



Daily News Photo by CRISTIAN SIMESCU

s Cooperative Extension Service 4-H program agent Sarah Smith helps A Z Academy Ian Miller, 7, and Joshua Odato, 7, plant basil Tuesday during a Youth Gardening of Agriculture on St. Croix.

# ting knowledge

ents learn about healthy living in the garden

ents from across St. Croix by planting vegetables at tment grounds in Estate althy living. rgin Islands Cooperative riculture Department parting Workshop on Tuesday

private and parochial elehools participated in the zed to develop school gar- to use gardening through- te healthy lives.

rector of horticulture and ski and UVI Cooperative m agent Sarah Smith lead with a lecture at the UVI selection, pests, soils and ding to the Agriculture vegetables.

ns can be used as a tool to al studies. In addition, ng is a healthy physical omote the healthy eating. response from schools," support their efforts with grow our next generation

th gardening competition, year's Agriculture Fair in its will periodically check



Daily News Photo by CRISTIAN SIMESCU

Lew Muckle Elementary School student Hector Acosta Jr., 11, waters a newly planted Swiss chard.

science experiment will be conducted to explore how

# Public Finance Authority adjusts project funding

By ALDETH LEWIN  
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — The V.I. Public Finance Authority board shuffled funds and amended contracts for multiple projects Tuesday.

The board also added \$2.2 million in capital projects that the Senate tacked on to the 2009 bond issuance that is set to close Thursday.

The V.I. government sold \$458.8 million in matching fund revenue bonds last week and will close on the bonds Thursday. The new bonds refinance bonds issued in 1998 at a lower interest rates and raise \$86.3 million to fund capital projects in the territory.

The Public Finance Authority board approved the bond sale last month, but the Senate's bill to add on an extra \$2.2 million in projects to the original bond authorization was not approved. At Tuesday's meeting, the board voted to include the Senate projects in the authorization. The Senate's projects do not add to the authorization amount, but the specific projects must be included in the bond documents.

The \$86.3 million will go to fund a package of capital projects that includes \$20 million for road improvement projects, \$12 million for school improvements, \$9 million for emergency management and \$5 million for economic development investments.

The bonds were sold at an all-in cost of 4.51 percent for the 30-year bond issue, the lowest interest ever achieved on a long-term financing package by the V.I. government.

Matching fund revenue bonds are backed by rum tax revenues.

In other business the board:

- Reprogrammed \$55,000 to fund Housing, Parks and Recreation Department renovations to the Elena Christian Junior High School tennis and basketball courts. The funds were reprogrammed from a project to relocate the Lieutenant Governor's Office to Hospital

more renovation to accommodate the high volume of customer traffic that the Lieutenant Governor's office sees.

- Approved using \$2.4 million from the 2009 matching fund bonds to expand the scope of work for the new V.I. Territorial Emergency Management Agency headquarters on St. Thomas. The agency already has spent \$5.4 million to retrofit the ED Plumbing building on Moravian Highway. The new total for the project is \$7.8 million.

VITEMA Director Mark Walters said the original contract was entered into before legislation was passed to move Homeland Security, 911 and Public Assistance under VITEMA. The extra funding will finance additional upgrades to the building, which will allow it to meet international building standards and protect the building from wind, storm and seismic events.

- Approved a request from the Department of Planning and Natural Resources to use part of the Tutu library — a PFA funded project currently under construction — for DPNR offices. DPNR will contribute approximately \$17,000 for the buildout. The existing construction contract will simply be amended to reflect the change.

- Reprogrammed \$58,583.05 to close out the contract with Tip Top Construction for the first phase of the Fort Christian rehabilitation project. The first phase is completed, but the contractor is asking for additional money to cover equipment storage for times when the project was shut down.

The funds are reprogrammed from the St. John parking facility project, which will now be funded entirely through the 2009 bond issue.

- Ratified a legislative action to reprogram \$1.3 million from the Nadir bridge project to the Public Works Department to fund various road projects. The PFA board had to ratify the law as it changed bond allocations.

**SECTION 15.** Act No. 6771 is amended by adding SECTION 2 to read as follows:

“SECTION 2. The sum appropriated in SECTION 1 remains available until expended.”

**SECTION 16.** Act No. 6427, SECTION 22 is amended by striking “\$1,305,000”.

**SECTION 17.** The sum of \$1,305,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, from the savings realized in SECTION 16 to the Department of Public Works for engineering designs, construction, repairs or the resurfacing of roads. The sum remains available until expended.

**SECTION 18.** The sum of \$280,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services for The Village Partners in Recovery, \$200,000 of which must be used for prior years' obligations. The sum remains available until expended.

**SECTION 19.** The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, from the General Fund to the Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation for Pre- Carnival and Carnival 2007 horse races. The sum remains available until expended.

**SECTION 20.** The sum of \$300,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, from the General Fund divided equally between the St. Croix Christmas Festival Committee and the V.I. Carnival Committee to conduct their respective events. The sum appropriated remains available until expended.

**SECTION 21.** The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, from the General Fund to the Department of Education to defray the cost of repairing the Bertha Boschulte Junior High School for accreditation. The sum remains available until expended.

**SECTION 22.** The sum of \$40,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, from the General Fund to the Department of Education for a sound system at Ivanna Eudora Kean High School to meet the criteria for accreditation. The sum remains available until expended.

**SECTION 23.** The sum of \$250,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, from the General Fund to the Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation to demolish, abate for asbestos and reconstruct the building at No. 13-1 Nordsidevej. The sum remains available until expended.

**SECTION 24.** The sum of \$200,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, from the General Fund to the Board of Elections to cover the cost of the 2006 run-off election. The sum remains available until expended.

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
 Territory of the Virgin Islands  
**REGULAR/SPECIAL SESSION 2007**  
**ROLL CALL**

Bill No: 27-0039

□□

Date: 3/21/07

An Act amending the Virgin Islands Code, title 1 Section 14 relating to the code  
 Revisor, title 1 Chapter 17 relating to the uniform law commission, title 2 relating  
 to the office of the code Revisor, title 3 section 408 relating to the Virgin  
 Islands Heritage Commission, title 3 Section 106(c) relating to the  
 Reemployment of Retirees and making several appropriations and for other  
 purposes

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

- (a) Introduced and sent to Committee on.....Date.....
- (b) Reported from Committee and sent to Rules on.....
- (c) Reported from Committee on Rules.....
- (d) Recalled from Committee by Special Order.....
- (e) Adopted on.....
- (f) Rejected on.....

Adopted

| MEMBERS                  | YEA | NAY | ABSENT | NOT VOTING |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|--------|------------|
| DAVIS, Liston A.         | 1   |     |        |            |
| WE, Carlton              | 2   |     |        |            |
| FIGUEROA- SERVILLE, Juan | 3   |     |        |            |
| HILL, Louis Patrick      | 4   |     |        |            |
| JAMES, Neville           | 5   |     |        |            |
| JN. BAPTISTE, Norman     | 6   |     |        |            |
| MALONE, Shawn-Michael    | 7   |     |        |            |
| NELSON, Terrence         | 15  |     |        | +          |
| OTTLEY, Basil            | 8   |     |        |            |
| RICHARDS, Usie R.        | 9   |     |        |            |
| RUSSELL, Ronald, E.      | 10  |     |        |            |
| WEBER, James III         | 11  |     |        |            |
| WESSELHOFT, Carmen M.    | 12  |     |        |            |
| WHITE, Celestino A. Sr.  | 13  |     |        |            |
| LIAMS, Alvin L.          | 14  |     |        |            |

**CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT**  
*Cluse M. M. M.*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 150