

NASSAU APPOINTS ASSESSOR

Moog, with NYC experience, to tackle huge task

BY SCOTT EIDLER
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A Nassau legislative committee approved David Moog, a longtime New York City assessment official, on Monday as county assessor, setting the stage for ending a nearly eight-year period during which an acting assessor ran the office.

Moog would take the helm as the county works to reassess all residential and commercial properties. Nominated by Democratic County Executive Laura Curran, he will be paid \$165,000 a year.

"Mr. Moog has the exact, right qualifications for the job," Curran said, noting that the city, like Nassau, assesses taxes on four classes of property. "I'm very excited to have a credentialed, qualified assessor in the spot, which is what the [county] charter mandates."

The full legislature, which meets next on June 18, must approve Moog's appointment.

Moog, 55, of Sunnyside, has worked for the past nine years as a senior analyst and negotiator with District Council 37, New York City's largest public employee union. He is a former president of the New York City Assessors, Appraisers and Housing Development Specialists, Local 1757.

A graduate of New York University, Moog has a master's in public administration from CUNY Baruch College. He said he is certified by the Institute of Assessing Officers, part of the state Assessors' Association.

Moog said he "looked forward to taking on the chal-

lenges of handling the Nassau County assessment office." He called it "a very important challenge for the county to have this [reassessment] process done correctly, for the future of the county."

Curran is planning on two firms completing the reassessment of county properties later this year. Tentative rolls will come out in January. Tax bills for schools would arrive in November 2020, followed by county tax bills in January 2021.

In March the county estimated that claims related to taxpayer overpayments, including for utilities, was about \$500 million as of the end of 2017.

"We're on track to have a new tentative roll in January 2019. We're looking to make significant improvement in our assessments which . . . is the root of so many of our financial problems," Curran said in an interview.

James Davis has served as acting assessor since 2011.

Also Monday, a Nassau legislative committee voted 4-3 to reauthorize the bicounty Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection for another five years. The full legislature must approve the extension of the commission, which was set to expire at the end of the year.

Minority Democrats have expressed concern they don't have a voting representative on the board. The county executive and the legislative presiding officer can appoint members, but the minority caucus member does not have voting rights.

The Suffolk County Legislature approved a 5-year extension of the commission last month in a 16-2 vote. Water advocates had criticized the commission as having too many water suppliers as voting members.



Military honors for vets, police

Active and retired Nassau PD members who served in the military were saluted in a Monday ceremony, receiving military service bars and certificates, at the Cradle of Aviation Museum.

JOHNNY MILANO

Exec shuns SCCC aid bid

BY RICK BRAND
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County Executive Steve Bellone has rejected Suffolk County Community College trustees' request for a 4 percent increase in the county contribution to their proposed budget, offering a 1.84 percent hike instead.

Bellone said Monday his offer is above the 1.5 percent increase he said was agreed to last year as part of an effort to give the college more certainty over the county's future funding stream. Bellone said he also has filed a legislative resolution to reject the trustees' proposed \$226.4 million budget, which would cost the county an extra \$1.64 million.

College officials dispute that there ever was an agreement over funding levels, and say they will continue to lobby county lawmakers for a higher county contribution to keep the proposed tuition increase of \$350 next year from going higher. Without a 4 percent hike in county aid, student tuition would rise \$50 more, they

say, increasing overall tuition from the current \$4,870 to \$5,270 a year.

"If [lawmakers] can find the money, I think they would be inclined to help out the students. After all, that's where the money goes," said Louis Petrizzo, college counsel and executive vice president. "The board feels a fiduciary duty to advocate for students and will be requesting" the extra funds.

Bellone said his proposal is the maximum permitted under the state property tax cap and it will put the total county share of college costs at \$43.2 million for the coming school year. His proposal is .34 percent more than what the school got from Suffolk in the past school year, but still \$950,000 short of trustees' request for a 4 percent county increase.

The proposed college budget increases spending by \$5.3 million, mainly for increased staffing and benefit costs, while college enrollment is projected to decline by 1.2 percent for the coming school year to 18,001 full-time equivalent students,

which will negatively affect tuition and state aid revenues.

Bellone's proposal comes after budget aides disclosed last month that Suffolk ended 2017 with a \$40.6 million deficit and faces a shortfall of \$175.6 million for the 2019 budget, under a worst-case scenario.

Legis. Tom Cilmi, leader of the GOP caucus, said he has yet to consult with colleagues, but believes legislators would like to keep the tuition down. "The difference between one and four percent is not a lot of money," he said. "If the county was managed properly, we would have the money to fully fund the college like we should."

Democratic Legis. Tom Donnelly (D-Deer Park), education committee chairman and an SCCC graduate, said the college does "remarkable work" with students who cannot afford private or four-year state schools. "I'd like to try and split the difference and get to at least three percent," he said. "We need to do a better job of keeping the cost affordable to help out young residents move into the workforce."