

Legislation Details

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Title: Good morning, I'm Lise Kennedy, from Neversink. I'm speaking today about today's Special Meeting agenda. Both resolutions could have been included in the committees which were more appropriate, and then they would have garnered public input and legislative discussion, but as it is, in the Special Meeting format, there will be not public input. This is one of the Chairman's favorite strategies, to call a Special Meeting in order to force his resolutions through fast. It shows disrespect for the legislative process, the democratic process, and towards his fellow legislators, the public, and his constituents. The first agenda item is to assign the county as lead agency for the SEQRA process of development of a new airport terminal, which is supposedly time sensitive. Of course, this resolution could have been brought forward last month in order to give time for discussion and due diligence. Due to environmental factors, there seems to be a conflict of interest for the county to act as lead agency, because the county may not prioritize protecting the public from the dangerous levels of environmental contamination found at this superfund site appropriately over business interests. The second resolution is to create a fiscal analyst position in the Budget and Management Department, functioning primarily to analyze fiscal processes at the Adult Care Center and Public Health. Obviously, this could and should have gone through the Management and Budget Committee, but it is being rammed through by Special Meeting. I'm not taking issue with the fact that both Public Health and Management and Budget are have fiscal staff vacancies, as Ms. Buck described recently, and as the PHS report documents. As far as the Adult Care Center, the fiscal staff there are employed by Infinitcare at a cost to the county of \$30,000 per month, but since there have been no reconciliations and very minimal reporting during the year and a half of their contract, financial analysis by the county ASAP would be prudent, to say the least. Fiscal analysis at Public Health seems a bit pointless to me without an FAO in place and the Public Health Director on leave. The top ranking fiscal staff in place there is already a budget analyst. I don't understand why this pricey fiscal analyst position is so urgent when there are other key operational fiscal vacancies which apparently are difficult to fill. It also seems to me quite disrespectful to existing fiscal staff to add this top level position which will not help ease their current work overloads. I suggest that both agenda items on the Special Meeting be tabled so that they can go through committee at least.

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