



MEMORANDUM

ERIE COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

DATE: August 8, 2024

TO: Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive & Chair of the Capital Projects Committee

FROM: Natalie Nitsche

RE: 2025 Capital Projects Committee Meeting #6

Attendance: County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Legislature Chairwoman April Baskin, Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera, Chief of Staff Benjamin Swanekamp, Comptroller Kevin Hardwick, Budget Director Mark Cornell, Deputy Budget Director Kim Kajdasz, Commissioner Troy Schinzel, Commissioner William Geary, Commissioner Daniel Castle, Deputy Commissioner Thomas Baines, Legislator John Mills, Jessica Schuster (virtual), Scott Kroll, Bryan Fiume, Erich Weyant, Jeremy Toth (virtual), Catherine Walsh (virtual) and Natalie Nitsche.

The County Executive called to order the sixth meeting of the Capital Project Committee Meetings for 2025 and recognized a quorum. Comptroller Hardwick motioned to approve the previous meeting's minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

County Executive Poloncarz discussed budget constraints for 2025 and finding a way to meet as many of the County's needs as possible. Ultimately, a little more than 50% of the total asks will be funded. This will be the largest capital campaign the County has seen to date. Director Cornell discussed that going forward, it is likely that the County will be taking on the same amount of debt that it is paying off in a year.

The first department's requests discussed were Highways. There were no questions regarding the funding.

Buildings and Grounds' requests were next. Commissioner Geary presented the information regarding the Bills stadium for the Commission. Director Cornell then discussed the new hotel occupancy tax on vacation rentals and where those revenues must be spent as well as how that will impact operating expenses at the Convention Center. Legislator Mills and County Executive discussed the current convention center and the potential for a new convention center. The County Executive next discussed the remaining Buildings and Grounds requests and proposed funding, including: the Library, Health Department, and ambulance facility. There were no questions or comments.

There were no questions or comments regarding Central Police Services.

The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services projects and proposed funding were then discussed. The County Executive and Director Cornell discussed potential grants and federal aid.

There were no questions or concerns.

Next, Environment and Planning's projects and potential funding were discussed. There were no questions or comments.

The County Executive then reviewed the external agencies' requests and potential funding as well as the reasoning for not funding some of the projects. There were no questions or comments.

County Executive Poloncarz next discussed the Health Department's requests and reasons for not funding them. Comptroller Hardwick inquired about the Erie County Water Authority already performing the testing, and the County Executive confirmed that was the case. There were no other comments or questions.

The Department of Information and Support Services' requests were discussed next. Director Cornell advised that one of the requests was going to be included in the 2025 Operating Budget and could be zeroed out from the capital requests. Deputy Comptroller Callan, the County Executive, and Director Cornell discussed SAP versions and RFPs as well as Govern software. There were no other questions or concerns.

Next, the Library's projects were discussed. There were no comments or questions.

Parks' requests and funding were discussed next. There were no comments or questions.

The Sheriff's Department's requests were then discussed. The County Executive and Director Cornell discussed non-County funding for the helicopter. There were no other questions or concerns.

Director Cornell and The County Executive discussed Social Services' requests and funding. There were no questions or comments.

SUNY Erie's projects were discussed. There were no questions or comments.

Next, Director Cornell discussed the public art contribution. The requirement from the local law is to dedicate 1% up to \$10,000 for every building project that is commenced in a year. Based on the project funding, the amount dedicated to public art for 2025 will be \$137,651. Deputy Commissioner Baines gave an update on the Art in Public Places Committee. There were no comments or questions.

The only proposed amendment was to remove the \$200,000 for security improvements. Director Cornell motioned to remove the funding. Commissioner Castle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Geary motioned to approve the entire Capital Project packet, which was seconded by Commissioner Schinzel. The motion carried unanimously. County Executive Poloncarz presented a letter from Legislator Meyers agreeing to the package.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Geary, and a second from Minority Leader Mills. This concludes the 2025 Capital Projects Committee meetings.