
Commission Meeting

of

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CAPITAL BUDGETING AND PLANNING

LOCATION: Conference Call

DATE: February 18, 2021
11:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION PRESENT:

James M. Rutala, Chair
Luke E. Wolff, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Harold 'Hal' J. Wirths
Justin Braz
Catherine Z. Brennan
Jo Ann Povia
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

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***Meeting Recorded and Transcribed by
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,
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(The New Jersey Commission on Capital Budgeting and Planning held a meeting on February 18, 2021, at 11 a.m. Members of the Commission present via teleconference were James M. Rutala, Luke E. Wolff, Assemblyman Harold 'Hal' J. Wirths, Justin Braz, Catherine Z. Brennan, Jo Ann Povia, and Dennis Zeveloff)

JAMES M. RUTALA (Chair): I'd like to call the February 18, 2021, 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. The 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 roll call.

MR. LANGSDORF (Executive Director): Okay, to confirm we have a quorum:

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson. (no response)

Assemblywoman Sumter. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Catherine Brennan.

MS. BRENNAN: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Jo Ann Povia.

MS. POVIA: Present.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Dennis Zeveloff.

MR. ZEVELOFF: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Justin Braz.

MR. BRAZ: I'm here; thank you.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Luke Wolff.

LUKE E. WOLFF (Vice Chair): Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Chairman, it's confirmed. We have a quorum.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

I'd like to ask for a motion for the approval of the minutes of the December 11, 2020 meeting.

MS. BRENNAN: I'll make a motion.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you, Cathy; second?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Second.

MR. LANGSDORF: Okay; Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson. (no response)

Assemblywoman Sumter. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Catherine Brennan.

MS. BRENNAN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: 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: Chairman, the motion moves.

We would like to apologize to the Committee members, first off, for getting the materials out so late. We were recently advised that additional funding may be allocated in the budget, and that caused a delay. With that, you'll notice a considerable increase in the funding and number of projects recommended for the funding.

I just wanted to again apologize for that material getting out late.

Also, for those of you on the call, please state your name before making any comments. This meeting is being recorded and will be transcribed, and we would like to have your name to accompany your statements or questions.

Thank you.

Chairman, you may begin.

MR. RUTALA: Mr. Langsdorf, could you just give us a general description of the process of coming up with recommendations?

MR. LANGSDORF: If you don't mind, I'd like Dave Patella to describe the process. I believe last year, when this question was raised, it was Dave Patella who answered questions regarding that.

MR. PATELLA (Assistant Executive Director): Sure, I can take that one, Jamie.

So we basically rank the projects from each State agency. And normally we have limited funding -- this year, a little bit more -- but we tend to focus on the agencies' top five priorities. And the projects are ranked on a set of criteria, some of which include asset criticality, importance to the agency's mission, the priority in the agency's life/safety risk. So we basically rank those projects and formulate a comprehensive list that, ultimately, ends up as the recommendations.

We also-- After that is completed, we also run the list past DPMC, as well as the Energy Committee at BPU, to see if there are any economies of scale that could occur.

So that's basically how we do it.

MR. RUTALA: Okay. How much is the increase this year over last year, in the capital recommendations?

MR. PATELLA: Chairman, if you refer to the chart, it indicates this year we're recommending \$101.07 million, and that's an increase of \$25.51 million over last year.

MR. RUTALA: Okay; and one other question.

During our deliberations I noticed that we spoke about Higher Education, and then various projects that were being recommended. Are they included in the recommendations?

MR. PATELLA: Those projects are not -- are definitely not included in the recommendations.

MR. RUTALA: Okay, very good; thank you.

So we'll start with the State Capital Joint Management Commission. The recommendation is \$1,066,000.

Any questions? (no response)

Next is the Department of Agriculture.

MS. POVIA: I have a question.

I didn't hear what you first said. You're starting -- are we starting with document that starts with Agriculture? I didn't hear what you said before.

MR. RUTALA: I was just going down the agenda.

But yes, we can start with the recommendations.

MS. POVIA: I just didn't know if you were referring to the document that we received previously, or the agenda itself. I just want to make sure I'm referencing the appropriate document.

MR. RUTALA: We are following the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Commission recommendations, yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Just for clarity, I believe the agenda for this meeting had the agencies listed in a different order. So if it would be better for the Commission to hear them in the order of the report, that would probably be recommended.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: It would be a lot easier for me, I think, to follow them.

MR. RUTALA: Okay.

So first was Agriculture; there is no recommendation.

Second is Children and Families; \$660,000 recommended.

Next is the Department of Corrections; \$12,550,000 recommended.

Next is the Department of Education; \$2,285,000 is recommended.

Next is the Department of Environmental Protection; \$140,993,000.

Any questions? (no response)

I have one question on the Shore Protection -- Realty Transfer Fund. Wasn't that, historically, \$30 million?

MR. PATELLA: I believe it was, historically, \$25 million.

MR. RUTALA: Okay; and you say, this year, there is an increase?

MR. PATELLA: Yes, there is an increase this year, and it will be funded from the Realty Transfer tax.

MR. RUTALA: Okay, thank you.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thanks, Dave.

MR. PATELLA: You're welcome.

MR. RUTALA: Okay; next is the Health Department; \$22,784,000.

Next is the Department of Human Services; \$12,607,000.

Next is the Department of Law and Public Safety; there is no recommendation.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Chairman, I have a question.

It's always a pet peeve of mine in government -- for probably too many years -- on roof repairs-- They have it-- I mean, it was like, pay me now or pay me later. Whenever things are explained on how the roof repair was not included, or what the reasoning was behind it-- Because that just usually ends up costing a lot more money down the line.

MR. PATELLA: Yes, I would say that, based on the overall ranking, there wasn't a particular reason why we singled that out. It's just that when we did the scoring for all of the projects, that one fell outside the range of available funding.

If there is a critical need for it, we do have a life/safety appropriation that we could address projects with -- if it gets to the point that we really need to address it. But for the most part, it didn't rank as high as other projects.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Okay, thanks.

I mean, look at -- everyone on the call-- By skipping it, it could end up costing a lot more money down the line.

But thanks; hopefully, it can wait another year.

MR. RUTALA: That's a good point.

Next is the Juvenile Justice Commission; \$2,916,000.

Next is the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; \$2 million.

Next is the Department of Transportation; \$1,577,190,000.

Next is the Office of Information Technology; \$1,353,000.

Interdepartmental allocation; \$140,554,000.

New Jersey Building Authority, for debt service; \$20,438,000.

The Capital Joint Management Commission; \$1,066,000.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: And Chairman, I would just like to note here again: roof repair, two for the State House Annex.

MR. RUTALA: Okay, next is the Judiciary; no allocation.

Are there any questions on any of those recommendations? (no response)

If not, is there a motion to approve?

MS. POVIA: I'll make the motion to approve.

MR. RUTALA: Second?

MS. BRENNAN: Second.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you, Cathy.

Roll call.

MR. LANGSDORF: Okay, on the motion to approve the Fiscal
2022 Capital Recommendations;

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson. (no response)

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, is there any other business?

MR. LANGSDORF: I ask the Commission if they have any other new business that they would like to bring up. I, personally, do not have any new business.

I believe our next meeting will be scheduled some time in March, and we will be reaching out to the Commission to arrange for that.

MR. BRAZ: I would like to take a point of personal privilege to thank you and your staff for your work in prioritizing what is a massive list of projects -- to make sure we have the best recommendations, moving forward, given the potential new resources available in this year's budget.

And I think this is going to be an exciting year to be able to do some really critical renovations and improvements on facilities throughout the state; and this would not have been possible without the work that you and your team have put forward in a very short period of time.

So thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF COMMISSION: Thank you, and thanks to OMB also.

MR. RUTALA: Any other comments? (no response)

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

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: So moved.

MS. POVIA: Second.

MR. RUTALA: Okay; thank you very much.

Have a good day.

(MEETING CONCLUDED)