20 But again, I'm know there's going
21 to be crickets in the room. I'm trying to
22 stay positive and proactive because again,
23 people get the wrong impression that we want
24 to stand here and take out time to be here to
25 speak on these issues because we're not

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2 hearing the voices of our elected officials.
3 For those of you that are going to support
4 this because you think this is some Stars Wars
5 gimmick that's going to make us look good in
6 the paper and we still have residents that are
7 under the barrel and not living in their homes
8 go for it. This is an election year. People
9 will take notice.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
11 Bynoe.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Excuse me
13 Mr. Delaney. This is for you. It's the OEM's
14 perspective or they are under the impression
15 we are ready for flooding and because we have
16 never encountered any type of dirty bomb event
17 that this would be a -- we would be better
18 scenario to utilize for a practice because
19 we've not been able to determine whether we
20 are appropriately resourced and planned for
21 that type of event?

22 MR. DELANEY: It will also get
23 more departments involved as opposed to having
24 fire departments going out and rescuing people
25 that are in flooded areas or us driving high

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2 axle vehicles in areas that are again flooded
3 again as part of this scenario.

4 By the way, this is not going to be
5 a live type of scenario. This is a table top
6 exercise. So we are not putting players out
7 in the field. It's not a live drill. It's
8 not an exercise to that extent. It's a
9 tabletop exercise. Meaning being conducted
10 in-house and people are basically getting
11 around discussing how are we going to address
12 these situations as they arise.

13 For us, Sandy was a cascading event
14 and multiple issues kept coming about that we
15 didn't expect. This would be a similar type
16 of situation where we throw injects into the
17 exercise and players would have to think on
18 their feet how are we going to deal with this.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: We're saying
20 based on the fact that we have experienced
21 Sandy and that type of flooding we believe
22 that we are better prepared to deal with
23 something like that?

24 MR. DELANEY: We are extremely
25 better prepared. The capabilities that we

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2 have established since Sandy are phenomenal
3 under the leadership of Commissioner Craft.
4 We have many, many high axle vehicles at our
5 disposal now that before we had to requisition
6 them from the state and hope that we would get
7 them.

8 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Based on the
9 funding that's available for this there
10 wouldn't be an opportunity then to do two
11 different types of exercises or only this one
12 type of training experience?

13 MR. DELANEY: We're looking at
14 this one right now. Of course there's
15 opportunities to do other exercises. At the
16 time we're just focusing on this right now.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: But you'll
18 look for additional grants to see if there are
19 other opportunities to further explore other
20 options?

21 MR. DELANEY: We continue to get
22 the homeland security grants every year
23 because of our proximity to New York City and
24 its status as the number one terrorist target
25 within in the United States.

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2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

3 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
4 Mr. Delaney.

5 All those in favor of E-189 signify
6 by saying aye. Any opposed? The item passes
7 unanimously. Thank you Mr. Delaney.

8 The next item is E-191. A personal
9 services agreement between the County of
10 Nassau acting on behalf of the Nassau County
11 District Attorney's Office and Adelphi
12 University Institute for Parenting.

13 Moved by Legislator Nicoletto.
14 Seconded by Legislator Muscarella. Who is
15 here to speak on this?

16 MR. BECKER: I'm going to speak
17 on this if that's okay. Bob McManus, who
18 usually presents, was off today and the person
19 who they were going to send and I said I would
20 take care of it, is expecting a medical
21 procedure in a couple of days. I figured it's
22 pretty straightforward this item.

23 It's a renewal of an agreement with
24 Adelphi University Institute of Parenting.
25 The object of the program is to reduce

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2 recidivism and prevent intergenerational
3 involvement in the criminal justice system by
4 advancing the Closer To The Crib Initiative,
5 which seeks to support a healthy involvement
6 and reduce the effects of toxic stress for
7 children whose parents or guardians have been
8 arrested for committing crimes.

9 By the way, this is also funded
10 through forfeitures.

11 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any
12 questions from the legislators? Any public
13 comment? Who has a question? Legislator
14 Bynoe.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So I know that
16 you're standing in for someone else. I guess
17 my question is going to come in the form of a
18 request then. You would be able to provide us
19 data that would support or illustrate --

20 MR. BECKER: You want a little
21 data on the program?

22 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: On the
23 outcomes.

24 MR. BECKER: I will get that for
25 you.

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2 MS. JACOBS: My question
3 regarding the need for this grant. Does it
4 have anything to do in this program for the
5 increased opioid and heroin use in Nassau
6 County? Are you seeing an increase in the
7 need for parenting applications because of
8 that heroin and opioid disaster that's going
9 on in Nassau County?

10 MR. BECKER: I would say that the
11 design of the program in that this is a crisis
12 in our county and across the country that this
13 program is more important today than it ever
14 was before.

15 MS. JACOBS: Are you seeing an
16 increase in the need for this?

17 MR. BECKER: I would say yes,
18 absolutely more so than ever before.

19 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: There
20 being no other questions or comments, all
21 those in favor of E-191 signify by saying
22 aye. Any opposed? It's unanimous.

23 We have one item which is I believe
24 is a tabled item and it's item E-162. And I
25 need a motion to untable item E-162. Moved by

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2 Legislator Nicoletto. Second by Legislator
3 Kopel. All those in favor of untabling E-162
4 signify by saying aye.

5 Now for the item itself. It's a
6 personal services agreement between the county
7 of Nassau acting on behalf of the Nassau
8 County Department of Information and
9 Technology and Svam International Inc.

10 A motion please. Moved by
11 Legislator Nicoletto. Second by Legislator
12 Kopel.

13 Talk to us.

14 MR. EISENSTEIN: Good afternoon.
15 Ed Eisenstein again, information technology.
16 This is Svam one of our supplemental staffing
17 vendors. We are injecting \$600,000 into their
18 line. Two of them is supplemental staffing
19 contractors. They are the ones that help us
20 with the Peoplesoft installation and other
21 high-end consulting.

22 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any
23 questions of Mr. Eisenstein from the
24 legislators? Legislator Bynoe.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So their work

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2 is going to be centered around ERP?

3 MR. EISENSTEIN: That is
4 correct. That is the Peoplesoft project. The
5 financial and the human resources for the
6 county, correct.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: This software
8 is in place to do track what activities
9 specifically?

10 MR. EISENSTEIN: More or less the
11 entire operational backend. The computer
12 system that manages the financials and HR
13 system. The mainframe if you will. NIFs and
14 NURS if you've heard of those terms.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: The contract
16 keeps requiring that we expand services and
17 the scope and we're paying more? Because it
18 looks like --

19 MR. EISENSTEIN: If I can
20 explain. When we set up these supplemental
21 staffing contracts we felt it was going to be
22 more cost effective to get multiple people to
23 be awarded. What we have done is Svam is one
24 of 18 approved vendors that is allowed to give
25 us contractors. What we do is put out

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2 statements of work and at times, in this
3 particular case, Svam has given us more
4 consultants that won those statements of
5 work. So the way we are set up, we have to
6 inject money into their budget line to be able
7 to pay for them.

8 Initially when the 18 vendors were
9 set up they each got an even number of all the
10 supplemental numbers. Once we put out
11 statements of work one vendor over the other
12 one will give us more consultants than the
13 other. That's why we come to this body and
14 ask for monies being moved around to this
15 particular item compared to the other
16 supplemental staffing contractors that are on
17 hand. IT has several contracts where we have
18 more than one contract winner and this is one
19 of them.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

21 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any other
22 questions or comments from the legislators?
23 Any public comment? There being none, all
24 those in favor of E-162 signify by saying
25 aye. Any opposed? The item passes four to

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2 three.

3 There being no other business
4 before the Rules Committee a motion to
5 adjourn. Moved by Legislator Kopel. Second
6 by Legislator Nicoletto. All those in favor
7 of adjourning the Rules Committee signify by
8 saying aye. Any opposed? The Rules Committee
9 is now adjourned.

10 (TIME NOTED: 4:24 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATION

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

THAT the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of my stenographic
notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand this 27th day of
September 2017

FRANK GRAY