

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Committees MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO

PRESIDING OFFICER

FINANCE COMMITTEE

HOWARD KOPEL

CHAIRMAN

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, October 3, 2022

2:51 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL CHAIRMAN
LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY ACTING VICE CHAIR
LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT
LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER
LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER RANKING MEMBER
LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES
LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZA

A L S O A P P E A R E D :

ANDY PERSICH, OMB

CHRIS NOLAN, OMB

ANN DESIMONE, HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COMMISSIONER BELYEA, PARKS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

JOHN GROSS, ESQ. NCC OUTSIDE COUNSEL

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3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Mike, I think
4 we're ready. Thanks.

5 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,
6 Chairman. Finance Committee roll call.
7 Legislator Joshua Lafazan.

8 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

9 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
10 Carrie A. Solages.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

12 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
13 Arnold Drucker.

14 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

15 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rosemary
16 Walker.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

18 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Thomas
19 McKevitt.

20 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

21 CLERK PULITZER: Substituting for
22 Vice Chairman John Ferretti, will be
23 Legislator James Kennedy.

24 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Chairman Howard

1
2 Kopel.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

4 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you. We have
5 a quorum.

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.

7 First we're going to take a motion
8 to suspend the Rules. Legislator Kennedy
9 makes that motion, seconded by Legislator
10 Drucker. All those in favor of suspending
11 the Rules, please say aye.

12 (Whereupon, all members of
13 the Finance Committee respond
14 in favor with aye.)

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: All right. The
16 Rules will be suspended.

17 Next we are going to deal with a few
18 items on Consent, which have already
19 passed through some previous committees
20 and need no further discussion. Those
21 items will be: 304, 319, 320; I believe
22 that's it. There's a motion on those
23 items by Ms. Walker and seconded by Mr.
24 Lafazan. All those in favor of those
25 items please so indicate by saying aye.

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2 (Whereupon, all members of
3 the Finance Committee respond
4 in favor with aye.)

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any opposed?

6 (Whereupon, no verbal
7 response.)

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Those items are
9 passed unanimously. Thank you.

10 Next, we're going to go to Item 305.
11 That's a transfer of appropriations. Andy
12 is that you? While you're up there, why
13 don't you do all your items please.

14 MR. PERSICH: Hi, Andy Persich. I'm
15 going to turn this over to Chris Nolan.

16 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I know. Why
17 don't you tell me all your items so I can
18 do the motion on all of them at once.

19 MR. PERSICH: I have Item 321 and
20 325.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So it's 305, 321
22 and 325 you say?

23 MR. PERSICH: That's correct.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. Those
25 three items, there's a motion by Mr.

1
2 McKevitt and seconded by Mr. Solages. Go
3 ahead, please.

4 MR. PERSICH: Item 305, I'm going to
5 turn over to my colleague, Chris Nolan,
6 it's the transfer of ARPA funds to
7 different programs. I'm going to turn it
8 over to him for an explanation.

9 MR. NOLAN: Good afternoon, Chris
10 Nolan, Office of Management and Budget.

11 As Andy mentioned, this item is
12 transferring some of the remaining
13 dollars that are left in the HAP Program;
14 \$20,140,000 to be exact. It's going to a
15 number of different programs, I believe
16 it's eight programs. Five of which have
17 already been established and three of
18 which are new.

19 Just to give you a highlight of the
20 funding that's being moved:

21 - \$10 million is being moved into
22 the Main Street Grant Program. There's
23 an existing \$20 million in there now, so
24 it will bring it up to 30;

25 - We're moving \$2 million into the

Septic System Replacement Fund Program;

- \$2 million to the Behavioral Help
Support;

- \$1.5 to VEEB,

- \$1.4 to Tourism;.

Then there are three new programs:

- \$1 million Broadband;.

- \$1 million Nonpublic schools
assistance; and

- \$1.24 million for two offices
within Health and Human Services
vertical.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Anybody have any
question on that item?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Hearing none, all
those in favor of Item 305, please aye.

(Whereupon, all members of
the Finance Committee respond
in favor with aye.)

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

1
2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. Next.

3 MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon, Andy
4 Persich, Office of Management and Budget.
5 I have two other items on the calendar;
6 321-22, which is for \$1.224 million for
7 Legal Aide. It's just the distribution of
8 old monies that we received from ILS from
9 the State of New York.

10 And Item 325, which is an
11 appropriation of \$376,858, which is
12 exactly the same thing. We are
13 reappropriating funds for distribution
14 that's been given to us by the Department
15 of Indigent Legal Aide Services.

16 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any questions on
17 either of those?

18 (Whereupon, no verbal
19 response.)

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Hearing none, all
21 those in favor please say aye.

22 (Whereupon, all members of
23 the Finance Committee respond
24 in favor with aye.)

25 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. Thank you.

We have a number of budget items.

We're going to have, as you all know, a
full budget hearing -- a series of budget
hearings, so what we've proposed to do is
simply tee those items up for the Full
Legislature. I'll call them all
together:

- 306, which is budgets for various
funds;

- 307, which is, again a number of
different funds;

- 308, 309 and I believe that's it.
Motion on those items is made by Ms.
Walker and seconded by Mr. Drucker. All
those in favor of teeing up those items,
please so indicate by saying aye.

(Whereupon, all members of
the Finance Committee respond
in favor.)

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal

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2 response.)

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. Those
4 items are passed unanimously.

5 We're up to 324, which is a transfer
6 of appropriates. There's a motion by Mr.
7 Kennedy and seconded by Mr. Drucker.

8 MS. DESIMONE: Ann DeSimone, Health
9 Department, Item 324-22, maximizes grant
10 funding by completing two board
11 transfers. First one is for Early
12 Intervention, \$3,500; Savings and Fringe
13 move to salary. Second is for the
14 Adolescent Tobacco Program Grant in the
15 amount of \$700; Savings and Fringe is
16 moving to salary.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Anybody have any
18 questions?

19 (Whereupon, no verbal
20 response.)

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: All those in
22 favor of 324, please so indicate by
23 saying aye.

24 (Whereupon, all members of
25 the Finance Committee respond

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2 in favor.)

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any opposed?

4 (Whereupon, no verbal
5 response.)

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: That item is
7 unanimous.

8 On the Addendum, 332, which is a
9 grant agreement with Parks and the
10 Friends of Cedarmere. On that, we have a
11 motion by Mr. Solage and seconded by Mr.
12 McKevitt.

13 COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Good afternoon
14 again, Darcey Belyea, Parks Commissioner.
15 This one has been in queue for a while.
16 It's a Hotel/Motel Tax Grant Agreement
17 between Nassau County and Friends of
18 Cedarmere, Inc., a not-for-profit based
19 out of Cedarmere, the William Cullen
20 Bryan Home in Roslyn Harbor. The term of
21 this agreement is from July 1, 2022,
22 terminating on June 30, 2023. It
23 provides a one time grant payment of
24 \$95,000 from the Hotel/Motel Tax Grant
25 Fund, which will allow the grantee to

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2 continue operating Cedarmere, as well as
3 provide program support and in to aide in
4 the restoration and preservation of this
5 historic property while promoting public
6 use.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: This one again is
8 late, right? You said this started July?

9 COMMISSIONER BELYEA: July 1st,
10 2022. This was actually in queue before I
11 started working for the County and we
12 just kinda got through the process.

13 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Got it. Any
14 questions on 332?

15 (Whereupon, no verbal
16 response.)

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Hearing none.
18 All those in favor, please say aye.

19 (Whereupon all members of
20 the Finance Committee respond
21 in favor with aye.)

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any opposed?

23 (Whereupon, no verbal
24 response.)

25 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: That's unanimous.

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2 Item 336, supplemental for
3 appropriations in certain department
4 budgets. That motion is made by Ms.
5 Walker and seconded by Mr. Lafazan.

6 MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon, Andy
7 Persich, Management and Budget. Sorry, I
8 thought I was done. I forgot about the
9 addendum, Legislator.

10 So 336 is a quarterly transfer of
11 budget appropriations in the Operating
12 Budget. It's taking money from different
13 areas to fund certain shortfalls we're
14 having. We're having a little shortage
15 in Worker's Comp in Police District.
16 Some fringe benefit shortage there from a
17 result of not having contracts. The
18 Department of Social Services is moving
19 money around in different control centers
20 for different reasons. We're moving some
21 money into the Correctional facility for
22 food pricing. The other big thing is
23 we're transferring money into the Board
24 of Elections for upcoming elections, they
25 needed additional funds for postage and

1
2 general expenses and everything else.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. Any
4 questions?

5 (Whereupon, no verbal
6 response.)

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: All those in
8 favor, please say aye.

9 (Whereupon all members of
10 the Finance Committee respond
11 in favor with aye.)

12 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any opposed?

13 (Whereupon, no verbal
14 response.)

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Number 337 is
16 supplemental in connection with the Board
17 of Elections.

18 MR. PERSICH: I'll take it on behalf
19 of them. This is a supplement of
20 appropriations for money given to the
21 State for prepaid postage in the amount
22 of \$284,556.52. It's just to help with
23 the absentee ballot postages that will be
24 coming from the upcoming elections.

25 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any questions?

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2 (Whereupon, no verbal
3 response.)

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: All those in
5 favor, please say aye.

6 (Whereupon all members of
7 the Finance Committee respond
8 in favor with aye.)

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any opposed?

10 (Whereupon, no verbal
11 response.)

12 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: That's unanimous.
13 Okay.

14 Before I call the remaining items,
15 which are going to require Executive
16 Session, we had one slip here for a
17 comment on a budget item in connection
18 the Nassau Community College.

19 As I said, we're going to have a
20 hearing on all those items, but Mr. John
21 Gross, would you like to speak or do you
22 want to do it at the hearing. It's your
23 pleasure. You can have three minutes now
24 and another three minutes then, if you'd
25 like.

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2 MR. GROSS: I'm outside Labor
3 Counsel to Nassau Community College. I'm
4 here today to support and urge your
5 approval for the County Legislature to
6 ratify a settlement with the Adjunct
7 Faculty Association. You may be aware
8 that the Adjunct Faculty Association
9 numbers about 3500 professors; any where
10 from 1000-1500 teach semester.

11 The College, and everybody, went
12 through a very difficult time with Covid
13 and the Adjunct Faculty Association
14 certainly worked very hard to pivot from
15 a live presentation of course materials
16 to a remote modality.

17 The negotiations this year focused
18 essentially on money. I'm sure you're
19 aware of what's going on in the country
20 in terms of inflationary pressures. The
21 College decided to focus on a one year
22 contract. The Adjunct Faculty
23 Association does not receive step
24 increments like a lot of the contracts
25 I'm sure you see in the County. The

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2 agreement reached was 1.9 across the
3 board. Because of all the efforts they
4 made during the Covid crisis, the College
5 agree to \$150-160, depending upon the
6 ranking of the particular professor, one
7 time cash payment, not to base salary, in
8 recognition for all the efforts they made
9 during the Covid crisis. The only other
10 aspect of the agreement is an agreement
11 to SUNY, which of course has very large
12 regulatory footprint on the college, has
13 permitted a continued utilization of
14 remote instruction and we have agreed
15 that will continue for a year and the
16 professor in contrast to full time
17 faculty can do that from home, doesn't
18 have to be present. That is also in
19 recognition of the student body that has
20 become very used to this type of course
21 presentation. That sunsets in one year.
22 We anticipate that SUNY may change it's
23 position. The cost of this is fully
24 subsumed within the College Budget.
25 There's no impact on the County Budget.

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2 Of course, during the process of
3 negotiations, I was in constant contact
4 with Peter Bee, who is the County's
5 outside counsel and as joint employers
6 with the County of Nassau, I'm here today
7 to urge your approval.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.

9 Okay. Now, I'm going to call all the
10 remaining items together. These items
11 are all for litigation settlements and
12 will require Executive Session. Those
13 are: 317, 318, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330,
14 333 of '22. Motion by Mr. Kennedy,
15 seconded by Mr. Lafazan.

16 Now I will take a motion for
17 Executive Session. That's made by Ms.
18 Walker and seconded by Mr. McKevitt. All
19 those in favor of going into Executive
20 Session, please say aye.

21 (Whereupon all members of
22 the Finance Committee respond
23 in favor with aye.)

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any opposed?

25 (Whereupon, no verbal

response.)

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: The members of the Rules Committee are invited to join us in our Executive Session.

(Whereupon, Finance Committee and Rules Committee enter into Executive Session, 3:06 p.m.)

(Whereupon, Executive session resumes, 3:32 p.m.)

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. We're back. We've had our Executive Session and we're going to vote on Items 317, 318, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330 and 333. All those in favor, please so indicate by saying aye.

(Whereupon all members of the Finance Committee respond in favor with aye.)

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal response.)

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Those items all pass unanimously, thank you.

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2 Mr. McKeivitt moves to adjourn, Mr.
3 Solages seconds it. All those in favor
4 of adjourning, please say aye.

5 (Whereupon, all members of
6 the Finance Committee respond
7 in favor with aye.)

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any opposed?

9 (Whereupon, no verbal
10 response.)

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: We're adjourned.

12 Rules follows.

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15 (Whereupon, Finance
16 Committee adjourns, 3:32 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)
 : SS.:
COUNTY OF NASSAU)

I, KAREN LORENZO, a Notary Public for and
within the State of New York, do hereby
certify:

That the above is a correct transcription
of my stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 3rd day of October, 2022

Karen Lorenzo
KAREN LORENZO

FINANCE COMMITTEE 10.03.2022

S	A	C	D
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