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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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RICHARD NICOLELLO

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PRESIDING OFFICER

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RULES COMMITTEE

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LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO

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CHAIR

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Theodore Roosevelt Building

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1550 Franklin Avenue

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Mineola, New York

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Monday, October 25, 2021

23

2:37 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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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Start with
3 the Rules Committee. We are going to call the
4 Rules Committee to order. Mike, do you want
5 to call the roll?

6 MR. PULITZER: Thank you
7 Presiding Officer. Rules Committee roll
8 call. Legislator Siela Bynoe.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

10 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia
11 DeRiggi-Whitton.

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
13 Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Ranking Member
15 Kevan Abrahams.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
18 Schaefer.

19 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

20 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven
21 Rhoads.

22 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

23 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman
24 Howard Kopel.

25 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Chairman Richard
3 Nicolello.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

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

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
8 you. We have a number of contracts on the
9 calendar and an addendum to cover today. The
10 main items on the main agenda E-146, E-147,
11 E-148, E-149, E-151, U-4 and U-5 of 2021.
12 These are resolutions authorizing the county
13 executive to execute personal service
14 agreements or amendments to personal service
15 agreements between the county and the City of
16 Long Beach, the Incorporated Village of Old
17 Westbury, Village of Garden City, Avenue
18 Enterprise Solutions, Cameron Engineering and
19 Associates, Incorporated Village of Lake
20 Success, the Village of Floral Park.

21 Motion by Minority Leader
22 Abrahams. Seconded by Deputy Presiding
23 Officer Kopel. Those items are before the
24 Rules Committee. Need a motion to table
25 E-151 of 2021 with respect to Cameron

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2 Engineering as the inspector general has not
3 yet completed her investigation. Motion by
4 Legislator Bynoe. Seconded by Legislator
5 Rhoads. All in favor of tabling E-151 signify
6 by saying aye. Those opposed? That item is
7 tabled.

8 I'm going to call the county
9 clerk's item first since there is only one
10 item there. E-149 of 2021. Anyone from the
11 county clerk's office?

12 MR. BUTLER: Good afternoon.
13 John Butler, fiscal officer for Nassau County
14 Clerk Maureen O'Connell's office.

15 Item E-149-21 is a contract for
16 software that runs the electronic document
17 management system at our office. An RFP was
18 posted on the county's procure website on
19 10-26-20. 349 potential proposers were
20 notified of this posting of which 49
21 downloaded it and three proposals were
22 received by our office. The Avenu was
23 selected by our evaluation committee after two
24 rounds of scoring. Some delays occurred when
25 negotiating the contract terms with this

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2 vendor, in addition to our office needing a
3 board transfer of funds in order to post it.

4 This contract is a revenue positive
5 for the county and our office was able to
6 negotiate improved terms with the vendor
7 whereby by 100 percent of all online revenue
8 generated goes to the county and the previous
9 revenue share was a 90-10 split. Annual
10 recurring revenue is approximately a million
11 dollars a year to the county's bottom line.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: What does
13 the vendor do?

14 MR. BUTLER: The vendor has the
15 license for the software that operates the --
16 basically everything in our office to be --
17 the documents to be electronic.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So, first of
19 all, how is this revenue positive?

20 MR. BUTLER: There's a website,
21 US Land Records dot com, where people have the
22 ability to go to and they can get deeds or
23 mortgage information from the site. There are
24 fees that are charged there that the county
25 earns 100 percent on.

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2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: And you don't
3 download for free?

4 MR. BUTLER: I'm sorry?

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: The downloads
6 are not free.

7 MR. BUTLER: They're not free.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Aren't they
9 free pretty much everywhere else?

10 MR. BUTLER: I don't believe so.
11 If your intent is to print them there's a
12 certain convenience fee that charged. I
13 believe it's 65 cents.

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Per document?
15 Per page?

16 MR. BUTLER: Per page.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Sounds a
18 little bit high. Sounds also a little bit
19 unusual.

20 MR. BUTLER: Unusual? I think
21 it's cutting edge.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: We've got
23 software now that does it. Do we charge now?

24 MR. BUTLER: If they want to come
25 to our office --

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2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: No. I mean
3 the current system where you go online and
4 print things.

5 MR. BUTLER: If you were to
6 download and want to print certain things
7 there will be fees associated with them yes.
8 And those fees are actually something aside
9 from the website. They come to our office
10 those fees are generally mandated by the state
11 or county.

12 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: How is this
13 new software different than whatever you're
14 now?

15 MR. BUTLER: It's the same
16 vendor. The software is the same. It's a new
17 contract with that vendor.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Essentially
19 it's maintenance then?

20 MR. BUTLER: Pretty much.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: How were you
22 able to bid it out if it's --

23 MR. BUTLER: We did an RFP.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: An RFP for
25 different systems.

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2 MR. BUTLER: I'm sorry?

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: The RFP would
4 have been for different systems altogether?

5 MR. BUTLER: No. It's for the
6 same system that was in place. The terms of
7 the old contract were improved with this new
8 contract.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I'm saying if
10 you would have had another vendor would you
11 not have had to change systems?

12 MR. BUTLER: We would have had to
13 change systems, yes.

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
16 DeRiggi-Whitton.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
18 know that there have been some issues with
19 fraud, possible fraud around the deeds. Do
20 you know if this addresses any of those
21 issues?

22 MR. BUTLER: It does. One of the
23 software enhancements was actually implemented
24 during the old contract. It was a property
25 fraud system that we have in here as well. So

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2 this vendor does have specific software to
3 address that.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

5 Thank you.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
7 questions? Thank you John. The next
8 contracts are with public works.

9 MR. ARNOLD: Ken Arnold, Public
10 Works. E-146, 147, and 148 are traffic safety
11 contracts for the crackdown grants associated
12 with DWI. They are with the villages of Long
13 Beach, Old Westbury and Garden City
14 respectively.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
16 questions on these three contracts? No? Go
17 to the other two.

18 MR. ARNOLD: U-4 and U-5 are also
19 contracts on DWI. U-4 is with Lake Success.
20 That is also a crackdown grant. And U-5 is
21 the Floral Park DWI multiyear grant for the
22 same program but not crackdown. Just their
23 normal program.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
25 questions for Mr. Arnold? Thank you. Any

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2 public comment on these contracts?

3 MS. MEREDAY: My questions again
4 have to do with the fact that in this day and
5 time, 2021, and I'm still seeing some of the
6 same names with these contracts. We got
7 vendors that have licensing for software that
8 involves public and private information.
9 Where is the representation classification as
10 it pertains to this is a minority-owned
11 business, this is a veteran-owned business?
12 Where are the guarantees to people of color
13 who live in these communities? These small
14 businesses that are not getting any bids
15 here?

16 The current county executive brags
17 about the increase of number of registration
18 of minority women businesses listed on the
19 books. Being listed on the books and not
20 having a contract and not getting any
21 involvement with the supply and diversity is
22 not helping anybody to pay bills, to create
23 any jobs in these devastated communities.
24 Where, as my colleague and friend Pearl Jacobs
25 said, the roads are already jacked up. But we

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2 still have minority contractors who can fix
3 those roads if they can get involved in the
4 bid and get a contract.

5 When am I ever going to see in this
6 county, within this state that there is a
7 vendor who is a service disabled or minority
8 and women-owned business listed in these
9 documents that we spend so much money with
10 somebody to produce and to print? How many
11 ways, how many times, how many formats, how
12 many platforms?

13 People talk about inclusion and
14 diversity and equity but we're still missing
15 the boat. We have empty businesses along the
16 alleged main streets. Maybe it's not in Glen
17 Cove. Maybe it's not in Great Neck. But in
18 communities like the town I was born and
19 raised in, in Roosevelt, and proud to say that
20 I'm a Roosevelt Roughrider. In the town that
21 I live in now, Baldwin, we got more 7-11s that
22 are open than actual businesses.

23 Again, how many ways? I don't want
24 to distract anybody from going on your
25 Facebook page or answering a campaign promise

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2 or looking at a resume for another friend or
3 relative. Because if we did a family tree in
4 Nassau County, if we actually looked at the
5 in-laws and the out-laws. When Newsday is
6 actually going to investigate what is
7 happening with the COVID funding that was
8 supposed to be used for emergencies and
9 transport services that did not go to
10 veterans, did not go to seniors, did not go to
11 people of color. It's enough already. It is
12 enough.

13 Martin Luther King's famous
14 speech. How long? Not long. It's still too
15 long. And the time period is long enough.
16 When are we going to see anything different?
17 When? I'm asking. Is this county ever going
18 to implement and enforce the practices that we
19 stand up in front of that pledge. One nation
20 under God indivisible with liberty and justice
21 for all. When?

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:

23 Mr. McKenna.

24 MR. MCKENNA: Kevin McKenna, Edna
25 Drive, Syosset, New York.

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2 Meredith, don't worry. Town of
3 Oyster Bay News has about 12 investigative
4 reports going on right now and you will never
5 ever see this information in Newsday or News
6 12. I actually invited News 12 here today to
7 hear my statement. They told me that they
8 were coming and as you can see there's nobody
9 here from News 12 because they protect the
10 corrupt politicians. Both Newsday and News 12
11 protect the corrupt politicians. And Town of
12 Oyster Bay News, that has 15,600 followers
13 right now, that is being followed by Nassau
14 County widely -- I hear you guys are learning
15 a lot of information from me Mr. Nicolello but
16 you won't let me stand on the side where you
17 told me the press stands.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You need
19 to speak to the contracts that are at issue.
20 You making a statement.

21 MR. MCKENNA: As far as the
22 contract at issue with my two minutes left --

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Yes the
24 contracts at issue.

25 MR. MCKENNA: And this is a

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2 contractor issue. I stated before in my
3 statement and I cannot believe --

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: These are
5 contracts for DWI services with villages.

6 MR. MCKENNA: I cannot believe
7 that before with the statement I made I cannot
8 believe that not one of you legislators had a
9 question to any of my comments and my
10 statement. Hopefully, you're going to do
11 something to help the public corruption unit
12 investigate your illegal civil service
13 department.

14 As far as the contract, as I said
15 before, the Nassau County forfeiture fund is
16 giving out a lot of contracts.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: These are
18 DWI grants to villages sir.

19 MR. MCKENNA: I'm getting to
20 that.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I want you
22 to get to it now. Otherwise your comments are
23 out of order.

24 MR. MCKENNA: As far as minority
25 awarded contracts --

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: These are
3 contracts with villages for DWI.

4 MR. MCKENNA: You need to get
5 that asset forfeiture fund audited to see if
6 any minority contracts were given out from
7 Patrick Ryder's cell phone. Thank you very
8 much.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: All
10 right. All in favor of the contracts signify
11 by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries
12 unanimously.

13 We have one item on the addendum.
14 We need a motion to suspend the rules. Moved
15 by Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator
16 Schaefer. All in favor of suspending the
17 rules signify by saying aye. Those opposed?
18 Carries unanimously. Rules are suspended.

19 E-150 of 2021 is a resolution
20 authorizing the county executive to execute a
21 personal services agreement between the county
22 and Greenman Pedersen, Inc.

23 Moved by Legislator
24 DeRiggi-Whitton. Seconded by Legislator
25 Schaefer.

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2 MR. ARNOLD: Ken Arnold, Public
3 Works. This is a design contract for phase
4 ten traffic signal expansion. It's for
5 various locations throughout the county. We
6 have received three bids from design firms.
7 GP was the lowest responsible bid. They have
8 15 percent MWBE component to their contract.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Can you
10 tell me just a little bit about this? There's
11 a message board reference in here. Can you
12 tell me what that is?

13 MR. ARNOLD: The department put
14 out this RFP before we had the discussion on
15 the message board issue. So it's a legacy
16 item. We will take that to the consultant and
17 there will be no message boards unless we come
18 back to this body and discuss it. But it is
19 included as part of the design service and our
20 intention is not to put these in. If
21 something comes up that we feel like there's
22 really an obligation to discuss it with you
23 we'll do that beforehand.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I
25 appreciate that. Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

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2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Do
3 you mind just mentioning what areas this
4 entails, this contract?

5 MR. ARNOLD: Sure. It's Forest
6 Avenue, Glen Cove, Glen Cove Avenue, Franklin
7 Avenue, Valley Stream Malverne, Willis and
8 Mineola Avenues, New Hyde Park Road and
9 Franklin Avenue in Valley Stream and Franklin
10 Square.

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
12 Thank you.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
14 further debate or discussion? Any public
15 comment on this specific item? Hearing none,
16 all in favor signify by saying aye. Those
17 opposed? Carries unanimously. Contracts have
18 been adopted.

19 Make a motion to adjourn. Moved by
20 Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator
21 Schaefer. All in favor of adjourning signify
22 by saying aye. We are adjourned.

23 (Committee adjourned at 2:54 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 1st day of
November, 2021.

FRANK GRAY