
Commission Meeting

of

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CAPITAL BUDGETING AND PLANNING

LOCATION: Meeting via Teams

DATE: November 13, 2023
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:

James M. Rutala, Chair
Liz Mahn, Vice Chair
Senator Paul A. Sarlo
Senator Douglas J. Steinhardt
Assemblyman Harold "Hal" J. Wirths
Lisa Almeida
Aaron Binder
Patrick Brennan
Leila Collins
David Drescher



ALSO PRESENT:

James Langsdorf
Executive Director

Brian Onda
Assistant Executive Director

Michael Sullivan
Bartosz D. Zajac
Budget Specialists

Meeting Recorded and Transcribed by
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,
Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey

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JAMES RUTALA (Chair): OK, let's get started.

Good morning. This is Jim Rutala. I would like to call the meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Capital Budgeting and Planning to order.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Commission has provided adequate notice of this meeting and given written notice of the time, date, and location. Notice of the meeting was filed at least 48 hours in advance by email or by fax to *The Trenton Times*, the *Newark Star-Ledger*, and filed with the Secretary of State.

Roll call, please.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you, Chair.

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Steinhardt.

SENATOR STEINHARDT: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. David Drescher.

MR. DRESCHER: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Lisa Almeida.

MS. ALMEIDA: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Leila Collins.

MS. COLLINS: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Patrick Brennan. (no response)

Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Liz Mahn.

MS. MAHN: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Chairman, we have a quorum.

MR. RUTALA: Next, we'll have election of the Chair and Vice Chair, and approval of the Executive Director.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

Regarding the Chair position, this Commission position must be filled by a public member. Last year, Mr. Rutala was approved as the Chair, and I understand that Mr. Rutala is still interested in the position.

Can someone put forth any other nominations for the Chair at this time? (no response)

If there are no other suggestions or Commission members interested, first order of business is to elect a Chair. Therefore, I ask that Mr. James Rutala be named as the Chair.

Can someone put forward a motion?

MR. BINDER: I'll make the motion.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

Do we have a second?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: I'll second.

MR. LANGSDORF: OK, we'll now vote on the election of Chair Rutala again this year as the Chair.

Senator Sarlo.

SENATOR SARLO: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Senator Steinhardt.

SENATOR STEINHARDT: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)
Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. David Drescher.

MR. DRESCHER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Leila Al-my-duh.

MS. ALMEIDA: Lisa Al-may-duh.

MR. LANGSDORF: I'm sorry, I got that -- I butchered that.
Ms. Lisa Almeida.

MS. ALMEIDA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

Ms. Leila Collins.

MS. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Patrick Brennan. (no response)
Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Abstain.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Liz Mahn.

MS. MAHN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you very much.

Mr. James Rutala has been named as Chair again this year.
Congratulations, Jim.

The motion moves.

MR. RUTALA: Good, thank you.

Next, we'll have the election of the Vice Chair.

MR. LANGSDORF: The Vice Chair position -- this Commission position must also be filled by a public member.

Last year, Mr. Patrick Brennan was approved as the Vice Chair, but he is not present today.

Could someone put forward any other nominations for the Chair at this time? It needs to be understood that the person must be a public member, and, at this time, Liz Mahn is the only other public member on the Commission.

MR. BINDER: I'll move Liz Mahn as Vice Chair.

SENATOR SARLO: And, I'll second that.

MR. LANGSDORF: OK, we'll now vote on the election of Ms. Liz Mahn as the Vice Chair.

Senator Sarlo.

SENATOR SARLO: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Senator Steinhardt.

SENATOR STEINHARDT: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)
Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. David Drescher.

MR. DRESCHER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Lisa Almeida.

MS. ALMEIDA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Leila Collins.

MS. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Patrick Brennan. (no response)

Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Liz Mahn.

MS. MAHN: Abstain.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you very much.

Liz Mahn has been named as the Vice Chair. Congratulations,
Liz.

The motion moves.

MR. RUTALA: Congratulations.

Next, we'll have the approval of the Executive Director.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you, Chairman.

While I am currently the Executive Director -- this is James Langsdorf -- it is necessary to receive approval on the Executive Director position today for this year.

On your behalf, can we have someone put forward a motion?

MR. RUTALA: Motion.

MR. LANGSDORF: Can we have a second?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Hal Wirths.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

We'll now vote on the election of James Langsdorf as Executive Director for this year.

Senator Sarlo.

SENATOR SARLO: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Senator Steinhardt.

SENATOR STEINHARDT: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. David Drescher.

MR. DRESCHER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Lisa Almeida.

MS. ALMEIDA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Leila Collins.

MS. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Patrick Brennan.

MR. BRENNAN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Liz Mahn.

MS. MAHN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you again this year. As the Executive Director, I appreciate that.

Thank you very much, Chairman. The motion moves.

MR. RUTALA: Congratulations, (indiscernible).

Approval of the minutes for May 5, 2023.

Do we have a motion?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: I'll move them.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

And, second?

MR. BINDER: Second.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Roll call.

MR. LANGSDORF: On the motion to approve the minutes from July 13.

Senator Sarlo.

SENATOR SARLO: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Senator Steinhardt.

SENATOR STEINHARDT: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. David Drescher.

MR. DRESCHER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Lisa Almeida.

MS. ALMEIDA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Leila Collins.

MS. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Patrick Brennan.

MR. BRENNAN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Liz Mahn.

MS. MAHN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Chairman, the motion moves.

MR. RUTALA: OK, thank you.

Executive Director's Report.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you, Chairman.

For Fiscal Year 2024, the Commission recommended \$56.611 million of discretionary projects, all of which have been funded. Additionally, the Commission recommended \$1.91 billion for debt service and other capital appropriations. The Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Act included \$1.91 billion for these items.

Do we have any questions? (no response)

MR. RUTALA: Any questions? (no response)

MR. LANGSDORF: If there are no other questions, can we move on to the Fiscal 2025 capital requests?

Again, for those who are representing your agencies -- or others -- please state your name before making your comments.

Thank you.

MR. RUTALA: OK, we'll start with the State Capitol Joint Management Commission.

Total request is \$14,871,000. Are there any questions? (no response)

Next is a request for the Department of Agriculture. Total request is \$3,500,000. Are there any questions? (no response)

Next is a request for the Department of Children and Families. Their request for 2025 is \$2,672,000. Are there any questions? (no response)

Next is Department of Education. Total request for 2025 is \$16,987,000. Are there any questions or comments? (no response)

Next is the Department of Law and Public Safety. Total requests for 2025 is \$37,561,000. Are there any questions or comments? (no response)

Next is a request for the Juvenile Justice Commission. Total request for 2025 is \$19,436,000. Are there any questions? (no response)

Next is the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Total request for 2025 is \$29,276,000.

I am aware there is a representative from the Department who wanted to speak to this request.

VINCENT SOLOMENO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good morning. My name is Vincent Solomeno. I have the privilege of serving as the Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs at the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

The Adjutant General, General Lisa Hou, asked me to be present this morning, as she is not available to talk through the request that we have submitted.

I will be brief. I would like to highlight if you are looking at the Department's Priority Summary Report, 2, the Newark Armory construction; 4, Menlo Park home renovations; 5, renovate building elevators; and, 10, Vineland home renovations.

I am highlighting these because, with respect to Number 2, the Newark Armory, this is the State's commitment for a new readiness center for the New Jersey Army National Guard. The request for FY2025 of \$800,000 reflects a 25% State share. So, we have received 75% of Federal funds that is in hand right now, and we are requesting the 25%, which is approximately \$800,000, in order to proceed with this important capital improvement. And, as you may understand with the sequencing, the design is important over the next 12 months.

In addition, with respect to items 4, 5, and 10: Actually, as of last week, the Department received a 65% Federal match from the Department of Veterans Affairs Federal State Home Construction Program. So, again, the request before you for 4, 5, and 10 -- that is money that we will have in hand, and should we receive the State request, we will be prepared to execute and conduct these important improvements to our veterans' memorial homes.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you this morning, and, subject to your questions, that's all I have.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you, Mr. Solomeno.

Are there any questions? (no response)

OK, we'll move on to Office of Information Technology.

MR. ONDA: Actually, Chair, this is Brian Onda from OMB.

I do have a question regarding the out-year cost for the Newark Armory. It says that the out-year cost would be \$29 million, I'm assuming after -- from the Feds, it would be \$29 million for construction fees, I'm assuming.

Is that agreement in hand as well, or is there a different type of agreement that happens between now and then?

MR. SOLOMENO: Sir, with respect to the way that the Federal appropriations work for this, it is not in hand right now, but we expect it since we have been approved for the design funding. It is on what is called the FIDF, which is the -- it's an acronym, I'm an Army veteran -- but it's the Federal government's way of managing these improvements.

We will receive the funding in the out years, and, yes, that approximately \$29 million is the cost that's anticipated from the Federal government.

MR. ONDA: OK, thank you.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

We move on to the request for the Office of Information Technology. Their request in 2025 is \$40,200,000. Are there any questions?
(no response)

If not, we'll move on to our new business. New Jersey Building Authority project approval.

MR. LANGSDORF: Regarding the New Jersey Building Authority project approval action item within our meeting agenda, a cost amendment related to the security screening building and secure courtyard project requires Commission's recommendation and approval.

Project costs shortfall was \$3.5 million, as indicated within each board member's packet. Also, it is indicated the project cost net shortage amount will be afforded by an allocation of \$1.5 million from the New Jersey Interdepartmental Security Fund, and \$2 million from the real property trust fund.

Can we have someone put forward a motion to approve the New Jersey Building Authority Proposed Cost amendment?

MR. BINDER: Motion.

MR. LANGSDORF: Do we have a second?

MR. DRESCHER: Second.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

Now, we'll vote on the amendment.

Senator Sarlo.

SENATOR SARLO: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Senator Steinhardt.

SENATOR STEINHARDT: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: No.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. David Drescher.

MR. DRESCHER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Lisa Almeida.

MS. ALMEIDA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Leila Collins.

MS. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Patrick Brennan.

MR. BRENNAN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Liz Mahn.

MS. MAHN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: The motion is approved.

Thank you, Chair.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Mr. Langsdorf, when is our next meeting?

MR. ONDA: It's December 11.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Any other actions coming before the Commission? (no response)

If not, we'll take a motion to adjourn.

MS. MAHN: I motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: I'll second.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Have a great day, everyone.

(MEETING CONCLUDED)