
Commission Meeting

of

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CAPITAL BUDGETING AND PLANNING

LOCATION: Conference Call

DATE: November 20, 2020
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION PRESENT:

James M. Rutala, Chair
Senator Samuel D. Thompson
Assemblywoman Shavonda E. Sumter
Assemblyman Harold 'Hal' J. Wirths
Justin Braz
Catherine Z. Brennan
Jo Ann Povia
Luke E. Wolff
Dennis Zeveloff



ALSO PRESENT:

James Langsdorf
Executive Director

Debbie DePiano
*Assembly Republican
Commission Aide*

David F. Patella
Assistant Executive Director

Daniel Nason
Brian Onda
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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(The New Jersey Commission on Capital Budgeting and Planning held a meeting on November 20, 2020, at 10 a.m. Members of the Commission present via teleconference were James M. Rutala, Senator Samuel D. Thompson, Assemblywoman Shavonda E. Sumter, Assemblyman Harold 'Hal' J. Wirths, Justin Braz, Catherine Z. Brennan, Jo Ann Povia, Luke E. Wolff, and Dennis Zeveloff)

JAMES M. RUTALA (Chair): Good morning.

I'd like to call the November 20, 2020, meeting of the State Commission on Capital Budgeting and Planning to order.

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

We can now take a roll call.

MR. LANGSDORF (Executive Director): Thank you.

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblywoman Sumter. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Catherine Brennan.

MS. BRENNAN: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Jo Ann Povia.

MS. POVIA: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Dennis Zeveloff.

MR. ZEVELOFF: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Justin Braz.

MR. BRAZ: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Luke Wolff.

MR. WOLFF: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Chairman, we have a quorum.

MR. RUTALA: Very good.

I'd like to turn the meeting over to you for the election of the
Chair and Vice Chair

MR. LANGSDORF: Sir, thank you.

Regarding the Chair and Vice Chair -- and by default, due to only
having two public members on the Commission -- may ask that Mr. James
Rutala and Mr. Luke Wolff be named Chair and Vice Chair?

Can we have someone put this forward?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: I'll move it.

MR. LANGSDORF: Do we have a second?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Second.

MR. LANGSDORF: Okay, we'll now vote on the election of Mr.
Wolff as Vice Chair and Mr. Rutala as Chair.

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblywoman Sumter. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Catherine Brennan.

MS. BRENNAN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Jo Ann Povia.

MS. POVIA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Dennis Zeveloff.

MR. ZEVELOFF: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Justin Braz.

MR. BRAZ: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Luke Wolff.

MR. WOLFF: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you very much; Mr. Rutala and Mr. Wolff have been named as Chair and Vice Chair.

MR. RUTALA: Do we also need to approve the Executive Director?

MR. LANGSDORF: That is correct.

With that, myself, James Langsdorf, is up for, I guess, reelection as the Executive Director. So can we put that forward as a motion?

MS. POVIA: Moved.

MR. LANGSDORF: Do we have a second?

MS. BRENNAN: Second.

MR. LANGSDORF: Okay.

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblywoman Sumter. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Catherine Brennan.

MS. BRENNAN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Jo Ann Povia.

MS. POVIA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Dennis Zeveloff.

MR. ZEVELOFF: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Justin Braz.

MR. BRAZ: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Luke Wolff.

MR. WOLFF: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you very much.

Thank you; I appreciate it.

MR. RUTALA: We can move on to approval of the minutes for
June 26, 2020.

Can we have a motion?

MS. BRENNAN: I'll make a motion to move it -- move the
minutes.

MR. RUTALA: Okay; second?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Second.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Are there any comments on the minutes? (no response)

Hearing none, can we have a vote?

MR. LANGSDORF: On the motion to approve the minutes for

June 26;

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblywoman Sumter.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SUMTER: Abstain.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Catherine Brennan.

MS. BRENNAN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Jo Ann Povia.

MS. POVIA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Dennis Zeveloff.

MR. ZEVELOFF: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Justin Braz.

MR. BRAZ: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Luke Wolff.

MR. WOLFF: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Okay, Chairman; the motion moved.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you, Mr. Langsdorf.

Do you want to provide an Executive Director's Report?

MR. LANGSDORF: Sure; thank you.

Just a note for those of you are who are representing your agencies, and for others, please state your name before making your comments. This meeting is being transcribed, and we would like your name to accompany your statements.

Also, to assist with some of the background noise -- if you're not speaking, please mute your phones.

Okay, as it relates to the Executive Director's Report-- For Fiscal Year 2021, the Commission recommended \$14.510 million of discretionary projects, all of which have been funded. Additionally, the Commission recommended \$1.634 billion for debt service and other capital appropriations. The Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Act includes \$1.697 billion for these items.

Do we have any questions? (no response)

If there are no questions, we can move on to the Fiscal 2022 capital requests.

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

Thanks a lot.

MR. RUTALA: Okay, we'll start with the Department of Agriculture.

J O S E P H W . Z O L T O W S K I: The Department is requesting--

S E C R E T A R Y D O U G L A S H . F I S H E R: Joe, I'm going to start, and then I'll have you come in for--

MR. ZOLTOWSKI: Okay; sorry.

SECRETARY FISHER: It's all right; I appreciate it.

I really appreciate you giving us the opportunity to request these funds for the Phillip Alampi Insect Lab, where we raise beneficial insects, parasites, and predatory insects to control invasives and weed pests through biological means, rather than using chemical pesticides.

So it sounds very academic, and it is. But it also has very real-life consequences. Because we are raising these insects to control so many pests that we have in our midst, and we are studying them as well.

A number of investments have been made in the Phillip Alampi center; and actually, but for this one piece -- the HVA system -- we will be in great shape for a long, long time.

However, we're falling apart, and we're essentially being held together with duct tape at this lab system. And we're very concerned that we're going to lose this facility, which has enormous impact to the public. As I said, it is biological control; and the environmentalists are very much in tune with it, the municipalities; and everyone across the state, pretty much, recognizes those who work with us -- the importance of this facility.

And we are coming to you, really, almost as a last resort, because we recognize that you have limited funds. But essentially, it's extraordinarily important that we don't lose this facility; and I'll turn it over to Joe for a quick second. We save about \$100 million annually in pesticide costs because of the work that we do there. And I really -- I don't make light of the fact, as I said, that the funds that you have are limited. But I think that it serves almost everyone's objective in the state, in terms of what we think about our environment and the invasives that are around us. And it's not only bugs that we control, but also plants.

So with that, I'll turn it over to Joe.

MR. ZOLTOWSKI: Yes, we're requesting \$4.2 million, as the Secretary said, to replace the HVAC system, ductwork, piping, fans, and all the associated commodities -- electrical systems -- to comply to code.

Basically, the current major facilities -- piping, fans, ductwork -- are 38 years old, currently. We had an engineering study done in 2007, and then it was out of date. So like the Secretary said, things are duct-taped together. Now, under COVID, we have the additional health risk -- potential health risks to employees and visitors to the facility, just because of the poor air circulation that's going on with the existing HVAC system.

As the Secretary mentioned, we do have cooperative agreements with the Federal government, supplying insects for various -- agricultural pests and to (indiscernible) invasive weeds. And we've lost opportunities because eight of our rearing rooms -- because of poor environmental controls and that poor HVAC circulation system that we have -- they're just unusable rooms. And so we have lost opportunities to expand our production and increase our regional release of beneficial insects to our state and to adjoining states.

MR. RUTALA: Great; thank you.

Thank you, Secretary.

Are there any questions?

MS. POVIA: I have a question.

MR. RUTALA: Sure.

MS. POVIA: Okay.

How many years-- You mentioned in your notes that you've been requesting this several years. When did you start requesting these repairs?

SECRETARY FISHER: Do you know, Mary? I think it's been, like, seven or eight years at least.

MR. ZOLTOWSKI: That's right. It's about a good -- at least 8, maybe 10.

SECRETARY FISHER: And one thing I'd like you to note is, also, this is, as I say, the last piece that-- They've done the heaters. We've had a number of improvements that were made. It's just this; but without this, we collapse. So that's why I'm (indiscernible) particularly here.

MS. POVIA: Okay; and can I ask you, has the cost of the project gone up in those seven years?

MR. ZOLTOWSKI: The costs have been -- outside of the cost of living and inflation; so it has. And although Treasury has improved, like, chillers, for example -- they've replaced the chillers and they've replaced a couple of pieces. But it's like duct taping a leaking pipe. And so the rest has never been touched; (indiscernible) is bad.

So we don't know -- I'm not privy to the information, nor is the Secretary -- if the Treasury has, for their repairs of the chillers and cooling towers -- they know what that cost is; they've replaced those two pieces. But the HVAC system, and the piping, and the ductwork -- all that is still 38 years old.

MS. POVIA: Okay.

How many employees work there?

MR. ZOLTOWSKI: We have temporary -- TESs who assist us. We probably have 10 employees who are permanent full-time working there -- research scientists and lab technicians -- and then we supplement, as need be, seasonally with TESs to help us mass produce and mass rear, because they're seasonal things. So, right now, they're going into winter maintenance of the colonies, where we just keep them alive, but they're not reproducing. And come springtime, when it's release season -- for spring, summer, or early fall, that's when they mass -- we are to mass produce to ship out to other states and release in this state.

So we need more helpers, more workers in the facility in the spring through the fall.

And it's kind of like -- even though we call it a *laboratory*, it's not your standard -- you know, you close your eyes and think of a standard scientific laboratory. Besides rearing the parasitoids, we have to rear the host crop; so we have greenhouses. We have to rear the bad insects -- the agricultural pests -- or weeds, and then we've-- The beneficials feed and breed off of them. So we have to release-- We have to rear everything to get to that final product of the beneficial (indiscernible).

MS. POVIA: All right; thank you very much.

SECRETARY FISHER: We are one of only 13 labs -- state labs in the country.

And lastly, I would say we have populations of insects that we're studying that are -- for instance, the stinkbug, the largest generational study of stinkbugs in the country, that we're coming to -- can provide answers for. They are out of control -- that pest.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Chairman, I'd like to make a motion to move it.

And Doug, it's good hearing your voice after working with you for six-and-a-half years. It's good hearing you, and I know you wouldn't ask for anything you didn't really need, and I know the important work you do.

But I'd like to move the motion, if there aren't any other questions.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you; is there a second?

MS. POVIA: I'll second.

MR. LANGSDORF: I'd just like to add also -- this is a question-and-answer period, I believe; and the agencies aren't expected to represent their concerns, I don't believe, at this point.

But if there are any questions that the Commission may have, I believe that's what this part of the meeting is intended for. I may be misstating, but that's my interpretation.

MR. RUTALA: Understood; thank you, Jamie.

I have one other question.

I know that the State, in various situations, has considered Energy Savings Plans to deal with HVAC and energy issues in various buildings. Has that been considered for the laboratory?

MARY TOVAR: We have sent the request over to BPU, and it's under review there. We don't have any indication either way of any movement on it.

MR. RUTALA: Okay; thank you, Mary.

If you'd just keep us advised on that, that would be helpful.

MS. TOVAR: Will do.

Are there any other questions?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Have there been additional conversations with the Federal delegation on the bug lab?

MS. TOVAR: We have not had those conversations yet. And talking to Brianna -- and Brianna has a briefing on the insect lab -- so we will talk again with her after she returns.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Okay, great.

Thank you.

SECRETARY FISHER: That timing, as I said, really is critical. And I do appreciate the interest that the members have expressed, and I'm hopeful that we can see our way through this. And we appreciate it very much.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you, Secretary Fisher.

Okay, let's move on to the Department of Children and Families. They're requesting \$4.454 million.

Are there any questions, or does anyone want to comment on their request? (no response)

If there are no comments, we'll continue.

The Department of Corrections is requesting \$5 million. (no response)

Okay; moving on to the Department of Education. They're requesting \$3.7 million for various projects.

Any comments or questions?

MS. POVIA: Could I ask a question about Corrections?

I think they have more than \$5 million on their list; but I also have a question about -- is that a duplicate of what we've approved -- the

drainage for 2021, or am I misreading that? Or is that a second tranche of money needed for-- Because I thought we approved drainage, but I might be reading that-- I'm going back-and-forth between documents here.

GARY T. ALPERT: This is the second part of that project.

Yes, last year -- our last fiscal year, or the current fiscal year, we received funding for the feeder line replacement. This is in conjunction with the storm water drainage that should go in conjunction, or hand-in-hand, with the feeder line for, let's say, economies of scales.

I have our capital experts on the phone, if you have specific questions.

MS. POVIA: No, that's okay. You answered that, because I think it's the same number. It's just confusing; but I've seen the feeder line is part of that, but two separate things. You answered it; I don't need more information on it.

MR. ALPERT: Thank you.

MR. WOLFF: I had a question on -- it's Priority Project No. 3 on the list.

Just within the description of it, it indicates there were a number of studies that you guys have looked at for fire safety improvements.

Can you guys provide just a backup on those?

MR. ALPERT: Backup?

Well, currently two studies, to date, have been completed: one at Edna Mahon Correctional Facility for Women, and the East Jersey State Prison have been completed. If you want, I can give you what the assessments are from those studies, if you're interested in the amount.

MR. WOLFF: Yes, I mean, if you could that would be great.

MR. ALPERT: The East Jersey assessment, or study, that came back totaled almost \$152 million to update the facility for bringing it into code for fire safety. And the Edna Mahon Correctional Facility for Women assessment was estimated at \$53 million to upgrade the facility -- or the fire suppression systems. And that's what's been completed to date so far. A couple of other studies are in process right now, working through DPMC or with Jamie Langsdorf.

MR. WOLFF: Thank you.

MS. BRENNAN: Gary, can you just confirm that the priority requests for the Department are consistent with the updated consolidation plans and the release of some of the population that has recently occurred? Are these needs current with other changes that are happening within the Department?

MR. ALPERT: Yes, it is.

We did not put-- CRAF is what's next targeted for consolidation or closure, and that's not reflected in these, let's say, the Department's Fiscal Year 2022 requests.

MS. BRENNAN: Thank you.

MR. ALPERT: You're welcome.

MR. RUTALA: Any other questions for Corrections? (no response)

Moving on to the Department of Education; they're requesting \$8.443 million in Fiscal Year 2022.

Any comments or questions? (no response)

Hearing none, next is Department of Law and Public Safety, \$8.38 million in Fiscal Year 2022. (no response)

Next is the Juvenile Justice Commission. (no response)

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. (no response)

And last is the Judiciary. (no response)

Okay; we don't have any other questions? Is there any other business? (no response)

Mr. Langsdorf, is there any other business to come before the Commission?

MR. LANGSDORF: If I may, I'd like just to call your attention to each of the agency funding requests for FY 22. The reports that were provided provide a total Fiscal Year 2022 amount. And if there any differences between what you had presented and the total amount requested, I'm just asking each Commission member to refer to the total amount.

And also, since there are no other questions, I guess we can move to adjourn this meeting.

But I would just like to advise everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 11, at 10 a.m.

If there are no other issues to be discussed, could I have someone put forward a motion to adjourn this meeting?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: I have one question; I'm new to the Commission.

So we're expected to take action, then, on December 11 on these? Today was just an information meeting; is that how it works?

MR. LANGSDORF: No, we've broken up the agency requests into two meetings. So the agencies that were here today to answer any questions regarding their budget requests -- those that we've reviewed or what we discussed today.

The other agencies that are scheduled for the next meeting include Environmental Protection, Human Services, Department of Health, Transportation, the Interdepartmental requests, State Capitol Joint Management Commission, Treasury, and Public Broadcasting Authority.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Okay, I got it.

Sorry about that; I thought we were expected to vote on each one of them. But again, it's my second meeting, so thanks. I got it.

MR. LANGSDORF: No problem.

MR. RUTALA: Okay; motion to adjourn?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SUMTER: So moved.

MR. RUTALA: Can I have a second?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Second.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

We'll see everyone again on December 11.

ALL: Thank you.

(MEETING CONCLUDED)