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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
    RICHARD NICOLELLO
    PRESIDING OFFICER
    RULES COMMITTEE
    LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO
        CHAIR
    Theodore Roosevelt Building
    1550 Franklin Avenue
    Mineola, New York
        March 9, 2020
        1:40 P.M.
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    A P P E A R A N C E S:
    LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO
        Chair
    LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL
        Vice Chair
    LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS
    LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER
    LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS
        Ranking member
    LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
    LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE
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LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Call the
Rules Committee to order. Ask that Legislator Rhoads lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael, will you call the roll. MR. PULITZER: Thank you

Presiding Officer. The roll call for the
Rules Committee. Legislator Siela Bynoe. She
is here, correct? Yes. Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
Here.
MR. PULITZER: Ranking member
Kevan Abrahams.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: He's here.
MR. PULITZER: Laura Schaefer.
LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.
MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven
Rhoads.
LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.
MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman
Howard Kopel.
LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.
MR. PULITZER: Chairman Richard
Nicolello.

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LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.
MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum sir.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We will do
the contract portion of the Rules Committee. First I need a motion to suspend the rules. Moved by Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator Schaefer. All in favor of suspending the rules say aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

Contracts. A-6, A-7, A-10 of 2020
are resolutions authorizing the commissioner of Shared Services to award and execute purchase orders or blanket purchase orders between the county of Nassau and Commercial Clearwater Company, Inc., LDV, Inc., Seaford Avenue Corp.

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B-7, B-10 \text { and } B-5 \text { of } 2020 \text { are }
$$ resolutions authorizing the county executive to award and execute contracts between the county of Nassau and Seaford Avenue Corp., Hinck Electrical Contractors, Inc. and EA Restorations.

E contracts. E-33, E-34, E-35,

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$E-36, E-38, E-39, E-40, E-41, E-42, E-43$,
$\mathrm{E}-44, \mathrm{E}-45, \mathrm{E}-46, \mathrm{E}-47, \mathrm{E}-48, \mathrm{E}-49$. U-3 of 2020. Need a motion to put all those contracts before us. Moved by Deputy

Presiding Officer Kopel. Seconded by Minority Leader Abrahams. All of these contracts are before us.

Two of the contracts the IG is still looking at. Those are B-7, 2020, it's a contract with Seaford Avenue Corp., and E-30 of 2020 with Bershire Farm Center and Services for Youth. Since the IG is still investigating we're going to need to table those contracts. Proposed contracts. Motion to table moved Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator Schaefer. All in favor of tabling those two signify by saying aye. Those opposed? That carries unanimously.

Now we will consider the contracts
individually and start with Parks contracts which include A-6, Commercial Clearwater Company, Inc.

> MS. CASO: Tori Caso with the Parks Department. A-6 is a blanket purchase

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order with Commercial Clearwater Co., Inc. for a maximum of $\$ 1,550,000$ for chlorine tablets for the swimming pools.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any questions on this contract? Hearing none, we will move on to the next one with Parks, which is E-38, Discover Long Island, Inc.

MS. CASO: E-38 is an amendment to the existing agreement with Discover Long Island who promotes tourism for the county. Extending the term through December 31st of this year for an amount of up to $\$ 800,000$.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any questions about this contract? I know that Discover Long Island has been doing this for us for quite a while. We met with some of the principals and they're actively promoting tourism and all the economic benefits that flow from that.

Any questions? Thank you very much. Move on to the Office of Emergency Management which will be A-7 2020 LDV, Inc.

MR. DELANEY: Thomas Delaney, Office of Emergency Management. A-7-20 is for

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\$214,333 to allow OEM to purchase another command vehicle. This is a smaller command vehicle from the same manufacturer as the current command vehicle. But smaller is going to help us out. Sometimes it's difficult to roll out the large one that we have. This is pretty much the same functionality just doesn't have a conference room in the back but it will allow for interoperatable communications and other meetings to take place.

LDV was selected for this
because -- let me put it this way, not
selected. We sought them out initially because of our current command vehicle being bought from them. We used GSA e-bid for the procurement process on this. They were the only bidder on this but we definitely deemed this to be cost reasonable. 100 percent grant funded.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So there
is a larger command vehicle that we currently have?
MR. DELANEY: We do. It was

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purchased in 2007.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: How often
is that used?
MR. DELANEY: Pretty often. Today it was out at the request of the administration to an event in Malverne. We use it for fires. We used it for the rescue operation in Old Brookville for the collapse. Probably at least on the average of twice, sometimes three times a month.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Then the smaller one is necessary for what? Could you just repeat that? Because it's more?

MR. DELANEY: It's easier to fit into hard to get into places. It will also allow our staff, some of whom, most of whom do not have CDLs to safely operate this vehicle. LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: These vehicles are operated, they could be operated by the vehicles themselves as opposed to being towed to someplace? They're capable of being operated in and of themselves as opposed to being towed to different locations?

MR. DELANEY: Correct. They're

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not a trailer. They are self-contained units.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
Schaefer and then Legislator Rhoads.
LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Hi. How are you? You just mentioned CDLs. How many of your employees have CDLs?

MR. DELANEY: Right now two of them. We are looking at expanding that though. We got to bring in training for CDLs. Even though the expense for maintaining the CDL is going to be sustained by the individual, the cost of the training we're going to be able to fund that.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: What is the expense, if you mind me asking? What is the expense of maintaining the license?

MR. DELANEY: You got to pay for your license every year.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Every year
they have to renew it?
MR. DELANEY: Exactly. Instead
of paying whatever it is when you get your license renewed, let's say it's $\$ 100$ every couple of years, with a CDL it's probably

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about three times that.
LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Those are the only two employees that can operate the vehicle you now have?

MR. DELANEY: Yes. We are
looking at that. There are some questions whether or not a CDL is really required. But for right now we're just letting the people who have CDLs operate those vehicles.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Is that based on size why it would or wouldn't be required?

MR. DELANEY: Weight more than anything.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: You're thinking the smaller vehicle will not need somebody with that type of license?

MR. DELANEY: Correct. It's going to be below that weight limit.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: When are you looking to increase the number of people who have the CDL for the larger one?

MR. DELANEY: Looking to doing that like immediately.

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LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
Rhoads was next and then Legislator
DeRiggi-Whitton.
LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you Mr.
Chairman.
Couple of quick follow-ups
questions. First, with respect to the vehicle that you have now, correct me if I'm wrong, my understanding is that that vehicle is also available for individual fire departments and other jurisdictions to use if they're at the scene of a larger incident?

MR. DELANEY: If they request us to bring that vehicle out we're going to make our best effort to get it to them.

> LEGISLATOR RHOADS: With the use
of the present vehicle has there ever been $a$ situation where we've ever had to say no because that vehicle was being used by someone else for some other purpose? MR. DELANEY: Not to my
knowledge. But you're right, there could be contention should you have two events going on
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simultaneously.
LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I'm trying to
establish whether or not there's a need for an additional vehicle. Has there ever been a situation where somebody's called up for our vehicle and we've had to say no or that vehicle was too large to be able to fit in someplace else?

MR. DELANEY: We've had the vehicle placed on standby for a planned event and it was rolled out to an emergency. This happened last summer in fact when we were at one of the fests over at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration and we were called upon to bring it out.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: It's not a regular occurrence that there's a conflict? MR. DELANEY: It's not. But again, it's an older vehicle. There was damage sustained when the vehicle was brought up to Bayville during Sandy. Again, it's getting to the point where having a second vehicle will help our capabilities in the office.

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LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Is it the
intention that it's going to replace the original vehicle at some point in time?

MR. DELANEY: No. If we replace the vehicle we're going to replace it with a full sized one.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: My
understanding is it's fully grant funded based on your testimony. The grant that's funding this is that grant -- what is the grant actually?

MR. DELANEY: We're using one of our homeland security grants to procure this. In this case we had specified it was our I believe UWASI grant.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Could the grant be used for other purposes?

MR. DELANEY: Of course. Yes.
LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Okay. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have
Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton and Legislator Bynoe.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

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Basically that's what I wanted to point out. It's paid for 100 percent with the grant, correct, and that's what you feel you need? This is your choice of what you feel the department needs?

MR. DELANEY: Yes. This is one of the priorities that the department has been looking at now for a few years to get this done. I started this procurement well over a year ago in fact.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
have a quick question. I know you handle the procurement for OEM for the most part?

MR. DELANEY: We do. I do.
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
I ask you something a little digressing slightly. In a situation that we are faced with right now where, for instance, hand sanitizers are very necessary. I was told through the grapevine that there was a problem with the procurement and we had lost out on a big order of them.

MR. DELANEY: It's not so much that we lost out on a big order. OEM is about

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95 percent grant funded as far as salary. The state said that this is not related to terrorism. Everything that we do has to have a nexus to terrorism as far as our grant spend down. So when I called up and spoke to the state last week the answer was you can't use grant funds to buy hand sanitizers.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
That's interesting. I would think it would be any emergency not just terrorism.

MR. DELANEY: If we requested
funding from the county general fund to be able to do that yeah. But unfortunately, again, the FEMA grants, the Homeland Security grants all have to have a nexus to terrorism for everything we do.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I was thinking if it's something like a health issue and we need hand sanitizer in an emergency should it be in the future couldn't we have something lined up so we wouldn't have to go through the procurement? But it wasn't really the procurement that's the problem it's the usage of your grants?

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MR. DELANEY: Correct. It's the funding source. We don't have general funds available.

## LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

Okay. Thank you.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator Bynoe.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you Presiding Officer. Good afternoon. So as my colleague, $I$ believe both colleagues, pointed out this is 100 percent grant funded?

MR. DELANEY: Correct.
LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I know in a
lot of cases we are looking at shared services and reducing expenses, but $I$ think in the area of the Office of Emergency Management there should be some level of redundancy in place. So having two of these types of trucks would be I think beneficial to a county that serves 1.4 million people.

MR. DELANEY: That's correct to recognize that. The vehicle now that we have is getting older. If it did have to go out for extended repairs we would be without that

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vehicle. No different than we are right now with the medical emergency response vehicle. The MERV that we have that we roll out to various incidents. We only have one of those. But the one thing that does help us out is the regional asset and if our was down no different than what Suffolk County does right now they ask us to bring our's out. We could ask Suffolk to roll theirs out.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: In the event
that the current vehicle ages out and is no longer available we would then replace it with a light vehicle. This would not be in substitution because it is limited because it does not have the same capacity, am I accurate?

MR. DELANEY: By design we didn't want it to have the same capacity because we didn't want to have the same size. Something smaller, easier to get into incidents with.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Certain areas and events, correct? It would be easier in some instances to get into certain events and access?

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MR. DELANEY: Right. If anyone went up to the incident in Upper Brookville with the collapse you saw what the road looked like. It was very similar to what Avianca was like. The road was filled with emergency response vehicles.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone else? Hearing none, thank you very much.

The next two contracts are from the police department. A-10 of 2020 is with Motorola Solutions, Inc.

MR. STEPHANOFF: Good afternoon. Deputy Inspector Stephanoff from the police department. A-10 of 2020 is to authorize and award a blanket purchase order for the radio maintenance and repair for the Nassau County Police Department. This is a renewal of a blanket order we had. This maintains our main radio system that the cops use. It maintains the equipment and $C B$, all the station houses and the buildings that have radios, every police car and every hand-held portable radio. We $24-7$ support. You know, 24 hours a

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day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and they help us that we don't lose radio coverage for the cops. This was advertised. This was put out as a bid advertised in Newsday. Purchasing recommends to award Motorola for the contract.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Are these Motorola products that we're using?

MR. STEPHANOFF: Yes. Motorola helped build the radio system. It's their products and we did bid it out to see if anyone else can maintain it. We only got one bidder back from all the companies. And they successfully, in the last blanket order, helped us maintain the radio system.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So it's almost equivalent to a sole source provider?

MR. STEPHANOFF: Yes. It's maintenance.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It is conceivable that somebody else could maintain it but Motorola is obviously the most likely recommended to do this.

One of the things I would like is

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that periodically we get updates and contracts that come before us with respect to the status of the radio equipment and similar communication equipment the police have. I was wondering if you could provide more of a memo indicating exactly what the resources that are being used and the status of what those resources are.

MR. STEPHANOFF: I can reach
out. Chief of support oversees the radio system. I can reach out to them to be in contact with you.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We would appreciate that. Any other questions? Let's go to the next one which is E-44, Crime Victims, Inc.

MR. STEPHANOFF: E-44 of '20.
This is to award a contract between the police department and Crime Victims, Inc., Megan's Law. This is a service that we use. The contractor supplies the police department -- I apologize -- with helpline access to victims, sex offender victims, literature outreach and also counseling referrals. We don't pay on a

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case-by-case basis. We give them $\$ 180,000$ a year to help them offset their expenses and we can utilize them throughout the year. They're a very good outreach that our Special Victims Unit uses and they helped the police department.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: They've worked with us throughout the years as well.

MR. STEPHANOFF: Yes. We renew this contract for quite some time now.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Only
question $I$ have is it looks like the contract expired in August of 2019.

MR. STEPHANOFF: We had trouble with the disclosure forms from them. So we finally got them back and we were able to put the contract forward.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other questions? Hearing none, thank you inspector. Next contracts are with public works B-10 of 2020 with Hinck Electrical Contractors, Inc.

MR. ARNOLD: Ken Arnold, Public Works. The Hinck contract, B-10, is for the
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improvement and repair of the hardwood ejector station in the Franklin dry pump stations in Glen Cove. We received a total of five bids and Hinck was the most responsible bidder. It's ten percent WBE on the contract. LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any questions? Hearing none, why don't we move on to E-33, LiRo program and construction management.

MR. ARNOLD: E-33 is construction
management services for the Glen Cove sludge dewatering project. That sludge dewatering project is to replace equipment. This is the oversite of the construction management. We received a total of six proposals. LiRo was the most technical best value proposal. They have a 12 percent $W B E$ on their contract. LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Backup indicates the RFP was issued in July 2017? MR. ARNOLD: Yes. LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: What was the delay in getting this to us? MR. ARNOLD: Getting both the bid project and see the project lined up
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together. I believe there was a delay in the bid contract due to $I$ think something with the bonding. But then also with the submittals. So we lined them all up to make sure they went together. I think you've already seen the other contract.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions? Let's go to E-48 of 2020.
MR. ARNOLD: E-48 is our traffic
on-call contract. Nelson and Pope is the last of $I$ believe a total of five firms we selected. They were behind because of disclosure issues. They will be part of our pool engineering services on our traffic on-call.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions about this one? Hearing none, are you the point person for the EA Restoration contract as well?

MR. ARNOLD: Myself and Robert Cleary yes. Technical side I can handle. Any questions on the IG report the administration dealt with that.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Since you
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have a role to play why don't we cover that as well right now. That's B-5 of 2020 the contract with EA Restoration, Inc.

MR. ARNOLD: Yes. So, B-5 is phase two of the family mat court construction project. This is the interior fit-out of the facility. It was bid back at the end of the year. It's an 18-month project. We had seven bidders and $E$ and $A$ was the lowest bidder that was determined.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Do we have a completion date in sight on this contract? On this project?

MR. ARNOLD: From notice to proceed 18 months will be the completion date. Once we get approval from this body and the comptroller and NIFA we will issue a notice to proceed. This will require a full NIFA board meeting. So, assuming that happens in May, I would think notice to proceed would be June 1st. So 18 months from June 1st.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Is that the last phase? Once they complete their work are we done with --

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MR. ARNOLD: For the building yes. We have the family justice center. That's a separate bid contract. That's going out currently. That is going to be lined up to be done in the same time frame as this phase two project. We don't want any construction after we are done with phase two. Right now we are on schedule to have both of these done at the same time.

We're also contemplating a project for the court area sidewalks, parking lots and lighting. It's not contingent on the building being done. But it's the administration and my thought is to have that whole complex completed at one time and not to have anymore construction there.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The Family Justice Center is that going to be within this building?

MR. ARNOLD: Yes. It's in the unfinished gray space. There's a little bit of work that phase two will do to get the gray space ready but all the interior fit-out was a separately bid contract. We did not want to
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issue a change order for that. We thought it was more effective to do another bid.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It's being
done at the same time as some of the work that's --

MR. ARNOLD: Yes. Same project
labor agreement will be utilized for this call
it phase three or just the family justice -I'd rather call it the Family Justice Center project, it will be done under the same project labor agreement.

## LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Family

court building, Family Justice Center and the parking lot area?

MR. ARNOLD: We are hoping to get
the parking lot done so we can have one completed facility and not having anything else that needs to be done at a later date.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: My question would be, realistically, when do we think all of that is going to be done and this building will be open?

MR. ARNOLD: Should be 18 months
from June 1st if that's when we issue notice

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to proceed.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Basically
January 1 of 2022?
MR. ARNOLD: I think that's about right.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We can hold you to that?

MR. ARNOLD: We're pushing very
hard. The police academy is right now on time on budget. We are pushing that just as hard. We want to use the same model as we did for that project.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We urge
you in the strongest terms to push equally hard for this. The family court building now was not designed for the number of litigants, the number of courts. People are stuffed in there. It really is not appropriate that our residents continued to be forced to go into that building.

MR. ARNOLD: It was originally a 24 month construction schedule. We actually reduced it because of those thoughts.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Before I

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bring Mr. Cleary up, does anyone have any questions for Mr. Arnold? We're good?

Mr. Cleary.
MR. CLEARY: Robert Cleary, chief procurement officer.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: There were some questions obviously raised by the IG's investigation. I want to ask you about the status of those questions and whether they have been resolved?

MR. CLEARY: We appreciate the information that the IG brought to our attention. It did shed some additional light on the operations of the vendor that we were not aware of. We reviewed that thoroughly. We reviewed that with the department, reviewed that with the vendor. The vendor submitted additional disclosures. We reviewed the information that was submitted on those disclosures and everything does seem to have been satisfactorily answered in our opinion.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Have you had any direct communications with the IG that represented it's been resolved to their

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satisfaction as well?
MR. CLEARY: I can't speak for the inspector general obviously. We have had some communication with them regarding this matter.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: My counsel indicates that he has actually spoken with the IG and she believes with the updated disclosures and the additional information that was provided by $E$ and $A$ that she is satisfied.

Any questions for Mr. Cleary?
LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If I may
Mr. Presiding Officer? I appreciate Mr. Cleary being here and obviously Mr. Arnold to talk about the construction component. But all due respect, the report was generated by the IG and I know we haven't had the IG down here to formally present, but I would think based on the commentary of Mr. Cleary as well as the back and forth to make sure that this legislature is proceeding in the correct direction. We should make sure that the IG is comfortable with the responses that Mr. Cleary

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has presented to the legislature. I would request that the IG come down to make that case to the legislature before we proceed.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: All
right. What we can do is table this for now and then either she can get down here while we're still doing the contracts or when Rules reconvenes later on. A motion to table by the minority leader. Seconded by Legislator Schaefer. All in favor of tabling signify by saying aye. I think we're good for now but we're going to hear from the IG on this contract.

MR. ARNOLD: Thank you.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Next two
contracts are with Traffic and Parking
Violations Agency. E-34 2020 is a contract with Top Key Court Reporting, Inc.

MS. CLAUDEFELDER: Christin Claudefelder, counsel to Traffic and Parking. Item E-34-20 is for stenography services at Traffic and Parking. It's the first of two one-year extensions with our existing stenographic agent. We did have an

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RFP back in October 19th of 2015. We had two responses and this was the lowest bid. It is a woman-owned business enterprise. Anybody has any questions I will take questions.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions?
LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Why are you extending it and not rebidding it?

MS. CLAUDEFELDER: It's not time yet. Within the original contract we have two one-year extensions that are permitted. So, based on our calculations we think we will have to go out to an RFP I think before December 31st of 2021.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: You don't have to $I$ understand, but you also don't think that you'll necessarily get anything better out there if you did it now?

MS. CLAUDEFELDER: I don't think there's any reason to believe that, that's correct.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other questions? Let's go on to the next one which is E-43, Quest Computer Products L.L.C.

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MS. CLAUDEFELDER: E-43 of ' 20 is our character-based ticket processing system. This is a sole source provider. It's proprietary software. This is an annual amendment that we have been doing since we went out for the original RFP with that vendor. This is amendment 18, which is just an extension. If anybody has any questions I'm happy to answer them.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Does TIPVA regularly evaluate whether it makes sense to stay with the sole source or whether it makes sense at some point to do an RFP?

MS. CLAUDEFELDER: Absolutely. We actually -- you have already approved the contract for the new software that's going to replace this system. That contract's already been executed and we are already in the process, the design process of coming up with a new system that we believe is going to be a much better fit for where we are right now. I think the projection for when that's going to finally be online is fourth quarter of 2020. Latest maybe early 2021. So this is just

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either the last or second to last of the enhancement contracts to get us through to that point.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's good. Any questions? Thank you very much. Next two are with Human Services and Social Services. E-45 of 2020 is an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

MS. HORST: Katy Horst from the administration. This is a three-year contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County. This contract will allow for the creation, expansion of the 4 H Youth Development Program such as the Master Gardener Program, increased East Meadow farm visits and programing, expanded marine camp among other programs and activities. The contract is $\$ 150,000$ for three years.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions? We're good. Let's move to the next one which is $U-3$, which is an agreement with Long Island Marriott.

MS. HORST: This is to execute a contract with the Long Island Marriott for the

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annual senior luncheon. This is $\$ 13,200$ for our annual senior luncheon event.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have been having it there for a while, correct?

MS. HORST: Yes. At least the
last three years.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions on this one? Thank you Katy.
Health Department E-36 2020, James McGuinness and Associates. Double duty today.

MS. LAURAIN: Mary Ellen
Laurain. Thank you. Item E-36-20 is a contract with James McGuinness and Associates in the amount of $\$ 929,700$. This program provides Medicaid billing for our children with preschool special education program. This vendor determines medical eligibility for Medicaid rather and reimbursement. The contract is about ten weeks late. The vendor had a critical family emergency.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions on this contract? Legislator
DeRiggi-Whitton.
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

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Thank you. My counsel wanted to get copies of any updates from the years through 2019 as far as their records and all.

MS. LAURAIN: I don't understand the question.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Do you know if we have any updated data on the reimbursements that we have been receiving for this program?

MS. LAURAIN: I would have to ask
our fiscal unit. How much Medicaid reimbursement we get?

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
Yeah. Through 2019.
MS. LAURAIN: I actually have
that. Approximately $\$ 5.4$ million last year. That's after claims are submitted to insurance and they determine Medicaid eligibility. Just double check that. They identify the children and the services and then they determine Medicaid eligibility.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Thank you very much.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone

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else? I think we're good. Thanks.
District attorney E-39 of 2020, the Safe Center of LI, Inc.

MR. MCMANUS: Bob McManus, district attorney's office. The item before you is an agreement between the district attorney's office and the Safe Center of Long Island for a 24 -hour hotline for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. While the district attorney's office has provided funding for the hotline for the previous four years, this year's agreement had to be approved in advance by the state comptroller's office to ensure that this was an appropriate use of forfeiture funds in accordance with stricter guidelines instituted in 2019 governing the use of such funds.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions? We're good. Thank you. We are in the process of going through the contracts. After the contracts have been called there will be a public comment period.

County attorney, E-40 of 2020. These next four, five contracts are with the

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county attorney's office.
MR. LIBERT: Brian Libert from
the county attorney's office. Do you want me to cover them all at once or just these two?

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let's
cover the first two together since they're both lobbyists and we will move on.

MR. LIBERT: That's what $I$ was
thinking as well. E-40-20 and E-41-20 are contracts for the county's two lobbying firms. These firms represent the county in Albany and other places for the county's lobbying efforts.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Aren't
these a little late? Obviously the session is more than two months old at this point.

MR. LIBERT: These contracts have been in place previously. So these firms have been doing work on behalf of the county. So I would hesitate to say that they were late. They may be relative to the Albany session, but they have been doing work and the work is ongoing.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The

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amendments will go through February 28, 2021? MR. LIBERT: That's my understanding. LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's kind of an odd date. I think we are going to approve these but that will be in the middle of the next session. I would have thought maybe June 30, 2021 might have been a better choice. But we have what we have. Any questions about these two? Let's go to the next ones. Actually next two, which are contracts with Goldberg and Segalla.
MR. LIBERT: E-46-20 and E-47-20
are contracts with the outside counsel firm of Goldberg Segalla. E-46 is a contract which is closing out several, basically closing out the old contract. I believe they had four or five cases under that. Several of them have ended. All of those cases which are continuing are covered under the new contract which is case specific in nature.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions about these two? Hearing none, Sokoloff Stern, which is the next one, we
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actually had requested a month or two ago that when there is a new case being assigned to a law firm that it be broken out into a separate contract. The reason for that is we don't want to see the approval of an initial contract to go on in perpetuity. In other words, we approve a law firm to handle a case and then later on we offer them another case under the same contract. And again, a single approval can continue theoretically in perpetuity. We've ask that the new cases be broken out separately from the existing cases.

So we would request that they do that with Goldberg Segalla. We have no problem, speaking for the majority, with this firm. Obviously they're very qualified. But we just with handling these we would request that new cases be separated and put into a separate contract.

## MR. LIBERT: We are aware of that

instruction. It's conceivable that this was actually drafted before we had that conversation on the record. But I would say

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also, just as a note, $I$ think your point is well taken. In this case Sokoloff Stern was handling one matter called Rodriguez and they were only handling one part of Rodriguez. One particular conflicted individual. That case settled and there was still significant funding left on the contract. So there was some practical value in that. But of course your point is well taken legislator and we will take that under advisement for the future.

## LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: But that's

 exactly why we would want to do that because obviously there was an initial grant of monetary approval for this firm to handle that one case and rather than roll it over into a second case $I$ think it's easier to see how much these cases are costing the county to do it separately.MR. LIBERT: Understood.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We are going to table this for now and hopefully you can get Sokoloff Stern to execute that contract, turn it around and we can do this in

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two weeks.
MR. LIBERT: Very well.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Motion to table by Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator Schaefer. All in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? The matter is tabled.

MR. LIBERT: Thank you.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Medical examiner, $\mathrm{E}-42$ of 2020 , a contract with Peter Farmer.

MS. KELLY: My name is Carolyn
Kelly. I'm the deputy medical examiner for laboratories and I'm appearing on these two matters. Dr. Farmer first or the other first?

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: What was
the second one that you have.
MS. KELLY: It's item 75-20, a board transfer of funds about $\$ 13,000$. It's a reallocation of funding.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We're not handling that part of the calendar now. Basically that will go before Finance first

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and in all likelihood once it passes Finance it will on consent to the Rules Committee. MS. KELLY: Just Dr. Farmer then. This is an amendment that is long over due. It covers the term from 2018 to 2019 of June. The maximum amount of the contract was $\$ 35,000$ for the term of this amendment period. Dr. Farmer is a forensic neuropathologist. He performs examinations of brain samples from remains and we're trying to get this through because it's overdue as you can see.

## LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any

questions? Thank you very much. I'm going to make a motion to untable the contract with EA Restorations. Seconded by Minority Leader Abrahams. All in favor of untabling $E-5$ of 2020 signify by saying aye. Matter is untabled. I believe our inspector general is here.

MS. FRANZESE: It's been a while Presiding Officer. How are you? Thank you for inviting me. I don't really get to come down here often.

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LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I think you're the only person that says that.

MS. FRANZESE: It's a pleasure to be here. I believe the legislature had questions or a question.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How are
you? So, obviously since your report was issued on February 7th it has generated much concern regarding the EA contract. Then obviously we just had the department come up and speak on the contract as it pertains to the construction and Mr. Cleary then, is he still here? I don't see him but I'm sure he's somewhere in the building. Then Mr. Cleary got up and appreciated your comments from your office and at the same time talked about some of the changes. Then obviously he referenced I believe the letter from E and A Restoration as well in regard to some of the changes.

Now, what $I$ was going to do was go point by point through your report to make sure each of the items that you identified in your report were met to your satisfaction or I guess we can cut it short and you can tell me

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what you believe, based on the $E$ and $A$ letter, Mr. Cleary's statement, based off of what you wrote which was issued on February 7th where you are or we can go point by point.

MS. FRANZESE: I'm happy to talk about and if you have any other questions I will be happy to answer them.

I can tell you that the vendor and their attorneys cooperated fully with my office. They provided all the documents. They made their clients available for interviews and we were able to get what we needed in order to draft the report that you have.

It's my understanding and I've read the amended or amended disclosure forms. It looks as if they did that promptly and it looks like that is -- that the new disclosure forms are reflecting what my office saw in its investigation. I can also tell you that we received a letter, which I guess you have as well, and a supplemental letter in response to our report. And at this point, based on everything, the totality of the circumstances,

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we are satisfied with what we have.
LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Legislator
DeRiggi-Whitton has questions at some point. I guess based on the documentation that was missing initially it has now been furnished and your office is satisfied with that documentation. However, there are underlying issues where this legislature will have to determine whether or not there was some level of perceived, I'm using the word perceived, deception that was potentially going to occur.

I guess I really want to ask you specifically not really about the disclosures but more about the commentary between your office and some of the officers that are actually on $E$ and $A$. Let me bring up an example.

In 2017 I believe, if I'm pronouncing his name wrong correct me, Antonios. According to the passport system submitted to New York City's passport system he identified himself as an officer at that time in 2017 if I'm understanding this

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correctly.
However, is the terminology used on the county's disclosure, principal disclosure questionnaire different than the terminology that's used in passport? Why would the chief executive officer be misinterpreting to think that we weren't asking for the same level of information that Passport uses? I don't know if that came out in your interview that $I$ didn't see in your report.

MS. FRANZESE: In New York City they have -- they ask for three officers. It's my understanding that you can't continue on into the form unless you provide three officers. So I believe that the vendor's thought was that they were going to provide three officers just to move on with the form. At least that's seems to be their position.

As far as our forms, we indicate, obviously you know, principal owner. I think it's owners and/or officers. On that disclosure they chose to put down the one officer. Sole owner and officer.

It's unclear to me why the two, it
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was unclear to me why the two disclosures, one from the city one from Nassau County, why they were different in that respect. I believe in the first response from the vendor, I do not believe it was sufficiently spoken to. However, in the supplemental response, which I hope you have, it seemed to be a little clearer that they seem to make clearer their position.

## LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: In your

interview of Antonios was there any concern with him with E and A not disclosing him as an officer because there was some issue with his political campaign contribution disclosure form or the fact that he wouldn't have to do one since he wasn't technically listed as an officer? I highlight that because I'm looking at your report, because one of the things about our disclosure process it also requires that political campaign contributions be disclosed and there was a \$5,000 campaign contribution made on October 23, 2017. So, to me, that's a very significant number. As well as it wasn't disclosed initially. I'm

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guessing it has been now?
MS. FRANZESE: Yes. As a matter of fact, I believe that when we spoke with the attorneys that actually they disclosed I think even more than our disclosures actually required. But it's hard to tell. When people are filling out forms and leave something off or if they decide that a certain individual is not an officer, it's hard to determine whether they're doing that in order to make things easier and move quickly and I'm going to disclose one officer to almost kind of take a shortcut. Or are they doing it to not reveal certain, as you mentioned, campaign contributions or affiliated companies or things of that nature.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let me ask you Inspector General, there was another incident as well for a contract in 2017 for $\$ 5$ million for general construction where in that case, if I'm understanding your report correctly, while E and A did disclose certain campaign contribution, it did not disclose again Antonio's $\$ 10,000$ contribution this time

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that was made October 7, 2017. This is the same type of incident that happened in '16 and in '17?

MS. FRANZESE: It looks like the company's stance at the time saying that Antonio wasn't or isn't an officer it seems like that caused them to interpret this as they didn't need to disclose it. Again, I'm not certain -- we weren't able to really ascribe any motive to it but certainly that was the result. That certain campaign contributions and other disclosures were not made public. And from my office we want just want to make sure you have all the information before you vote on contracts.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: First let me take a pause to say that. I think your report, as well as your reports, have been a breath of fresh air. I'm glad to see that we have an inspector general of the likes of your office and commend your office on the great work that you have been doing. It's much appreciated. I have one more question that I wanted to dive into.
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I'm just looking through your report to make sure I find it. I may have to pass the floor until the next person while I look for it. There was a question -- you had interviewed Antonio and there was some back and forth that $I$ saw where he identified himself as a principal officer. I guess maybe I was reading through the passport system or maybe he identified himself as an officer maybe at a bidding process. I'm not too sure. I'm trying to find it in your report.

Can you shed some light on that or do you need me to find it in the report and identify it to be able to answer the question properly?

MS. FRANZESE: I will tell you
initially when we visited the location we asked for the boss and they brought out actually the other officer that now files a disclosure, which is the daughter of the vendor. She actually identified herself as an officer. Then after some digging obviously there were things that supported that. That she was in fact an officer and she actually

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had the title that she told us she had.
LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: CFO?
MS. FRANZESE: Yes. Minority
Leader, I can also note that the county as of right now doesn't have a definition, doesn't define officer, which may cause some issues. With people deciding whether they need to disclose certain things.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
DeRiggi-Whitton.
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
think that would be a good change. I concur that we really appreciate having you and your office. But when we get the backup, when it comes to contributions, and again, not even just pertaining to this but just in all of them, sometimes it doesn't mention the person who contributed and the amount. I think that that should be something we should require as well. It would just be easier for us to have an idea. Obviously there's nothing wrong with contributing. But if it seems to be an excessive amount it makes it easier for us to be aware of that. Do you think you would

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consider changing that possibly policy with the procurement forms, just requiring the names and amounts?

MS. FRANZESE: I know for sure the administration is looking at the forms to see how they can improve the forms. Since you said that, and I'm sure they're listening, I'm sure they would note that as something that should be taken into consideration. I think truly as you said, it's not even necessarily what's in the disclosure just the fact that people are disclosing. It's about accountability. It's about transparency.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
Correct. There's nothing necessarily wrong just to know about it. There's been a couple of things we recommended. I don't know when they're going to be coming out with the new forms but I think it would be helpful to show them to all of us. I remember we wanted to mention if there was a problem or if there was a lawsuit with a municipality, things like that. So, I have a couple that aren't coming to me right now. Maybe we can go over that

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before they're put in place.
MS. FRANZESE: I think the more input certainly the better. In our reports I hope that everyone agrees we are trying to get you as much as we can so that you can be as informed as possible. Everything we know we feel you should know so that you can decide.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
know the Minority Leader is asking the questions but basically do you feel comfortable with this contract?

MS. FRANZESE: As far as the vendor, $I$ think that the fact that they responded promptly and the fact that they cooperated certainly is something that makes you feel a little more confident in the process. I was glad that the attorneys were as forthcoming and that the vendors -- the officers were so forthcoming. I was glad they responded. I was glad that they responded and I'm glad that they actually clarified their response. The supplemental response even made us feel better. At this point we wanted to obviously tell you what we've learned and then

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at this point you guys make the decision because everybody voted for you and not for me.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
Speaking with my colleague to my left, Legislator Siela Bynoe, again, not for anything other than to clarify and make things easier for us up here, maybe if you do such a thorough review, which you did, maybe you could just at the end summarize it with a recommendation as to whether or not you feel comfortable or should it go for further information.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
Bynoe.
LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So yes, a wonderful job. Just very thorough in your communication to us. I appreciate it. Based on that, $I$ was weighing my decision on it. Then there was a response that came in from E and $A$ and then we didn't hear back from you. My request is that when there is some level of a response provided to us if you could then weigh in and tell us whether you feel that

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it's adequate so we don't have to drag you back from One West. Today is great day. The weather is great and you probably didn't mind it much.

MS. FRANZESE: I don't get out much.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Just so we can close the loop on these tissues it would be helpful once you review whatever the response is in some way communicate with us.

MS. FRANZESE: I'm happy to be as responsive to the legislature as you need me to be. But certainly $I$ would have certainly reached out. If somebody reached out I'm happy to talk to you. We want to be as open with you as we are asking people to be with us.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Again, thank you for a great job.

MS. FRANZESE: We appreciate the support from the legislature. It's been a great year and a few months.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: This vendor has a history of doing business with

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the county, correct?
MS. FRANZESE: This particular vendor it's my understanding they do. LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I think you hit the nail on the head before when you said the issue has to do with the use of the term officer. Certainly in terms of principals, in terms of officers of the corporation they indicated that the mother I guess is in fact the sole owner and president and 100 percent shareholder of the corporation. And if you look at it as a corporate term there is only one officer. The others were throwing around that term. But in terms of the corporate structure the only officer is the president. Whether they gave a different answer to the city for whatever reason, I can see how they could define how they're answering this disclosure as who are the officers, who is the principal. It is the mother because she is the sole shareholder and president.

I think the county has to clarify going forward what information we are actually

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seeking. I agree with my colleagues that we may need to update these disclosure forms to make sure that our vendors are getting specific directions on what information they have to provide.

MS. FRANZESE: I think
improvements can be made as well.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Minority
Leader Abrahams.
LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Quick thing
Madam IG. As I'm reading through -- this is from county 2019 procurement policy, definition of officer says any individual who serves as chief executive officer, chief operating officer of the contractor by whatever title is known.

If Antonios indicated that he identified himself to the New York City Passport System as an officer it's pretty clear. If he gave himself that title as an officer in 2017 then it fits into what we have in 2019. I'm not too sure where the confusion came but we should clarify our forms if we feel --

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MS. FRANZESE: I'm sorry Minority
Leader. I wanted to mention yes, it certainly does in our procurement policy have that. However, our forms don't reflect it, so I don't know that the vendors are reading the procurement policy very clearly.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I do want to ask you one final thing and then $I$ want to point something to Mr. Chiara. There is $\$ 150,000$ provision in the contract that requires monitoring. I'm not professing nor am I alleging anything in terms of any level of deception by the vendor. However, some of the concerns that are identified in your report and obviously looking at the responses by the CEO, it looks like they tried to address that. They submitted some of the disclosures.

But there is a $\$ 150,000$ provision in the contract that requires -- that could impose monitoring. I believe that is something in this case we would like to see get done. This is a contract that's millions and millions of dollars. I just wanted to get
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your thoughts on that provision of the contract as well and then $I$ want to bring up Mr. Chiara to talk about how will that be imposed.

MS. FRANZESE: Thank you for that question. It's a large project. It's a lot of our money that's going to be going to the vendor. I may be biased but I'm very pro oversight when it comes to things like this. In this circumstance, with the large amount of money that this contract is, that's in this contract, $I$ don't know that -- I can't see a downside for an integrity monitor. But again, it would have to be somebody independent. It would have to be somebody that the county chooses instead of maybe the vendor. But, I mean, integrity monitors are great. Oversight is great. I'm very pro that. Maybe I'm biased because of my job but I think it would be something to consider.
LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I think
it's something that we need to consider on a greater expansion of contracts. As the budget season begins to rile up, obviously it's

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something that we would like to talk to your office a little bit more. Potentially empowering your office more. Because I know obviously you cannot do the integrity monitoring from your office and your staff that you have now. But potentially looking to expand your role to be able to do that as well.

MS. FRANZESE: The large portion of my office is very familiar with integrity monitors and what they do and we are capable of that. I just want to say, it doesn't have to happen for every contract. But the larger contracts certainly should have some level of scrutiny. At least from my opinion.

## LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:

Mr. Chiara. Jodi hang around. We have a follow-up as well.

MR. CHIARA: Minority Leader, you have a question?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes. We were talking a little bit about the integrity monitor. That provision being imposed in the contract. I just have a quick question. In

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my reading of the contract is that monitor selected by your office or by the county or selected by the vendor?

MR. CHIARA: It's an allowance if it's needed. Under the allowance section it would be selected by the vendor with the county's approval.

## LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: By the

vendor with the county's approval.
MR. CHIARA: When I say the county I also mean the inspector general's approval as well.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm sorry
to put you on the spot Madame IG. How do you feel about the fact that the vendor's able to pick their own integrity monitor? It sounds unusual but I'd rather defer to someone like yourself.

> MS. FRANZESE: Again, I have a
little skin in the game. My thought is if our office is able to be a part of it we certainly -- I would be more comfortable. I do think the county should have more of a say than the vendor.

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LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Say for example, Mr. Chiara, the vendor comes up with A, B, C. You say no way. Then what's the recourse? Do they have to go find somebody else? Does the work not start until they have an integrity monitor in place? Like what happens next?

MR. CHIARA: The allowance wasn't written for the term of a contract. The allowance was written if a specific instance came up where it was necessary.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So it's not even required?

MR. CHIARA: It's an allowance. It's not required.

> LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I guess
what I'm driving is, when $I$ saw integrity monitor $I$ 'm thinking that this would start, regardless of whether or not we thought it was required, that they're monitoring how the contract is being executed and how the services to the county are being attributed. That's what I thought. That's not the case?

MR. CHIARA: That's not how it

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would be. It's an allowance. If it's needed for some specific instance that came up during the project the county could request that one be put in place for a specific instance or task. It's not for the contract.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I can't
speak for the Majority but I will speak for the Minority. It's needed. Let's just put it that way. There's been some concerns that have been identified by the inspector general. I'm not saying there's anything here that anyone -- I'm not accusing anyone of any level of deception, but there are some things that are questionable. And from that standpoint, I think it's needed. So explain to me the process to be able to impose an integrity monitor since we believe that it's needed.

MR. CHIARA: Just to sort of just to talk, and not to put the inspector general on the spot, she's standing right next to me, walking away, is that the inspector general did a review, acted in what a monitor would do. They did an investigation. They did a
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report. They turned up a report. On that specific instance you can ask them their opinion. But $I$ think the issue was raised. The vendor responded to the issue. I think from the county's point of view the vendor is responsible and that, for me, that specific instance has been closed. If something else came up along the project -- and also we are, the county is closely monitoring $E$ and $A$ performance at the academy and they're doing a great job.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How would
you know if something else came up if you don't have somebody that's watching it? The inspector general doesn't have the resources to be on the job, to see the site, to report anything they may see there. Who's going to be able to do the research to determine if anything -- this kind of fell into her domain. It's a contract that she's required to review. But as this project expands over a period of time who is that person that's going to do that monitoring? MR. CHIARA: Just like every

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major, every construction project, DPW monitors their contracts with the assistance of usually a construction monitor. That's the sort of same formula that the county has followed for many years. Currently E and A is under construction for the police academy. We get monthly reports from our monitor. I've been reviewing the reports. I don't know if the inspector general has them. I'm sure they review some reports. The project is monitored.

## LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Who is

 monitoring that contract? You said the police academy is being built. Who is monitoring? You said there's a monitor for that one.MR. CHIARA: DPW monitoring, not monitor. DPW is responsible for the project and they also have several consultants that also supervise the work.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: This is where we are, and I don't know if it's going to change anything. It's three o'clock now. We have concerns based off of the IG's report. If the administration cannot tell us

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that there will be a monitor in place, independent monitor that will be in place, we have to express those concerns in a vote. I'm trying to be as clear as $I$ can. So, if you're telling me today that there will not be an independent monitor or it will be there based off of there's a need then that's not good enough.
MR. CHIARA: I can only tell you
what the terms of the contract that the county agreed to which I relayed to your staff.

## LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I

understand. We need more meat on the bone.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:
Mr. Chiara, is there any sort of written guidelines that you have in terms of when an integrity monitor is appointed or not?

MR. CHIARA: In the procurement compliance policy there are general guidelines regarding how a monitor can be awarded. In this specific instance, this isn't us, the county, putting a monitor in place. It would just simply be an allowance Mr. Presiding Officer.

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LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The county
has put integrity monitors in place on other contracts?

MR. CHIARA: Yes.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We want to know what the guideline is. We want to know what the standard is.

MR. CHIARA: If you go to the procurement and compliance policy I believe it's in the appendix regarding, appendix $E$ maybe, where the general guidelines on that are.

## LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: General

guidelines. That will tell me what the standards are for when the county is going to decide when to apply an integrity monitor or not if $I$ look at what you are referring to? It will tell me this is what the standard is for when we are going to apply an integrity monitor, correct?

MR. CHIARA: Yes. It's the county's guidelines. It's based on the city's guidelines.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just a

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question for the Minority and then $I$ want to make another point. $E$ and $A$ Restorations is doing the Nassau County Police Academy. Are you proposing that there be an integrity monitor for both?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Honestly, I
don't know if it's the worst idea in the world. I mean, many of these things were uncovered by the IG in her February 7th report and we were not aware of some of these issues when the police academy was voted on. I don't think it's a bad idea to have that. I think some of these issues that are identified in this report are universal. They're not just germane to this particular contract. They're all tied in to disclosures, which, I mean, the very same issues that she identified in the report that were there as well. I don't think that's a bad idea. But it doesn't sound like there's an identified need to do it. If that's the case, then it is what it is. We think there is an identified need.

Again, I'm not going to say that anything was done with any intent to deceive
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the county. But there are some concerns here that surfaced about this particular form not being filled out. I'm glad to see that E and A chose to fill this stuff out in -- since that point decided to fill this stuff out. If we didn't have the inspector general put together their report which identified many issues would they have even done that? It seems like, unfortunately, this got past the administration as well on two fronts.

So again, I'm not saying anything was done with any particular intent. I'm glad we have the inspector general that is able to uncover some of the things that occasionally do slip by. I would say it's prudent that we have an independent monitor that's there. LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: But should it be for both?
LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes, to answer your question. I thought I answered it when I said it wouldn't be the worst idea.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I guess
that's prompted by their responses to the disclosures. Over the course of this project
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I think what we needed more was a construction manager than an integrity monitor. So that's prompted by the concerns with their responses.

Mr. Arnold, if we choose to reject the bid and the county has to rebid or go through the process what's the time frame?

MR. ARNOLD: Reject the bid would probably take us a month to recommend the second bidder if possible if he would hold his bid. If not, to reprocure you're probably talking we'll be back here in about six months. Four to six months.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's the issue that we're facing right now. We can vote this down. I mean, the crunch that we're under is this project has taken so long. So many years. It's not a large project. It's not a particularly complex project and so much rides upon it. As I said, the residents who are dealing with the family court matters are very, very sensitive. Sometimes doing conferences in hallways. The judges have no space. It is a mess. To delay this further

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is on the one hand is something we don't want to impose on our residents. On the other hand, we have these issues now with respect to this particular contract.

MR. ARNOLD: This does not
preclude E and A from rebidding again. Again, they would be able to bid on anything that we would redo. And I believe they would probably take us to court if we reject the bid.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
Bynoe. Then Deputy Presiding Officer. Then the Minority Leader.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
Presiding Officer. So, hi Mr. Arnold. Commissioner Arnold. So my concern at this point regarding a monitor is that number one, I think it should be independent from the contractor having any opportunity to weigh in on who the monitor is. I think it's an inherent conflict if we allow for the contractor to decide who's going to monitor their activities. The objective is to make sure that they're in compliance with all of the components or provisions within the

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contract.
I would argue that delaying that and only then bringing them into play or engaging them when there is a problem, when we identify a problem, actually reduces the real benefit. I think that if they're there at the very start and able to monitor the activities from the very start we minimize any opportunity for them to not be in compliance. I think what keeps people in compliance, right? The idea of somebody being a watchdog.

MR. ARNOLD: We have our
construction management team and our county people on the project.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I understand that. I have long been, and no disrespect to your county folks, $I$ have long been a proponent for this type of oversight for county contracts. Whether it be a DPW contract or whether we are providing health care services at the jail. I just think that far too many times we sign these contracts, and no disrespect to our departments, but then we rely on the folks within the department to

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be the watchdog over those contracts. And in many cases there are other charges that they have. There are other responsibilities that they have that does not allow them to give it the level of scrutiny that it requires.

Someone who would be tasked with just looking at that job day and in day out, doing the polling on intervals, going in and looking at this job on a regular basis $I$ think is a lot different than having someone from within the DPW framework.

MR. ARNOLD: All county contracts have a construction manager that's on the project day to day. Overseen by a county employee. And remember also, the county comptroller reviews all the claims.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: From what I understanding, this integrity monitor would also look at MWBE activities, it would look at a host of different activities which relates to contract.

MR. ARNOLD: Which is done by the county construction manager.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So then why

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wasn't earlier on that an integrity monitor contract was brought to this body. Why was it earlier on last year that we had an integrity monitor?

MR. ARNOLD: That was the police academy.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It doesn't matter. We just said we think it's important for both contracts. So why last year we needed an integrity monitor and now -MR. ARNOLD: We brought it on for the police academy because we thought an extra level would be good because we didn't have a project program manager. The family court, in addition to county, it has a construction manager and also a program manager. We have three levels of people watching that job. The academy was only going to have county construction manager on it. We thought that size job another level would not hurt on that oversight.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Even if I was to acquiesce and say listen, I hear you, I agree with you, we have people on the job

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site, the contract then says that if in fact we believe we need one that we are going to in some way confer with them to determine who they're going -- and we will then weigh in as to who we think is best. I think that there's some level of -- there would be an inherent conflict and they would be beholding to potentially the contractor more so than the county.

MR. ARNOLD: Just remember the allowance item it was a lump sum. Once it was expended there would be no more money in the contract. So it would be for a task to expend on a lump sum on the allowance.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: To be paid by change order?

MR. ARNOLD: No. It's an allowance within the contract. If it was exhausted, then the decision would have to be made whether you have to do a change order to the project or not to make the allowance larger. It was only to deal with specific issues in this case if something came up. LEGISLATOR BYNOE: But there's

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been discussion up here that we believe that it should be on all of these very large scale construction items and you're saying that we don't need them, your staff can handle it. That's great. But the contract does say -for some reason it was built in there.

MR. ARNOLD: We ran across an issue that we needed a monitor to look at. We had the ability to do it.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So the county should procure somebody so that person is strictly beholding to the county. That's there's no confusion. There's no inherent conflict as to who that person is beholding to.

MR. ARNOLD: We did that --
LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I mean, come on. I think common sense has to prevail here today that that just doesn't make any sense. That we would be engaged in getting a monitor that the contractor has to be a part of the decision making as to who it is. Let the county procure for its own integrity monitor as they were doing before and let them have

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some oversight over both of these contracts. Let it be an on-call. It doesn't have to be that -- let it be on-call. As you state, your folks can do the job. Then let it be on-call. But I just think we should have a separate procurement process. It defies logic to me that we're even having this conversation that it should be grouped together like this. It just does. Sorry.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Mr. Arnold, if this contract were to be rebid or anything like that what would be the effect on the entire project?

MR. ARNOLD: We would have a gap between phase one and phase two where the county would have to expend funding to protect the building during the period of no work. I would assume that $E$ and A would probably challenge in nonresponsibility determination that would have to be required to have happened for them not to have received the bid and we would end up in the court to resolve it in that case. And we would have a delay during the rebid if that's where we went and

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they didn't challenge.
LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So you're talking potentially of a very extensive delay on the entire project and a very considerable amount of money in expense as a best scenario?

MR. ARNOLD: Yes.
LEGISLATOR KOPEL: At this point
you feel like we've got this thing under
control in terms of the issues of this specific contract?

MR. ARNOLD: It's my opinion if the IG would have called my compliance person and we had a discussion we probably could have resolved this without finding it in a report that led to this discussion today.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. I think that kind of tells the story for me. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The Minority Leader and myself and a bunch of us up here have discussed this and based on the testimony and the discussion we've had with the administration, with the IG, we believe

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that we would like to table this. We are going to table this. And that over the next two weeks we will have to continue those discussions specifically with respect to the need for an integrity monitor for this contract.

So, I will entertain a motion to table. Moved by the Minority Leader. Seconded by Legislator Rhoads. All in favor of tabling signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously. That item is tabled.

All the rest of the contracts are before us. Is there any public comment on the contracts? Mr. Budnick.

MR. BUDNICK: Mr. Chairman
Nicolello, honorable members of the legislature, John J. Budnick 122 Von Huenfeld Street.

Number one, I want to commend you for holding this past immediate item for as short a period as possible. I worry every day about the physical situation that our current family court in Westbury, which I consider to

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be a tragedy about to happen.
Speaking about tragedies, the comment I wanted to make about the district attorney's office, the funding for the crime victims, I am very seriously concerned we're having witnesses murdered because their existence and their identities and the places they reside are being necessarily disclosed by the district attorney's office. There are some argument as to whether it was necessary or whatever. But I believe that the district attorney's office in conjunction with the other agencies of the county have to in this disgusting situation that the current leadership of our New York State Assembly, leadership of our state senate, our governor have given us with regard to disclosure of witnesses provide protections now. Provide numbers that witnesses and victims, informants and complainants in criminal cases can contact 24-7 for aid to them if they are being threatened or coerced or are having violence perpetrated against them.

I just ask that the district

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attorney's office and the other agencies of the county be alerted to this problem and start to try and respond to it. Thank you very much. God bless you one and all. Thanks for putting up with me.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you Mr. Budnick. Now for the vote on the contracts that were not tabled but were called. All in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? They carry unanimously.

I'm going to put the Rules Committee in recess. The Public Safety Committee will go next.
(Committee was recessed at 3:13 p.m.)
(Committee reconvened at 4:22 p.m.)
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Call Rules Committee back into session. Almost all of our items went through earlier committees and it's been agreed by the Majority and Minority that there is no further debate or discussion necessary on these consent items at this point. They will all be heard in the full legislature in two weeks.

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I'm just going to call the clerk item numbers. Item 40, 41, 55, 56, 58, 59, $60,61,62,63,64,65,68,70,71,2020$. The items on the addendum. 72, 73, 74, 75. That's it.

Motion by Legislator Bynoe.
Seconded by Legislator Schaefer. Any debate or discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Budnick has a comment.

> MR. BUDNICK: Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Nicolello, I am curious as to whether this motion includes number 66-20, the alienation by the county of some property in Woodbury. And there's another alienation of county property which is an add-on. I don't have the number available to me. Are those going to be called or are those included in the motion to approve?

## LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Item 66,

the property Woodbury, is not being called. And I don't have any other item that is added on.
MR. BUDNICK: There is supposedly an add-on item that $I$ received about

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alienation of some property in Island Park that was listed as an add-on.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It's not before us.

MR. BUDNICK: Then you have answered my question and I thank you very much. My compliments as always.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
you. Any debate or discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

Last item is 21 of 2020. A local
law to amend Title A of Chapter 6 of the Nassau County Administrative Code in relation to the New York State Real Property Tax Law.

Moved by Legislator
DeRiggi-Whitton. Seconded by Legislator Rhoads. That is before us. There is an amendment in the nature of a substitution that replaces the title Taxpayer Protection Act with a title which is more accurate as to what it is, The Reassessment Phase-In Act of 2020.

I will make a motion to make the amendment. Seconded by Legislator Rhoads.

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Any debate or discussion on the amendment? Hearing none, all in favor of the amendment signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Any abstentions? All in favor. Passes seven to zero. So, now it's an amended item so we are going to call the amended item.

It is the intention of all of us not to have the full debate and discussion on this item. It will be before the full legislature on the 23rd. We are teeing it up so to speak so that we can consider this on the $23 r d$ before the full legislature.

Anyone have any discussion on
this? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

One last item of business. Deputy Inspector Stephanoff would like to introduce -- actually he's not going to be presenting to us anymore unfortunately for us. He would like to introduce a person who will be.

> MR. STEPHANOFF: Good afternoon. I'm going from headquarters to the Eighth

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Precinct to be the deputy $C O$ there. Deputy Inspector William Field is coming. He ran our Applicant Investigation Unit and he is highly qualified. He's going to come over and take my place. And I believe he is also going to do the leg as well. So he will be presenting from this point forward.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You've warned him and told him what to expect?

MR. FIELD: Thank you very much Greg, and I look forward to our meetings in the future.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: You look very young now but that's going to change. MR. STEPHANOFF: He's very qualified and he'll do a great job here.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Best of luck to you and I'm sure you will do extremely well in your new position in the leadership in the Eighth.

MR. STEPHANOFF: Thank you. It's been great working with everybody.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It's been great to have you here and we really

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appreciate all the presentations over the years. All the information.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just want to concur with the presiding officer. I was saying to myself $I$ don't know how much time you've been presenting to the legislature but it's been a while. I can tell you many have come before us and there are very few that 100 percent of the time we feel confident in their responses and your responses have always exuded confidence and trustworthy and that's all we can ask. I wish you the best in the Eighth Precinct as well. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thanks
again. So now we will take a motion to adjourn. Moved by Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator Bynoe. All in favor of adjourning signify by saying aye. Those opposed? We are adjourned. (Committee adjourned at 4:30 p.m.)

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I, FRANK GRAY, a Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of March 2020

FRANK GRAY

