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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO

PRESIDING OFFICER

RULES COMMITTEE

LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO

CHAIR

Theodore Roosevelt Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

November 5, 2020

1:55 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

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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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1 Rules - 11-5-20

2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mike could
3 call the roll.

4 MR. PULITZER: Rules Committee
5 roll call. 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: Vice Chairman
21 Howard 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: We have
5 one item, A-71 of 2020. Is a resolution
6 authorizing the commissioner of shared
7 services to award and execute a purchase order
8 between the county of Nassau acting on behalf
9 of the Nassau County Correctional Center and
10 GP Jager, Inc.

11 Moved by Legislator Rhoads.

12 Seconded by Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

13 MR. GOLIO: Captain Michael Golio
14 from the sheriff's department. The item
15 before you is the purchase of sewage grinders
16 to service the A32 building housing areas.
17 The vendor is a sole. He's the inventor of
18 the product, the sole manufacturer and the
19 exclusive solicitor service parts for this
20 equipment.

21 Currently the grinders in the A32
22 building are original equipment from the early
23 1990s. They have been repaired and
24 refurbished multiple times. They are beyond
25 their useful life and they are now entering

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2 the stage where they're failing. I'll answer
3 any questions if you have them.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just
5 briefly, what is the function of the grinders
6 again?

7 MR. GOLIO: The grinders grind
8 the sewage that comes out of the inmate
9 housing areas before it goes into the public
10 sewage way to avoid backups in the sewers
11 system.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: If the
13 existing grinders fail then the sewage system
14 fails in the jail, correct?

15 MR. GOLIO: Correct. It backs up
16 into the jail.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: There's an
18 urgency to this which is why we scheduled a
19 special Rules Committee today to consider
20 this?

21 MR. GOLIO: Absolutely yes.
22 Correct.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
24 Rhoads.

25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Afternoon.

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2 The sewage system in the jail in fact is
3 failing now, correct?

4 MR. GOLIO: Correct.

5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: If I can ask,
6 why has it taken so long to bring this to the
7 legislature?

8 MR. GOLIO: This has been an item
9 talked about for many years prior
10 administrations. We've repaired and
11 refurbished the equipment to the extent that
12 we could. There have been proposals to make
13 the purchases previously that just haven't
14 gotten any traction and we are at the stage
15 that we are now asking for the complete
16 replacement of all the grinders in that
17 building.

18 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: There seems
19 to be no question that it absolutely has to be
20 done. I'm just concerned going forward
21 whether we can address future problems without
22 it being an absolute necessity. There should
23 be some sort of maintenance to systems that
24 are vital to the functioning of the jail and
25 safety of the jail so that we don't reach a

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2 point where we have to replace all of them at
3 once.

4 MR. GOLIO: Correct. The plan
5 here is to purchase 12. Eight are in use at
6 any given time. The four will give us the
7 ability to do preventive maintenance and also
8 repairs without taking the systems offline.
9 So it will give us a little cushion to make
10 sure that we don't have the problems that we
11 are currently experiencing.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: My
13 understanding is that the problem has reached
14 a point where we've actually had to move
15 inmates out of particular buildings because
16 the sewage system was backing up, correct?

17 MR. GOLIO: There have been some
18 transfers of inmates as a precaution. We
19 think that the system is extremely fragile at
20 this point.

21 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I know this
22 may be slightly off topic for your knowledge
23 and expertise. During our budget hearings it
24 was disclosed that one of the reasons that we
25 are not taking federal inmates is due to

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2 concerns of COVID. Is it not a fact that
3 because of the problems that we're having with
4 these muffin monsters, as they are commonly
5 referred to, we're not sure that if a system
6 goes down that we're going to be able to
7 handle our own inmates. We in fact may have
8 to transfer them to other jurisdictions,
9 correct?

10 MR. GOLIO: We are currently able
11 to handle the amount of inmates in custody.
12 The lead time for these grinders is four to
13 six weeks. We are hopeful that we can
14 maintain the population for the next four to
15 six weeks and get the grinders installed.

16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: And if
17 another one of these systems goes down in that
18 next four to six weeks are we facing a
19 situation where we may very well have to
20 transfer inmates to other jurisdictions to
21 house?

22 MR. GOLIO: I think we're facing
23 a situation where we have to look at housing
24 and maximize every possible space that we have
25 inside the facility. It's a little premature

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2 to say we have to move people out.

3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone
5 else? Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
7 just have a quick question. I heard that
8 they're finding clothes or bedding or
9 something in -- this is a lovely conversation
10 before lunch -- in the grinders. Do you know
11 where that is coming from? Is it something
12 through the laundry system or is it
13 intentionally being done?

14 MR. GOLIO: The grinders process
15 the sewage that comes out through the
16 wastewater from the inmates' cells. There are
17 times and there are occasions where inmates
18 are flushing things down the toilets that are
19 causing the grinders to fail.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It's
21 nothing through the laundry system that we
22 can, correct?

23 MR. GOLIO: It's not the laundry
24 system. It's the acts of the inmates,
25 correct.

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2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
3 understand that the inspector general also
4 looked at this contract and didn't have any
5 issues that we were made aware of?

6 MR. GOLIO: My understanding
7 that's correct.

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
9 know she's here. Just for the record.

10 MS. FRANZESE: Yes. Jodi
11 Franzese, inspector general, Nassau County.
12 Yes, that is correct Legislature
13 DeRiggi-Whitton. We did conduct a review and
14 we found no reportable results.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
16 Thank you. And it's good to have you at these
17 meetings. It's reassuring.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
19 questions? Anyone on remote? Thank you
20 captain. All in favor signify by saying aye.
21 Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

22 Motion by Legislator Bynoe to
23 adjourn. Seconded by Legislator
24 DeRiggi-Whitton. All in favor of adjourning
25 signify by saying aye. Those opposed? We are

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2 adjourned.

3 (Committee was adjourned at 2:00

4 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 eighth day of
November 2020

FRANK GRAY