



Sullivan County County Legislature Meeting Minutes - Final

Chairman Nadia Rajsz
Vice Chairman Joseph Perrello
Legislator Matt McPhillips
Legislator Brian McPhillips
Legislator Nicholas Salomone Jr.
Legislator Catherine Scott
Legislator Luis Alvarez
Legislator Amanda Ward
Legislator Terry Blosser-Bernardo

Thursday, December 12, 2024

9:30 AM

Government Center

Public Hearing on 2025 Tentative Budget

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Legislators

Present: Chairman Nadia Rajsz
Vice Chairman Joseph Perrello
District 1 Legislator Matt McPhillips
District 3 Legislator Brian McPhillips
District 5 Legislator Catherine Scott
District 4 Legislator Nicholas Salomone Jr.
District 8 Legislator Amanda Ward
District 9 Legislator Terry Blosser-Bernardo
District 6 Legislator Luis Alvarez

Reading of Public Hearing Notice

2025 Tentative Budget Public Hearing Notice

[ID-7001](#)

Attachments: [budgetphnotice](#)

Public Comment

At this point Chair Rajsz requested a vacancy list quarterly and an updated stipend list quarterly.

At this point, Luis Alvarez left the public hearing at 12:52PM.and returned at 12:55PM

1. Ken Walter made a public comment.
2. Lise Kennedy made a public comment.
3. Scott Mace of Thompson Sanitation made a public comment.
4. Chris Lesser made a public comment.
5. Lou Setren made a public comment.
6. Brandon of Rieber Sanitation made a public comment.
7. Star Hesse made a public comment.

Ken Walter Public Comment December 12th PH

[ID-7095](#)

Lise Kennedy 12/12/24 Budget Public Hearing
Budget Public Hearing

ID-7079

Looking at the capital expenditure budget, it looks like the airport is getting close to 40 million dollars. The grant from Governor Hochul was 18.5 million. There were a few much smaller grants for the airport but the taxpayers seem to be hefting a huge expenditure for the airport in 2025, which benefits very few people and is not profitable, whatever the hopes and dreams are for its future. You've been told that it's the ACC which is a drain on the community, but for the third year, the Adult Care Center is not even included in the capital expenditure budget. As a taxpayer, I don't understand how you legislators can just let our investment of decades into this building diminish into disrepair and squalor. You've heard over and over again this past year about the elevators breaking down and the broken kitchen equipment and temporary fixes to the floor and the ceilings leaking and the individual air conditioning units which need replacement. You heard the county manager say that in order to fix the kitchen we would need to rent a mobile kitchen for a month while repairs were made, at some indefinite time in the future. I'm not just making this stuff up. You know that the windows and exterior need work and let's not even talk about the plumbing. Most of us would agree that it is financially prudent to maintain your building rather than letting things totally break down and then trying to rebuild it.

Infinitecare is not going to invest any capital to fix these things unless they get their Certificate of Need. The county manager has stated here that he is going to use the "shortfall" payments of approximately 8 million dollars, which Infinitecare owes us under their contract, as a "negotiating tool." That money should be reinvested in the facility, not used as a bargaining tool to placate Infinitecare. The county manager doesn't want to dedicate capital to the ACC because there's still a chance that the CON could come through, even though the Public Health and Health Planning Council met last November and voted to not recommend sending Infinitecare's CON application through the approval process. In my opinion, it is quite unlikely that the council will reconsider, especially in light of the poor ratings, the citations and fines, the bad surveys, and the taxpayers' opposition. There are three more years to wait until that application expires. Is excluding the ACC from capital expenditure for the next three years the only plan?

Please reconsider. Keeping our nursing home safe and functional is the responsibility of this legislature. There are 120 frail, disabled people residing in that building, as well as several hundred staff who deserve a safe and functional workplace. Every time the elevators break down poses a threat to the health and safety of the fragile residents. Aren't there five legislators who are willing to direct the county manager to do his job to maintain the building and equipment there? How can you justify 40 million dollars for the airport and nothing for the disabled seniors at the nursing home? Please think about this again and happy holidays.

Adjournment or Close

There being no further comments, Amanda Ward moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Nicholas Salomone. The Public Hearing was declared closed at 1:07PM.