

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

PETER J. SCHMITT,  
PRESIDING OFFICER

PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS COMMITTEE

VINCENT MUSCARELLA,  
CHAIRMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

July 23, 2012  
2:43 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES  
516-747-7353

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

VINCENT MUSCARELLA  
Chair

HOWARD KOPEL  
Vice-Chair

FRANCIS BECKER

NORMA GONSALVES

DAVID DENENBERG (Not Present)  
Ranking

JUDI BOSWORTH (Sitting in for David Denenberg)  
JOSEPH SCANNELL

CARRIÉ SOLAGES

LIST OF SPEAKERS

JEFF LINDGREN. . . . . 5  
BRIAN SCHNEIDER. . . . . 12

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2 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Public Works and  
3 Parks is hereby called to order.

4 I am here.

5 Vice Chairman Kopel?

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

7 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Mr. Becker?

8 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Present.

9 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Ms. Gonsalves?

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Present.

11 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Mr. Denenberg? Do  
12 we have someone sitting in for Mr. Denenberg?  
13 Legislator Bosworth is sitting in for Ranking  
14 Member Denenberg.

15 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Here.

16 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Mr. Scannell?

17 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Here.

18 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Mr. Solages?

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

20 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: A couple of items.

21 Item 493, a resolution approving federal  
22 aid project administered by the New York State  
23 Department of Transportation and authorizing the  
24 County of Nassau to participate in a non-federal  
25 share of the cost of construction, and in the

2 cost of construction supervision, and inspection  
3 of the project, and authorizing the County  
4 Executive of the County of Nassau to execute an  
5 agreement on behalf of the County with this New  
6 York State Department of Transportation for the  
7 performance of such work for the project and for  
8 the participation by the county in the non-  
9 federal share of the cost of the project,  
10 identified as PIN 0760-03, for the installation  
11 of an incident management system, Phase 4, onto  
12 various county roads in Nassau County, New York.

13 Motion by Mr. Kopel, seconded by Ms.  
14 Gonsalves.

15 Okay. Could you explain what this is for  
16 us, please?

17 MR. LINDGREN: Yes. Jeff Lindgren from  
18 Public Works. The incident management program  
19 that we have consists -- right now is primarily  
20 video surveillance along our arterial quarters.  
21 The video is transmitted back to the traffic  
22 management center where it could be viewed and  
23 the appropriated adjustments to traffic signal  
24 time can be made, as needed.

25 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: When you say --

2 this is not red light cameras.

3 MR. LINDGREN: This is not red light  
4 cameras, no. These are cameras independent of  
5 the red light cameras --

6 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: To view traffic  
7 flow and --

8 MR. LINDGREN: for the purpose of  
9 traffic surveillance, identifying problems along  
10 the roadways, vehicular accidents, anything along  
11 the roadway that would cause congestion or  
12 traffic.

13 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Right. And I  
14 believe I saw the county portion of this was  
15 approximately 20 percent.

16 MR. LINDGREN: Correct.

17 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Forty percent, 20  
18 percent.

19 MR. LINDGREN: This particular contract  
20 that's before you is a zero dollar value  
21 contract. It's just the contract between Nassau  
22 County and New York State DOT to recoup the  
23 federal portion of this project, the federal  
24 funds.

25 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Right. But if we

2 continue with this project it will eventually --

3 MR. LINDGREN: Yes. We will incur  
4 expenses in approximately 20 percent of the  
5 entire project, yes.

6 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Which in terms of  
7 dollars was?

8 MR. LINDGREN: The project is budgeted  
9 for 1.4 million total. Current engineer's  
10 estimate is less than that. As it stands with  
11 the \$1.4 million estimate --

12 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: 280,000.

13 MR. LINDGREN: 280,000, yes.

14 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Any questions?

15 Yes.

16 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Legislator  
17 Muscarella had asked if this is red light cameras  
18 and it's not. But it is video surveillance. If,  
19 for some reason, you saw something that was  
20 happening that was a violation of some kind, no  
21 one can be ticketed because of that.

22 MR. LINDGREN: No, no. And they're not  
23 recorded.

24 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Okay. So it's not  
25 that they're recorded. Maybe I should phrase it

2 positively. Are these recorded so that if there  
3 is an accident that they can be used for court  
4 purposes?

5 MR. LINDGREN: The strict purpose of  
6 this system and the previous phases, this is  
7 Phase 4, is for identifying issues along the  
8 roadway that would create a congestion problem,  
9 whether it's a tree down, a motor vehicle  
10 accident, anything else that comes up, even  
11 something where the road is closed for a police  
12 action, we can identify it on the cameras and  
13 make adjustments, as necessary, to move traffic  
14 around whatever the issue is.

15 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: How's that been  
16 working?

17 MR. LINDGREN: Actually, Phase 1 is just  
18 being completed right now, which is Old Country  
19 Road, so we're just getting the system up and  
20 running. I really can't give you an accurate  
21 account of how it's working yet. It will serve  
22 its purpose. New York State DOT has a system  
23 like this in place for a number of years, and  
24 they have a number of cameras throughout Long  
25 Island, and it works very well.

2 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: The reason I'm  
3 asking is it sounds fascinating, and you could  
4 see where it would really be a very positive tool  
5 to help with traffic.

6 MR. LINDGREN: Absolutely.

7 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Mr. Kopel.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Quick question for  
10 you and it's not even with respect necessarily to  
11 this video. Is that the most efficient way to  
12 improve traffic? In other words, what about if  
13 you put sensors in?

14 MR. LINDGREN: This particular system  
15 works in conjunction with speed sensors as well.  
16 So --

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I see roads all the  
18 time where you've got traffic backed up on this  
19 busy road and they're just sitting at a red light  
20 for no darn reason because the other road, the  
21 cross roads, there's nothing going on.

22 MR. LINDGREN: Our current sensor system  
23 where we don't have cameras will basically -- it  
24 will take the average speed of the roadway and a  
25 threshold is established. Once the roadway speed

2 drops below 30 miles per hour --

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: It doesn't actively  
4 address the lights.

5 MR. LINDGREN: No.

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: This system is merely  
7 for congestion.

8 MR. LINDGREN: It's paid for with  
9 congestion mitigation monies.

10 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: You're not doing  
11 anything that can actively adjust lights?

12 MR. LINDGREN: We can do that from the  
13 traffic management center. There's a human  
14 interface involved where it's identified at the  
15 traffic management center and then we make  
16 adjustments as necessary.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Is this pretty much  
18 state-of-the-art in the country, the way this is  
19 being done?

20 MR. LINDGREN: Yeah. The traffic  
21 management system, we just rebuilt over the past  
22 four years. It's up to speed as far as  
23 technology goes.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thanks.

25 LEGISLATOR BECKER: And whenever you see

2 Legislator Kopel's car coming in the video, you  
3 stop it, right? Make sure there's a red light,  
4 right?

5 MR. LINDGREN: Correct.

6 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Any other  
7 questions?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 Hearing none, all those in favor of  
10 moving this along signify by saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 Any opposed?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 That item is reported unanimously.

15 Next stop. Item 494, which is a  
16 resolution authorizing the county executive to  
17 execute an amendment to an inter-municipal  
18 agreement with the Village of Valley Stream in  
19 relation to a project to undertake storm water  
20 quality improvements.

21 LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

22 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Moved by  
24 Legislator Becker, seconded by Legislator  
25 Gonsalves.

Do we have someone? Mr. Schneider.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Good afternoon. Brian Schneider from Department of Public Works.

This is a request to amend an existing inter-municipal agreement with the Village of Valley Stream regarding village improvements to be undertaken as part of the 2004 Environmental Bond Act Program. This requested modification will provide better coordination between the 2004 project, in addition to a 2006 inter-municipal agreement with the Village of Valley Stream for improvements through the 2006 Environmental Bond Act Program. It will not change the county's contribution for this specific project.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: And what does this actually do?

MR. SCHNEIDER: Well, they have a number of storm water projects within the Village revolving around the Village Green Park, Hendrickson Park, and Mill Pond Park. The 2004 EBA program -- project was for at the Village Green. They requested to shift that project to Mill Pond, which is located south of Sunrise Highway. The 2006 program or project will take

2 care of the work that was going to happen at  
3 Village Green and Hendrickson Park. Basically,  
4 all of the projects are still going to be  
5 occurring at the same time. They have a contract  
6 right now that's just about to begin. But it was  
7 to allow the village and the county to better  
8 coordinate between both EBA programs.

9 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Any questions?  
10 Ms. Bosworth.

11 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Is this something  
12 that requires DEC permits?

13 MR. SCHNEIDER: Absolutely.

14 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: It does?

15 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, it does. That's  
16 one of the reasons why we're talking about a 2004  
17 Environmental Bond Act project. Now we're in  
18 2012. There were considerable efforts made with  
19 the various regulatory agencies, not just the DEC  
20 but the Army Corps of Engineers. There were  
21 grants outside of the bond act that were in play  
22 here. It took a really long time to get to this  
23 point.

24 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Do these changes  
25 necessitate any updating of those permits?

2 MR. SCHNEIDER: No. We actually  
3 couldn't proceed until all of their permits were  
4 in place. We're at that point right now.

5 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Thank you.

6 MR. SCHNEIDER: You're welcome.

7 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Legislator  
8 Solages.

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very  
10 much, Chair.

11 How does the change in the FEMA flood  
12 maps affect any of these projects that you  
13 mentioned?

14 MR. SCHNEIDER: Not related at all. The  
15 bond act projects that were nominated by the  
16 Village of Valley Stream really were unrelated to  
17 these changes. Most of these projects are storm  
18 water quality improvement projects, where they're  
19 trying to cleanse the storm water that falls on  
20 the surrounding streets before it gets into these  
21 major water bodies, such as Hendrickson Park, the  
22 Village Green, and Mill Pond further to the  
23 south. It's really unrelated to the FEMA  
24 determinations.

25 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Any other

questions?

(No verbal response.)

Hearing none, all those in favor of moving this along signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

That item is reported unanimously.

Next up, Item 502-2012, a resolution authorizing the County of Nassau, acting on behalf of the Department of Public Works, to file an application for funds from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

Motion by Ms. Gonsalves, seconded by Mr. Kopel.

Anyone from OMB here?

MR. SCHNEIDER: Brian Schneider from Public Works. I'll be speaking on this item and also 503. I don't know if you wanted to call that one too.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: They're related?

MR. SCHNEIDER: Not directly, but they are similar.

2 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Why don't we call  
3 it?

4 Item 503-2012, a resolution authorizing  
5 the County of Nassau, acting on behalf of the  
6 Department of Public Works, to file an  
7 application for funds from the New York State  
8 Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical  
9 Preservation.

10 Moved by Legislator Gonsalves, seconded  
11 by Legislator Kopel.

12 Mr. Schneider.

13 MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay. Both of these are  
14 resolutions or requesting resolutions to allow  
15 the county to apply for grant funding through the  
16 New York State Consolidated funding application,  
17 which is a new procedure now in New York State.  
18 Basically, it's an online grant application  
19 process. What we're asking for in 502-12 is  
20 permission to apply for a grant for Standards  
21 Brook Park. Standards Brook was recently  
22 renovated as part of an environmental bond act  
23 program. Now the county is obtaining another one  
24 acre parcel that we are receiving from the Port  
25 Washington Water District. And the Port

2 Washington Parks Conservancy is seeking to make  
3 the park bigger. In order to do that, we needed  
4 to apply for grant funds.

5 This is merely an application. This is  
6 not an executed agreement with the state. It's a  
7 very competitive process. We don't know if we're  
8 going to get it. But one of the requirements is  
9 to get a municipal resolution of support from the  
10 county in submitting the application.

11 And that's pretty much both 502 and 503.

12 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Any questions?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 Hearing none, all those in favor of  
15 moving those two items along?

16 (Aye.)

17 Any opposed?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 Those items are reported.

20 Moving along. Item 504, a bond ordinance  
21 providing for capital expenditure to finance a  
22 project under the environmental program  
23 established pursuant to Title 59 of the  
24 Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County, authorizing  
25 \$531,250 of bonds to the County of Nassau to

2 finance said expenditure, and making certain  
3 determinations pursuant to the State  
4 Environmental Quality Review Act, pursuant to the  
5 Local Finance Law of New York and the County  
6 Government Law of Nassau County.

7 Moved by Legislator Becker, seconded by  
8 Legislator Gonsalves.

9 Mr. Schneider.

10 MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay. Brian Schneider  
11 from Public Works.

12 This is a bond ordinance for the project  
13 that I just spoke about, for the Village of  
14 Valley Stream. This is for improvements under  
15 the 2004 Environmental Bond Act. This is  
16 something typical that we have done. As projects  
17 clear SEQRA, then we can seek the bonding  
18 authorization that was approved in the original  
19 2004 Environmental Bond Act. So this project has  
20 never been bonded before. Again, we needed to  
21 wait for SEQRA to get done before we had the  
22 necessary documentation to proceed with the  
23 bonding.

24 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: But this is  
25 something that had been approved way back when?

2 MR. SCHNEIDER: Correct.

3 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Any questions?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 Any public comment?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 Hearing none, all those in favor of  
8 moving this item signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 Any opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 That item is reported unanimously.

13 I do have another item. And at this time  
14 I would ask that a motion be made to suspend the  
15 rules.

16 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

17 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Motion by  
19 Legislator Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator  
20 Becker.

21 All those in favor of suspending the  
22 rules signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 Any opposed?

25 (No verbal response.)

Okay.

Item 492, which is a resolution approving a federal aid project administered by the New York State Department of Transportation, and authorizing the County of Nassau to participate in the non-federal share of the cost of construction, and in the project of construction supervision and inspection of the project, and authorizing the county executive of the County of Nassau to execute an agreement on behalf of the county with the New York State Department of Transportation for the performance of such work, said project, and for the participation by the county in the non-federal share of the cost of the project identified as PIN 0760- -- I'm sorry .05, for the operation of Nassau County's management -- traffic management center in Westbury, Nassau County, New York.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Motion by Legislator Becker, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

MR. LINDGREN: Jeff Lindgren from Public Works. Very similar to the item I was previously

2 up here for, the zero dollar value contract  
3 between Nassau County and New York State DOT to  
4 recoup federal aid funding expended in relation  
5 to this project.

6 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: It's the same type  
7 of project, same traffic management?

8 MR. LINDGREN: Correct. It's for the  
9 operation, maintenance, and upgrade of the  
10 traffic management center.

11 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Any questions?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 Hearing none, all those in favor signify  
14 by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 Any opposed?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 That item is moved along.

19 There being no further business, motion  
20 to adjourn?

21 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Can I just make one  
22 comment quickly before we adjourn?

23 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Certainly, Mr.  
24 Becker.

25 LEGISLATOR BECKER: I just want to note

2 that I was at the Bethpage Restoration Village.  
3 And we always hear -- the county's sometimes  
4 troubled about certain things. But I was at  
5 Bethpage Restoration Village for a Civil War  
6 enactment and the park was absolutely beautiful.  
7 It was well cared for, and the place looks great.  
8 If you have not visited there soon, please bring  
9 your kids there. It's a beautiful place. I  
10 thought it was in the country, actually, not in  
11 Nassau County.

12 I want to compliment both the DPW, and  
13 our commissioner of park, and our commissioner of  
14 DPW. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Becker.

17 All those in favor of adjourning please  
18 signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 Any opposed?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 We are adjourned. Thank you.

23 (Whereupon, the Public Works Committee  
24 adjourned at 3:02 p.m.)

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby state:

THAT I attended at the time and place above mentioned and took stenographic record of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript of the same and the whole thereof, according to the best of my ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of August, 2012.

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FRANK GRAY