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6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

10

11 RULES COMMITTEE

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13 LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO

14 CHAIR

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16

17 Theodore Roosevelt Building

18 1550 Franklin Avenue

19 Mineola, New York

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21

22 May 20, 2019

23 1:44 P.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO

5 Chair

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7 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

8 Vice Chair

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10 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

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12 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

13

14 LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

15 Ranking member

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17 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

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19 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Now would
3 you please call the Rules Committee.

4 MR. PULITZER: Rules Committee.
5 Legislator Siela Bynoe.

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

7 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia
8 DeRiggi-Whitton.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
10 Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Ranking member
12 Kevan Abrahams.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
15 Schaefer.

16 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven
18 Rhoads.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

20 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Howard
21 Kopel.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Chairman Richard
24 Nicolello.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

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2 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum
3 sir.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
5 you. What we are going to do is this. We
6 have a number of appointments that came in too
7 late for the last round of committees to the
8 Asian-American Advisory Counsel. Since they
9 came in too late, we are going to have those
10 newer appointments called on the Rules
11 Committee right now, voted upon and then we
12 can vote upon on the full legislature. So we
13 are going to run through this part of the Rules
14 committee real quickly, get them voted on in
15 committee and then go to the full legislature
16 at which point we will have the full public
17 comment and all that.

18 It's going to sound repetitive but
19 again because some came in late we have to do
20 it this way. For Rules Committee we have a
21 number of appointments. Including items 171,
22 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179 and 180.
23 These are all resolutions confirming the
24 county executive's appointment of the
25 following individuals to the Asian-American

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2 Advisory Counsel. Jamillah Abdul-Kareem,
3 Nisha Bhalla, Jensen Ambachen, Abraham Thomas,
4 Bryant Lew, Jasbir Singh, Guodong Zhang, Naeem
5 Bawla and Juleigh Chin.

6 Moved by Deputy Presiding Officer

7 Kopel. Seconded by Legislator

8 DeRiggi-Whitton. Any discussion among the
9 legislators? Again, we will be voting on the
10 same people in a moment. Hearing none, all in
11 favor of these appointments signify by saying
12 aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

13 I will put the Rules Committee in
14 recess and we will go now to the legislative
15 appointments.

16 (Meeting was recessed at 1:49 p.m.)

17 (Meeting reconvened at 4:29 p.m.)

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let's go
19 back to Rules. We have three contracts that
20 have to be considered. A-29 of 2019, a
21 resolution authorizing the director of the
22 Nassau County Office of Purchasing to award
23 and execute a contract between the county and
24 Ozone Park Lumber.

25 Moved by Legislator

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2 DeRiggi-Whitton. Seconded by Legislator
3 Schaefer.

4 MR. ARNOLD: Good afternoon. Ken
5 Arnold, Public Works. A-29 is a blanket
6 order. It's a new contract that supplies the
7 department with drywall and accessories for
8 the various projects we do in county
9 facilities. There were seven vendors that
10 picked up the bids and there were two
11 submittals. Ozone was the lowest responsible
12 bidder.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
14 questions or debate or discussion? Any public
15 comment?

16 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday. I
17 guess I'm just resubmitting my request with
18 regard to the outreach that's involved
19 considering that this is the public sector and
20 we're talking about tax funding for this and
21 I'm gathering that this is a pretty sizeable
22 contract. I don't know what the amount is. I
23 don't know if this vendor is a veteran-owned
24 business, service disabled, minority women. I
25 don't know what the input or outreach or the

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2 commitment from the Office of Minority
3 Affairs. I believe this discussion was
4 brought up weeks ago as far as finding out
5 what their roll is in this.

6 Since we are now dissecting the
7 process as it is, because we now have the
8 Office of Minority Affairs and Office of
9 Hispanic Affairs and Office of Asian-Americans
10 affairs and we still don't have true diversity
11 and inclusion in our procurement and
12 outreach. If I can get an answer to that
13 question at least some confidence moving
14 forward that we are going to be abiding by at
15 least some federal and state practices since
16 Dodd-Frank compliance Section 342 is not being
17 implemented by Nassau County. Thank you.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: This
19 contract is for a maximum amount of \$1 million
20 and it's for drywall and accessories for
21 various Nassau County agencies. Mr. Arnold or
22 anyone else here want to respond to this?
23 Reverend Dr. Williams would you like to come
24 up?

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon to

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2 the legislative body. Regina Williams, acting
3 executive director for the Office of Minority
4 Affairs. As we previously stated on the
5 hearing, the Office of Minority Affairs
6 continues to do their due diligence with
7 sending out email notification contacting all
8 of our constituents. Currently with that
9 particular bid it dealt with lumber. We only
10 have, from what I can see, only one other MWBE
11 that's relative to do the work that this
12 particular entity has received the award to
13 do.

14 We constantly reach out to our
15 constituents. Again, something I stated
16 before on the record, if there is any proof
17 that we need to give for the legislative body
18 to know or for anyone to know exactly what we
19 do please notify me. But we do reach out to
20 all our constituents.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: While
22 you're here, could you give the same
23 information with respect to the following one,
24 which is a blanket purchase order for door
25 jams and hinges. You went through the same

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2 procedures that you just discussed just now
3 with respect to that one?

4 MS. WILLIAMS: When we receive
5 all the bids on Thursdays, standard practice
6 of the office in which I'm currently
7 functioning with, on Thursdays they send out
8 the bids that have been received throughout
9 the course of the week to all of the
10 constituents. We currently do not have them
11 broken down into categories. So the bids do
12 go out to all of them. And we follow-up as
13 much as possible. We are currently working
14 along with IT -- I had a meeting with them
15 this morning -- where they have now automated
16 our certification process. So we will be able
17 to even do further due diligence with
18 contacting those entities specific for the
19 areas that are outlined with the bids that are
20 coming out.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
22 you. Any legislators have any questions for
23 Dr. Williams? Thank you. Any other public
24 comment on the first contract, which was
25 A-29. Hearing none, all in favor signify by

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2 saying aye. Those opposed? Carries
3 unanimously.

4 Next one is A-32 of 2019, a
5 resolution authorizing the director of Nassau
6 County Office of Purchasing to award and
7 execute a contract between the county and
8 Metropolitan Door Industries Corp.

9 Moved by Legislator Rhoads.
10 Seconded by Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

11 MR. ARNOLD: This is a blanket
12 order contract to supply the department with
13 doors and accessories. There were 13 vendors
14 that reviewed the bids. We had two bid
15 submittals. Metropolitan Doors was the lowest
16 responsible bidder.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: This is a
18 maximum amount of \$2,775,000, correct?

19 MR. ARNOLD: Yes.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any debate
21 or discussion? Any public comment?

22 MS. MEREDAY: Thank you for the
23 amount of this contract. Again, I present my
24 argument and my disappointment that we are in
25 2019 and I do appreciate Dr. Williams bringing

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2 what the procedure is within the Office of
3 Minority Affairs. But unfortunately, being
4 aware that there's less than 200 I believe
5 minority businesses in that database when even
6 the US census says there's 11,000 minority
7 businesses in Nassau County alone. I can't be
8 the only one that has a problem with that huge
9 gap that speaks to the lack of the resources
10 that they have to be able to do the outreach
11 to bring numbers into the forefront to have an
12 actual breakdown so that you can have a
13 suitable distribution of potential.

14 But I've yet to hear, even for this
15 contract, what outreach, if any, as it
16 pertains to service-disabled veteran-owned
17 businesses. Oh, why is that? Because the
18 county has no program, no outreach and no
19 process to develop veteran-owned and
20 service-disabled veteran-owned businesses
21 despite having age old legislation that has
22 yet to receive any mandates or funding or
23 accountability with regard to that.

24 So I can only speak again with
25 regard to this issue as it pertains to the

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2 lack of diversity and inclusion as you
3 continue to profess that you want to be
4 inclusive of underserved groups. It's again
5 putting buildings on top of weak
6 infrastructure and expecting it to still look
7 pretty because you have paint and curtains on
8 it when your infrastructure is weak.

9 I should not be the only one that
10 is addressing this issue and all I'm getting
11 is, for those of you that just want to be out
12 of here and guess what? I do too, but unless
13 somebody, someone has to speak these issues
14 into fruition versus waiting to see what
15 lawsuit is going to come to the forefront
16 because of the numerous violations that are in
17 place here. Just because for some reason we
18 refused to want to do the right thing as it
19 pertains to this now emerging 40 percent
20 representative group in this county.

21 So I don't know how else to speak
22 to this. That there are businesses, you may
23 not be aware of that, but there are minority,
24 veteran-owned women-owned business that can do
25 in excess of a million dollars for any service

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2 or product. But we refuse to do the due
3 diligence, the outreach and the development
4 and the capacity or even put into the contract
5 some guidelines to do subcontracting to build
6 up even those businesses that may not have the
7 capacity at this point. That's what you call
8 diversity and inclusion. Thank you.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
10 you. Any other public comment? Hearing none,
11 all in favor signify by saying aye. Those
12 opposed? Passes unanimously.

13 E-105 of 2019, a resolution
14 authorizing the county executive to execute a
15 personal services agreement between the county
16 and the Research Foundation for State
17 University of New York acting on behalf of
18 SUNY's Rockefeller Institute of Government.

19 Moved by Legislator Bynoe.

20 Seconded by Legislator Schaefer.

21 MS. GALUCHI: Melissa Galuchi,
22 Commissioner of Shared Services.

23 In 2017 the New York State
24 Legislature enacted into law the county-wide
25 Shared Services Initiative requiring each

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2 county, except New York City, to convene a
3 shared services panel led by the county
4 executive comprised of one representative from
5 town, city, village in each county.

6 The law required the county to hold
7 three public hearings and submit a plan to the
8 county legislature for comment to a vote to
9 the shared services panel.

10 The prior administration created a
11 plan in 2017. Their plan projected savings in
12 2018 of over \$130 million through eliminating
13 duplicative services and sharing equipment
14 facilities or personnel. One initiative
15 consolidating waste water treatment services
16 between Long Beach and Nassau County made up
17 \$128 million of the anticipated savings.
18 However, actual savings calculated were
19 approximately \$203,000, which have been
20 submitted to the state for matching funds.

21 This year New York has allowed the
22 2019 shared services panel to include
23 libraries, schools, fire and special
24 districts, in addition to its cities, towns
25 and villages. In reviewing other counties'

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2 plans, we found that the best plans utilized
3 consultants for their expertise and to submit
4 a professional, polished plan. In order for
5 the county to develop innovative ideas and
6 achieve optimal results for shared service
7 initiatives an RFP solicitation was conducted
8 to hire a consultant to work with the county
9 to assist in developing and implementing our
10 2020 county-wide shared services plan to
11 generate property tax savings for residents
12 through collaboration between local
13 municipalities.

14 Five responses were received,
15 interviewed and evaluated by the selection
16 committee. The Rockefeller Foundation was
17 unanimously selected based on their low cost
18 and extensive knowledge and experience and
19 successful development of other county shared
20 service plans.

21 The Rockefeller Institute's
22 president was an expert resource to the
23 governor's office when this law was written in
24 2017, and in addition, led the research
25 foundation's 2018 review plan submitted in

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2 2017. The Rockefeller Institute has extensive
3 experience working on local government issues
4 in quantifying projected shared initiative
5 savings. They led and created both
6 Westchester and Albany Counties' amended 2019
7 plans predicting recurring savings of \$27
8 million and 10.2 million respectfully.

9 Our contract requires them to
10 assist in the three public hearings as well as
11 meet with all shared service panel members,
12 county elected officials, including the
13 legislature, and labor representatives to
14 present and receive input on the proposed
15 plan.

16 During the implementation year
17 2020, the Rockefeller Institute will work with
18 the shared services panel to confirm all the
19 intermunicipal agreements are in place and the
20 initiatives are being completed.

21 Maximum spending to retain the
22 Rockefeller Institute over two years is
23 \$160,000. \$90,000 for the first year to
24 compile the plan and \$70,000 in the second
25 year to see through Nassau's 2020 plan

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2 implementation.

3 New York State has set aside \$225
4 million to fund the state's match of net
5 savings from share service implementation.

6 The Rockefeller Institute provides
7 Nassau County with the best combination of low
8 cost, high expertise, high efficiency and
9 development an implementation of the 2020
10 shared services plan. State matching funds
11 that will be gained as a result of our new
12 plan justifies the Rockefeller Institute
13 government's faith.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
15 any questions? Legislator Bynoe.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
17 Presiding Officer. Hi Ms. Galuchi. Quick
18 question. We have a shared services division
19 or department and so we don't feel that we are
20 capable of carrying out this task. What would
21 be so complex that our own staffers would be
22 challenged in being able to implement, develop
23 and then implement the plan?

24 MS. GALUCHI: In order for us to
25 have a robust plan we felt that the experience

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2 from a consultant would benefit the county to
3 optimize the potential tax savings and the
4 matching funds for us. And to follow through
5 with the implementation of the IMAs and see
6 through everything.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: To see through
8 the IMAs from within Suffolk County, the
9 villages?

10 MS. GALUCHI: When the state
11 implemented this shared services initiative
12 they did not give the counties funding to roll
13 this out. None of the counties had any
14 funding to roll this out. Some counties got
15 consultants. Some counties were able to hire
16 multiple people to have it. Do it in-house.
17 Some are larger than others. So, when we
18 discussed it with other counties we saw what
19 worked better. So we decided after reviewing
20 everything that was done in the past and what
21 we expected to see in the future that would
22 work for us we felt that this route was the
23 best route for us.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So you're
25 saying that counties have either added to

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2 their staff or contracted out?

3 MS. GALUCHI: Depending on the
4 size of the county, yes.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So this
6 contract is in its first year. It's for
7 \$90,000. And in the event we get I guess
8 reimbursed or we receive a pro rata share then
9 we would go into the second year of the
10 contract?

11 MS. GALUCHI: Yes.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I just found
13 it odd that the department itself wouldn't be
14 able to carry this out without having to
15 staff. And I don't know enough about your
16 staffing levels to that degree. But I do have
17 a concern. I don't know what the deadline is
18 for moving forward on this. What is the
19 deadline for moving forward with the shared
20 services?

21 MS. GALUCHI: The deadline to
22 submit it to the state?

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Yes.

24 MS. GALUCHI: The deadline for
25 our plan is at the end of the year, December.

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2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: How long do we
3 think this process will take for us to get
4 through?

5 MS. GALUCHI: We need to convene
6 the panel to discuss the different
7 initiatives, the different ideas. How we can
8 work together and collaborate with the towns
9 and villages. They added the schools and the
10 fire districts. As you're aware, we did the
11 joint vehicle buy with Nassau and Suffolk. So
12 now they've added collaboration between
13 counties. So we are also in discussion with
14 Westchester and Suffolk how we can also
15 achieve other savings whether through
16 procurement or sharing of personnel.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So this person
18 would be doing the IMAs with the county
19 attorney.

20 MS. GALUCHI: Yes.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Because the
22 county attorney usually develops the IMA.

23 MS. GALUCHI: Correct. Yes.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: All right.

25 Thank you.

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2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
3 you walk us through how the state reimburses?

4 MS. GALUCHI: Actually, no one
5 has been reimbursed yet because this is a new
6 program. So, we have submitted our paperwork
7 to be reimbursed. But it's our understanding
8 that none of the counties have received any
9 savings yet. Some counties haven't put their
10 paperwork in yet. So we were one of the first
11 counties to put our papers in for the matching
12 funds.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: When
14 you say matching funds, the state is going to
15 be reimbursing us for the savings.

16 MS. GALUCHI: Yes. The
17 anticipated savings.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: By
19 saving five percent by buying basically in
20 bulk with other municipalities they're going
21 to double that?

22 MS. GALUCHI: It's the matching
23 funds from the plan. Whatever plan we have
24 submitted. It's only what is in the plan.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: You

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2 really don't have anything to go on yet?

3 MS. GALUCHI: We have to create
4 the plan.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Then
6 the state has to get organized to start
7 reimbursing.

8 MS. GALUCHI: We're still working
9 on the 2017 plan, which was for 2018. So now
10 we are creating a whole new plan.

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
12 agree with my colleague Legislator Bynoe, it's
13 just we're putting -- it's a good amount of
14 money into it. Seems to be a lot of -- the
15 theory is good, I see that, but I just feel
16 that we don't know how vast this task is as
17 far as whether or not it could be handled
18 in-house and how successful we are going to be
19 with the state at this point. Right?

20 MS. GALUCHI: We review our plan
21 that was submitted. We reviewed other plans
22 that were submitted to the state. We feel
23 that the consultant provides expertise in this
24 area for a professional plan and guidance for
25 optimal results for the county.

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2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Do
3 you mind me asking how many people do you have
4 in your department?

5 MS. GALUCHI: As for the shared
6 services initiative there is myself, there is
7 one deputy and one programing coordinator.

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
9 Thank you.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Tell us
11 again why we need to do this today. Meaning
12 the urgency of this. What is the urgency of
13 this item?

14 MS. GALUCHI: Because we need to
15 convene the panel. We'd like to start to
16 convene the panel within the next few weeks so
17 that we can develop the ideas and start
18 putting together the plan. We need to have
19 public hearings pursuant to the law. We'd
20 like to do them in September so that we can
21 meet again with all the elected officials. We
22 need to have a vote on the plan. And then we
23 would like to present it to the legislature
24 sometime before the end of the year and then
25 submit it to the state.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It does
3 seem like an aggressive time line. I don't
4 know if we hold this up what the effect will
5 be.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
7 Could you report back to us as far as the
8 success percentage with the state? I know it
9 probably won't be until next year or
10 whatever. I'm just curious.

11 MS. GALUCHI: Absolutely.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
13 discussion among the legislators? Any public
14 comment? Mr. Budnick.

15 MR. BUDNICK: What department are
16 you with?

17 MS. GALUCHI: Department of
18 Shared Services.

19 MR. BUDNICK: This is the
20 Department of Shared Services. This is the
21 wrong department for doing this. You have a
22 planning commission. Why isn't the planning
23 commission involved in this? I don't
24 understand that.

25 Number two, we have a large number

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2 of semi-independent authorities. No mention
3 seems to be made about any of those.
4 Particularly the housing authorities.

5 Third of all, there are large
6 numbers of particle peculiar districts to
7 various areas in the geographies of Nassau
8 County that I don't hear any mention of.
9 Everything from the Port Washington Police
10 District to the Belgrade Sewer District to the
11 Oyster Bay Sewer District, various sanitation
12 districts and other districts in the Town of
13 Hempstead, and I'm really confused as to who
14 is this panel and who are they going to be
15 contacting. All of the governmental entities
16 including things like the Nassau Medical
17 Center, which is a separate corporation now,
18 and the community college or not or what. And
19 I think that some thought needs to be and some
20 ideas and some brainstorming needs to be
21 addressed to this entire situation.

22 Although I don't have any
23 complaints because the situation needs to be
24 addressed, it has been for many years. But I
25 think the county has some entities that need

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2 to be involved here at this level. Not just
3 an individual commissioner of the Department
4 of Shared Services. Because I see there are
5 other entities in the county that need to be
6 involved in this situation, including
7 especially this legislature.

8 I am askanced to conceive that this
9 is proceeding, and based upon my observations
10 of the outstanding personnel of this
11 legislative body it doesn't seem to me that a
12 lot of backup has really been well provided to
13 you and further communications between various
14 portions of the county government needs to be
15 made as we proceed along here. There seems to
16 be a lot missing based on my observations.
17 Thank you very much. My compliments once
18 again to you all. Good luck.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
20 Mr. Budnick. That will be all for public
21 comment.

22 All in favor signify by saying
23 aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

24 Legislator Bynoe makes a motion to
25 close. Seconded by Minority Leader Abrahams.

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2 All in favor of adjourning signify by saying
3 aye. Those opposed? We are adjourned.

4 (Committee adjourned at 4:54 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 24th day of
May 2019.

FRANK GRAY