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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO  
PRESIDING OFFICER

FINANCE COMMITTEE

LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL  
CHAIR

Theodore Roosevelt Building  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

April 12, 2021

4:48 P.M.

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

LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL  
Chair

LEGISLATOR VINCENT MUSCARELLA  
Vice Chair

LEGISLATOR TOM MCKEVITT

LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM  
Ranking member

LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

1 Finance 4-12-21

2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: At this time I  
3 will call the Finance Committee to order.

4 Would you call the roll.

5 MR. PULITZER: Shall I call the  
6 roll?

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Mr. Pulitzer  
8 thank you so much.

9 MR. PULITZER: Finance Committee  
10 roll call. Legislator Joshua Lafazan.

11 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold  
13 Drucker.

14 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: Ranking Member  
16 Ellen Birnbaum.

17 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

18 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose  
19 Marie Walker.

20 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Thomas  
22 McKevitt.

23 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

24 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman  
25 Vincent Muscarella.

1 Finance 4-12-21

2 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

3 MR. PULITZER: Chairman Howard  
4 Kopel.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

6 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum  
7 sir.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you  
9 sir. We've got a number of consent items. In  
10 that connection first we're going to -- since  
11 one of these items is on the addendum I'm  
12 going to call for a motion to suspend the  
13 rules. That's made by Mr. McKevitt and  
14 seconded by Ms. Birnbaum. All those in favor  
15 of suspending the rules please say aye. Any  
16 opposed? That item passes unanimously and the  
17 rules are suspended.

18 I'm now going to call a number of  
19 items for which there is consent from the  
20 Majority and Minority. No further debate is  
21 necessary since they have already been agreed  
22 to and have gone through some other previous  
23 committees for the most part.

24 Those items are 97, 99, 113, 114,  
25 115, 116, 132, 133, 134, 135. And on the

1 Finance 4-12-21  
2 addendum we have number 147. And  
3 Mr. Muscarella moves those items and that's  
4 seconded by Mr. Drucker. All those in favor  
5 of moving those items please indicate by  
6 saying aye. Any opposed? Those items pass  
7 unanimously. Thank you.

8 Now we have item number 98, which  
9 is a resolution to a transfer of  
10 appropriations and that item is moved by  
11 Mr. McKeivitt and seconded by Mr. Drucker. Do  
12 we have anybody on 98 from the administration.

13 MR. PAINTER: Jed Painter for the  
14 Office of the District Attorney. This just  
15 appears to be a transfer to allow some  
16 expenditures into our equipment budgets and  
17 contract budgets from our -- any questions?

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: How much?

19 MR. PAINTER: \$51,000.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any  
21 questions? Hearing none, all those in favor?

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Where is it  
23 coming from and being transferred from?

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Equipment to  
25 contracts I think.

1 Finance 4-12-21

2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Equipment?

3 MR. PAINTER: It's grant money.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I'm sorry.

5 This is grant money?

6 MR. PAINTER: This is grant  
7 money. It's a budget transfer for the OVS  
8 grant. It allows us to fully utilize the  
9 grant funding for the grant year that ended on  
10 9-30.

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Does the terms  
12 of the grant allow the transfer?

13 MR. PAINTER: Yes.

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any other  
15 questions? Hearing none, all those in favor  
16 please indicate by saying aye. Any opposed?  
17 The item passes unanimously.

18 MR. PAINTER: Thank you.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Another  
20 transfer is 109 and that item is moved by  
21 Ms. Walker. Seconded by Ms. Birnbaum.

22 MS. LAURAIN: Mary Ellen Laurain,  
23 Department of Health. This is a board  
24 transfer in the amendment of \$8,502. It has  
25 no impact on the budget. It's to maximize a

1 Finance 4-12-21  
2 New York State grant-funded program.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any  
4 questions? Hearing none, all those in favor  
5 please indicate by saying aye. Any opposed?  
6 That item passes unanimously.

7 Number 110 is a resolution  
8 authorizing the county executive to execute a  
9 grant agreement between Parks and the African  
10 Atlantic Genealogical Society.

11 That item is moved by  
12 Mr. McKevitt. Seconded by Mr. Lafazan.

13 MS. KASO: Victoria Kaso,  
14 Department of Parks. 110 is a hotel-motel tax  
15 grant for the African Atlantic Genealogical  
16 Society for the ongoing programing and  
17 operation of the African-American Museum in  
18 the amount of \$100,000.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any  
20 questions? All those in favor please indicate  
21 by saying aye. Any opposed? Do you have any  
22 other items?

23 MS. KASO: 103.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: 103 is a  
25 resolution authorizing a grant agreement

1 Finance 4-12-21  
2 between Parks and Cradle of Aviation. That  
3 item is moved by Ms. Walker. Seconded by  
4 Mr. Muscarella.

5 MS. KASO: This is a hotel-motel  
6 tax grant with the museum at Mitchel in the  
7 amount of \$600,000 for programing and  
8 operation of Cradle of Aviation.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any  
10 questions? All those in favor please indicate  
11 by saying aye. Any opposed? That item is  
12 unanimous. Thank you.

13 Number 111 is an ordinance to adopt  
14 the capital plan for the four-year capital  
15 plan to commence on January 1, 2019. That's  
16 an amendment to that capital plan. It is  
17 moved by Mr. Muscarella. Seconded by Mr.  
18 Drucker.

19 MR. ARNOLD: Ken Arnold, Public  
20 Works. Item 111 and 112 work hand and hand.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Let me call  
22 112 as well then. 112 is another authorizing  
23 a capital expenditure and authorizing \$49  
24 million of bonds. \$49,200,606 of bonds. And  
25 that item is moved by Ms. Birnbaum and



1 Finance 4-12-21

2 seconded by Ms. Walker. Go on on both of  
3 those please.

4 MR. ARNOLD: Thank you  
5 Legislator. So, item 111 is the capital  
6 budget amendment for 2019 for various projects  
7 that are associated with the GOSA work that I  
8 previously was in front of this body talking  
9 about contracts earlier today and also  
10 recently bid contracts. So, I had to put bond  
11 ordinance, which is item 112, to award these  
12 so we can start these projects this summer and  
13 into the fall.

14 The GOSA projects I listed there  
15 were six of them. But, in addition, the  
16 department has bid Centennial Park, the  
17 Bellmore Avenue streetscape rehabilitation  
18 project. We have road resurfacing that we're  
19 bidding. We have -- what's the other one?  
20 The Manorhaven project. So to have the  
21 ordinance award those contracts we need this  
22 action today.

23 In addition, the ambulance fleet  
24 we're doing some retrofits of ambulances. We  
25 need additional capital funding. And we're

1 Finance 4-12-21

2 also looking to add funding for our various  
3 county facilities' fire alarms and security  
4 systems. We have some issues in some  
5 buildings that need immediate attention for  
6 PSH violations.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Got it. Any  
8 questions? All those in favor of 111 and 112  
9 please indicate by saying aye. Any opposed?  
10 Those items are unanimous.

11 Ken, do you have anymore with us on  
12 this agenda? No.

13 Item 117 is a transfer of  
14 appropriations. That is moved by Ms. Walker  
15 and seconded by Mr. Muscarella.

16 MR. FIELD: Good afternoon.  
17 William Field deputy inspector with the police  
18 department. Item 117-21 is a board transfer  
19 transferring \$925 from the AA to AB lines,  
20 salary and wages to fringe.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: How much was  
22 it?

23 MR. FIELD: \$925. This is part  
24 of the State Law Enforcement Terrorism  
25 Prevention grant. This transfer is needed to

1 Finance 4-12-21

2 due to an increase in fringe funding from what  
3 was originally budgeted in 2017.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Have you  
5 anymore on the agenda?

6 MR. FIELD: Yes.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Which one is  
8 that?

9 MR. FIELD: 118.

10 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: 118 is another  
11 board transfer, and that is moved by  
12 Ms. Birnbaum and seconded by Ms. Muscarella.  
13 Go on please.

14 MR. FIELD: Item 118-21 is a  
15 board transfer. This item is going to move  
16 \$479,959.64 from the DE lines to our equipment  
17 lines. The item is for the interoperatable  
18 communications grant and it's going to be  
19 needed for purchasing subscriber equipment.  
20 It's portable and hand-held radios.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Does the terms  
22 of the grant allow this transfer?

23 MR. FIELD: Yes sir.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any questions  
25 on this? On either 117 or 118? Hearing none,

1 Finance 4-12-21

2 all those in favor please say aye. Any  
3 opposed? Those items are unanimous. Thank  
4 you.

5 113 is another transfer of  
6 appropriations. I'm sorry. Did I say 113?  
7 131. Thank you.

8 MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon.  
9 Andy Persich, Office of Management and  
10 Budget. This is a quarterly transfer to amend  
11 the 2021 operating budget. It has a variety  
12 of things on there from transfers from the  
13 Board of Elections, to the district attorney  
14 and the county clerk, moving funds around in  
15 the police department for changes of  
16 operations for the ambulance fleet. Also  
17 funding the mental health part of the  
18 component of police reform. In addition to  
19 some other small transfers as needed.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I thought I  
21 did a motion. That item is moved by  
22 Mr. McKevitt and seconded by Ms. Birnbaum. Do  
23 you have anymore?

24 MR. PERSICH: I have one more,  
25 yes. 139.

1 Finance 4-12-21

2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: We will vote  
3 on that one. 131 all those in favor? Any  
4 opposed? 131 is unanimous. Go on. Which  
5 one?

6 MR. PERSICH: 139. It's on the  
7 addendum.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: 139 is another  
9 supplemental to the annual appropriations, and  
10 that is moved by Mr. Lafazan and seconded by  
11 Mr. Muscarella. Yes, 139.

12 MR. PERSICH: This item is to  
13 close the books out for 2020. It's the annual  
14 year end board transfer, slash, supplemental  
15 appropriation closing the books and records  
16 out so we can get the CAFR out. The  
17 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report out.  
18 This is just a procedural thing that we do  
19 annually. The numbers are all over the  
20 place. It's just a procedural item that  
21 happens. I'm here to answer any questions if  
22 you need me.

23 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any  
24 questions? All those in favor of 139 please  
25 say aye. Any opposed? Thank you. 139 is

1 Finance 4-12-21

2 unanimous.

3 We might as well finish off these  
4 budget appropriations. 145 is a transfer of  
5 appropriations, and that motion is made by Mr.  
6 McKevitt. Seconded by Mr. Drucker. I thought  
7 I asked you before if you had any others.

8 MR. FIELD: Yes. My apologies  
9 sir. They were on the addendum. Item 145-21,  
10 this is a board transfer from the police  
11 department's asset forfeiture unit. We're  
12 trying to move funds from our salary to our  
13 general expense line to assist in covering  
14 programs that are allowable under the  
15 forfeiture program.

16 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.  
17 Any questions? All those in favor please say  
18 aye. Any opposed? 145 is unanimous.

19 146 yours?

20 MR. FIELD: Yes sir.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Wait. That  
22 motion on 146 is made by Mr. McKevitt.  
23 Seconded by Ms. Birnbaum. Go on.

24 MR. FIELD: 146-21, this is a  
25 board transfer in the amount of \$50,000 from

1 Finance 4-12-21

2 the police department's asset forfeiture under  
3 the state monies 13A fund. It's salary into  
4 the contractual services line to assist with  
5 allowable programs under federal forfeiture  
6 guidelines.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: All those in  
8 favor of 146 please say aye. Any opposed?  
9 146 is unanimous. Thank you.

10 Now we've got tax exemption  
11 extension agreements and that's number 136 and  
12 137. Those items are moved by Mr. McKevitt  
13 and seconded by Ms. Walker.

14 MR. HOMMEL: Ted Hommel, county  
15 attorney's office. Both of these items are  
16 extensions of existing tax exemptions and  
17 PILOT agreements. I believe the counsel for  
18 the developer is available if you have any  
19 questions. Both extensions are pursuant to  
20 the Private Housing Finance law.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: These are both  
22 for senior citizen residences?

23 MR. HOMMEL: Senior affordable  
24 housing.

25 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Anyone have

1 Finance 4-12-21  
2 any questions? Hearing none, all those in  
3 favor of 136 and 137 please so indicate by  
4 saying aye. Any opposed? Thank you. Is 149  
5 yours? No.

6 141 is an ordinance amending  
7 Section 3.3 of Ordinance 543 of '95 with  
8 respect to childcare leave for noncontract  
9 employees of the district attorney's office.

10 Motion is made by Mr. Drucker.  
11 Seconded by Mr. McKevitt.

12 MR. PAINTER: Good afternoon.  
13 Jed Painter again from the DA's office. I  
14 presented on this a couple of times to this  
15 body. I thank everybody for their attention  
16 to those presentations. I also appreciate the  
17 follow-up inquiries I got from both sides of  
18 the legislature asking for copies of the  
19 proposal.

20 It was reviewed I believe at this  
21 point by -- iterations of this proposal were  
22 now reviewed by your office as well as the  
23 county executive, the county attorney and  
24 because of the interest in it it has been  
25 scored by either and both the legislative



1 Finance 4-12-21

2 budget review as well as OMB with limited  
3 fiscal impact. I would heartily recommend  
4 advancing it.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Does anyone  
6 have any questions on this item? Yes,  
7 Ms. Birnbaum.

8 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I know  
9 we've heard in the past how difficult it was  
10 attracting new assistant DAs because of the  
11 lack of this provision. So, when does it go  
12 into effect if passed today?

13 MR. PAINTER: Once passed and  
14 enacted it would be effective immediately.

15 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Are you  
16 still having a problem filling positions?

17 MR. PAINTER: Absolutely.  
18 Recruitment has become a full-time effort for  
19 cultivating as young as high school now. Make  
20 sure we have a pathway up.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Anyone else?  
22 Hearing none, all those in favor of this  
23 item. Sorry. Ms. Walker.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: If you,  
25 hopefully when this is passed and moved

1 Finance 4-12-21  
2 forward, if you could just keep us abreast of  
3 the fact that hopefully we are attracting  
4 additional employees that this has been  
5 helpful to fill some vacancies that we  
6 couldn't get because they were going elsewhere  
7 that did offer this.

8 MR. PAINTER: Absolutely. I can  
9 tell you anecdotally thus far this year two  
10 lateral applicants declined specifically  
11 because of a lack of this. Hopefully no news  
12 will be good news.

13 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Anyone else?  
14 Hearing none, all those in favor of this item,  
15 141, please indicate by saying aye. Any  
16 opposed? That item is unanimous.

17 149 is a resolution authorizing the  
18 county assessor and treasurer and receiver of  
19 taxes to partially exempt certain real  
20 properties.

21 That item is moved by  
22 Ms. Birnbaum. Seconded by Mr. Muscarella.

23 MR. MILES: Deputy Assessor  
24 Robert Miles. These are your run-of-the-mill  
25 correction of error petitions for tax years

1 Finance 4-12-21

2 '19-20 and '20-21. The total cost of the  
3 nine petitions is \$29,000.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Do we have any  
5 questions on this item? All in favor of this  
6 item, 149, please say aye. Any opposed? That  
7 item is unanimous.

8 Items 100 and 101. 100 is a  
9 resolution to settle a claim in the matter of  
10 judicial resolution of Friends for Long Island  
11 Heritage.

12 And 101 is to settle a claim of the  
13 Grammercy Group versus the County of Nassau.

14 Those items are both moved by Mr.  
15 Muscarella and seconded by Mr. Drucker. I  
16 will now take a motion to go into executive  
17 committee on those two items. That motion is  
18 made by Ms. Walker and seconded by  
19 Mr. McKevitt. All those in favor of going  
20 into executive session say aye. Any opposed?  
21 We are now going into executive session to  
22 which I invite the members of the Rules  
23 Committee as well.

24 (Committee recessed at 5:09 p.m.)

25 (Committee reconvened at 5:40 p.m.)

1 Finance 4-12-21

2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: We are back on  
3 record. On number 100 of '21 a motion is made  
4 by Ms. Walker to table and seconded by  
5 Mr. Drucker. All those in favor of tabling  
6 number 100 indicate by saying aye. Any  
7 opposed? That item is tabled.

8 Number 101, all those in favor of  
9 item 101 please so indicate by saying aye.  
10 Any opposed? That item is passed  
11 unanimously.

12 Mr. Lafazan moves to adjourn.  
13 Mr. Muscarella seconds. All those in favor of  
14 adjourning indicate by saying aye. Any  
15 opposed? We're done and Rules is back.

16 (Committee adjourned at 5:41 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 20th day of  
April 2021

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FRANK GRAY