Farmingville, NY - On June 22, 2011, the Suffolk County Supervisor's Association met at Brookhaven Town Hall to discuss various regional policy issues. The Supervisors agreed to establish a working group to examine potential shared services opportunities in an effort to promote efficiency and save money. The group also discussed the need for a regional economic development strategy. In addition, the Supervisors agreed to participate in a groundwater protection consortium coordinated by the Town of Southampton.

Brookhaven Supervisor Mark Lesko was unanimously elected as the Chair of the Suffolk County Supervisor's Association, and Southampton Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst was unanimously elected as Vice Chair. The outgoing Chair is Babylon Town Supervisor Steve Bellone, and the outgoing Vice Chair is Southold Supervisor Scott Russell.

"The meeting with the Supervisors today was a great opportunity to brainstorm on how we can collaborate on issues of regional significance. Collectively we represent over 1.5 million people and preside over budgets totaling over 1 billion dollars and we are more powerful working as a group to benefit our residents than working alone. There were a number of action items that came out of this meeting, and we will be working on it over the coming months," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "I thank Supervisor Steve Bellone and Supervisor Scott Russell for their leadership over the past two years."

"As outgoing Chair of the Suffolk County Supervisors Association, I have seen how beneficial it is for the Town Supervisors from across the county to get together and collaborate on the regional issues that affect our constituents. I congratulate Supervisor Mark Lesko and Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst on their election as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, and I thank Supervisor Scott Russell for his service as Vice Chair over the past two years. I look forward to continuing our work together to make Long Island run more efficiently and effectively," said Supervisor Steve Bellone.

"Despite the diversity in size and needs of our Towns, we face a number of challenges in common - and we can contend with these challenges more effectively if we work together. The impetus is on all of us to work at joint purpose and forge new models for results-driven collaboration to more effectively address issues as broad as economic development and water quality. Collaboration will serve our constituents well, and I look forward to working with my fellow Supervisors to take-on pressing regional issues," said Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst.