

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
FULL LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
CHAIRWOMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

June 30, 2014
5:20 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

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

NORMA GONSALVES
Chair

KEVAN ABRAHAMS
Minority Leader

SIELA A. BYNOE

ROBERT TROIANO

CARRIÉ SOLAGES

DENISE FORD

LAURA CURRAN

FRANCIS X. BECKER (Not Present)

HOWARD J. KOPEL

VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA

RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

ELLEN BIRNBAUM

DELIA DeRIGGI-WHITTON

MICHAEL VENDITTO

LAURA SCHAEFER

DENNIS DUNNE, SR.

JUDY JACOBS

ROSE MARIE WALKER

DONALD MACKENZIE

DAVID DENENBERG

WILLIAM MULLER
Clerk of the Legislature

LIST OF SPEAKERS

JAMES CARVER. 12
JOHN JARONCZYK. 13
MAURICE CHALMERS. 15

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Muller, we
3 need to establish the emergency.

4 CLERK MULLER: Sure. Let me just do the
5 roll call.

6 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding Officer
7 Nicolello?

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

9 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy
10 Presiding Officer Kopel?

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

12 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Bynoe?

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

14 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Solages?

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

16 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

18 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Curran?

19 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

20 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Muscarella?

23 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

24 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Birnbaum?

25 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

2 CLERK MULLER: Legislator DeRiggi-
3 Whitton?

4 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

5 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Venditto?
6 He's here.

7 Legislator Schafer?

8 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

9 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

10 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

11 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

12 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

13 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

15 CLERK MULLER: Legislator MacKenzie?

16 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

17 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Denenberg?

18 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Here.

19 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader

20 Abrahams?

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

22 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer

23 Gonsalves?

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

25 CLERK MULLER: We have a quorum.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Thank you
3 very much. Now establish the emergency.

4 CLERK MULLER: We have an emergency
5 request from the county executive on an emergency
6 resolution. He recommends to the county
7 executive to the County Legislature at a meeting
8 of the County Legislature on Monday, June 30,
9 2014, for the adoption of an emergency resolution
10 declaring an emergency for immediate action upon
11 an a resolution ratifying the act of the county
12 executive and securing a memorandum of agreement
13 between the County of Nassau and the Nassau
14 County Sheriff Correction Officers Benevolent
15 Association.

16 Please entertain a motion and have a vote
17 to establish this emergency.

18 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
21 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

22 All those in favor of establishing the
23 emergency signify by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 Any opposed?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 The emergency is now established.

4 CLERK MULLER: Resolution 118-A-2014, an
5 emergency resolution declaring an emergency for
6 immediate action upon a resolution ratifying the
7 act of the county executive in executing a
8 memorandum of agreement between the County of
9 Nassau and the Nassau County Sheriffs Corrections
10 Officers Benevolent Association.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Motion,
12 please?

13 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

14 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Second.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
16 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
17 Venditto.

18 Any questions regarding this? I have a
19 few thoughts.

20 We waited until almost the eleventh hour
21 because part of the conditions to accept the
22 agreement is based on the fact that the other
23 unions that did agree, and this body did vote to
24 accept or approve, that they would sign a waiver
25 which would give the, I guess the powers that be

2 the notion that they would not, the COBA
3 agreement would not cause a reopener.

4 Fortunately, I have to say that everyone of the
5 unions, including the CSEA, the PBA, and the SOA
6 and DAI have signed this understanding, this MOA
7 between the County and the Sheriff Correction
8 Officers Benevolent Association, which simply
9 stated that the terms of the settlement, the COBA
10 settlement will not trigger the reopener set
11 forth in subparagraph 10A of the PBA MOA dated
12 March 15, 2014 or the related clarification
13 letter dated May 3, 2014.

14 The other letter that I have in hand at
15 the present time is pretty much the same from the
16 CSEA. I'm under the impression that the SOA and
17 the DAI is forthcoming in the next few minutes.

18 Since all of the unions involved in this
19 agreement have accepted the fact that this
20 agreement with the COBA and the County will not
21 trigger a reopener. It was our, I guess, feeling
22 that this should be brought to the attention of
23 the public and of course to resolve and approve
24 the proposed COBA.

25 We're the ones that really are the

2 forerunners before NIFA approves. We approve,
3 hopefully NIFA will approve. Once that happens,
4 guess what? All of the agreements will be in
5 place and we can move on and put the other
6 business of the county to -- I guess to the good
7 of the entire county.

8 I'm pleased today that in spite of the
9 fact that we had to wait so long to obtain these
10 waivers by the other unions. We were able to
11 accomplish that. But you know what? I have to
12 say thank you to the minority as well because it
13 was a bipartisan effort in trying to get this
14 agreement settled so that we would all be on the
15 same page at the same time. So I say thank you
16 to the supportive minority and of course my
17 colleagues in the majority in getting this item
18 before us today. We weren't sure we were going
19 to have it happen. In fact, we were looking to
20 see it happen maybe two weeks from now, but I
21 think the anticipation was getting a little too
22 much. Thank you to all of my colleagues on both
23 sides of the aisle for joining together, making
24 this happen today and not putting it off to the
25 14th of July.

2 Thank you again, Mr. Abrahams and member
3 of the minority and of course my colleagues who
4 stayed here. I almost lost them. But guess
5 what? They knew it was important to do and so
6 this is what we're doing today.

7 Thank you to all of the unions who have
8 joined today to make this happen. Nothing ever
9 happens in and of itself. It needs a team. I
10 think the unions of Nassau County are the team.
11 So we join together in wishing you all well.

12 We know the anticipation probably was a
13 lot more than you had expected. But guess what?
14 It's happened and here we are today.

15 Thank you to the union leaders. Thank
16 you to COBA. Thank you to my colleagues on both
17 sides of the aisle. And, of course thank you to
18 the county executive, Mr. Mangano, because I
19 think all of us want to see these agreement
20 resolved.

21 Now, of course, my colleague Kevan, what
22 would you like to say?

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'll make it
24 brief. Thank you, Madam Presiding Officer. And
25 I want to thank COBA, who is here today,

1 obviously thank the administration for trying to
2 bring this deal down as quickly as possible.

3
4 I think the agreements that are now
5 before the county gives us a road map on how we
6 will meet those agreements and be able to pay for
7 them. This agreement that is before us today, we
8 had felt that, after speaking to the caucus we
9 feel we can support it in unison. We look
10 forward to supporting it. We're glad to hear
11 that COBA came in good faith and negotiated with
12 the county. But, more importantly, we recognize
13 the fact that COBA is probably, if not, one of
14 the more lower paid unions across the county.
15 That, with the fact that we would try to work
16 with them to make sure that their contract could
17 be paid for when there's a revenue on the other
18 side of it, we want to make sure that we're able
19 to move forward. And it looks like we're going
20 to be able to do that today.

21 That being said. I look forward to
22 hearing from them. At the same time, I look
23 forward to being able to move their contract
24 through in the affirmative.

25 Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Carver, would
3 you like to speak before this body or do you want
4 Mr. Jaronczyk. We waited for you all this time.

5 MR. CARVER: We'll try to keep it brief,
6 since I kept you all day. There was a little
7 snafu. There are a lot of attorneys up there, so
8 you can understand language on a final document
9 without giving away your rights. It was never
10 the intention to allow this to go on for any
11 longer than it had to.

12 COBA, along with all the unions, have
13 suffered a wage freeze for much, way too long.
14 It's good to see today, unlike probably a month
15 and a half ago or whatever, that this appears to
16 be a unanimous choice, to approve this contract.
17 Remember, this is still, along with all the other
18 deals, less than what was due us when we all did
19 deals back in 2008 and 2009.

20 I know the savings are real. The county
21 will be able to afford to pay these contracts.
22 Hopefully everybody can go on from this and
23 morale will get back up in the county.

24 Again, I'm looking forward to seeing a
25 unanimous vote here; I think that's the right

thing to do.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much, Mr. Carver.

MR. CARVER: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And John Jaronczyk.

MR. JARONCZYK: Good evening, everybody. Thank you for sticking around and entertaining the emergency motion on our agreement. The agreement that we put forward to you, it did take some time to put together. It is specific for correction officers. And we felt it was the best possible agreement to put forward that benefits correction officers, but also benefits the county and helps them achieve the necessary cost savings they need to have our members unfrozen.

So we are asking for your full support on this measure. It's something that we've been working out for a long time. There are concessions there that do help defray the cost of the increases. But it's important to remember my members; I have 80 members that are frozen at 30,000 or less and 150 that make less than 45,000. So we are, as a membership, we do have a

1 lot of members that are very low pay and they've
2 been suffering for three and a half years now.
3 These members do deserve to see a little increase
4 in their salaries. They will never be to where
5 they should have been had the freeze never
6 happened. They will always be behind. They will
7 always be a step behind and they will never get
8 to the level of pay that they should have been
9 had there been no freeze.
10

11 It is a settlement agreement. It was the
12 best possible agreement we could bring forward
13 for correction officers and also to benefit the
14 county. And we look forward to your full support
15 today.

16 Thank you all for entertaining the
17 emergency measure.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're very
19 welcome, Mr. Jaronczyk.

20 Anybody else? Any other comment? Sure.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Really quick. I
22 don't want to be belaboring this too much longer.
23 But I think it would be prudent if we just had
24 Maurice Chalmers from budget review come up and
25 state for the record that obviously the

2 legislature is taking the right direction. Most
3 importantly, we want to make sure that there's
4 enough revenues to meet it. Also, at the same
5 time, I know John had talked about -- Mr.
6 Jaronczyk had talked about the savings in the
7 contract and everything on those lines. I just
8 want to make sure that's in place.

9 How are you, Mr. Chalmers?

10 MR. CHALMERS: Very well. And yourself?

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good. Good.

12 We just wanted to hear for the record --
13 I know your office did an analysis of the COBA
14 agreement. If you could just provide us with a
15 synopsis of savings as well as the ability for
16 the contract to meet the certain criteria
17 specified in it.

18 MR. CHALMERS: Basically, we took a look
19 at the contract and our best estimate is, on the
20 optimistic side, that this contract will cost
21 approximately 19.5 million, which is kind of
22 similar to what NIFA put for it.

23 The union has agreed to some savings. We
24 do expect that they will realize most of the
25 savings. If none of the savings were realized,

2 that would bring the cost up to approximately \$30
3 million. But the reality is there will -- we
4 expect them to achieve some of the savings and
5 for the costs to be around the \$20 million mark,
6 and that is taking into account the attrition
7 savings.

8 This contract is taking place in a
9 different environment than the previous ones; in
10 terms of the speed camera legislation has passed,
11 so we expect some revenues to be generated from
12 the speed cameras. We have also passed a lot of
13 fee increases, which beginning next year some of
14 them will be generating some revenue. So in
15 terms of revenues, there have been some gains
16 made by the administration that should ensure
17 that a lot of the revenues are there.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chalmers.

20 MR. CHALMERS: You're very welcome.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
22 comments?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 Mr. Walker, were you planning on saying
25 anything? No. Okay.

Any other comments or any thoughts that anyone would like to share at this particular time? I have to say something that I didn't say before.

I come from the union background. I can remember when we went on a freeze in the City of New York. And it's true, John, you never recoup what you lost. But you know what? At least now you can go forward and continue to gain some of the things that you are deserving of, and that goes for all of the unions. I've been there, done that.

It feels good to know that we're going to put all of this to bed today.

Let's see where NIFA takes us in the next week or so. And I believe once we approve it today, NIFA will have no choice but to approve it when they meet.

Without any further ado.

All those in favor of the COBA agreement signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

Guess what? As I thought it would be, right, Kevan, that it would be a unanimous vote.

Congratulations. And continued success. Hopefully the county will continue to grow and prosper.

Thank you. Have a good night.

Guess what? A motion to adjourn?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

All those in favor of adjourning signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

Okay. Happy birthday to all the birthday people today.

We are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the Full Legislature adjourned at 5:35 p.m.)

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 11th day of July, 2014.

FRANK GRAY