


Trick Question – nobody we know has any idea what an Administrative Archivist would do at a sewage plant, and why anyone would hire an AA in the Clerk’s Office baffles even the Democrats (except for Duffy and LePore)

Kristen Corrado County Clerk

Kristen Corrado ran on the Murphy/Mecca GOP Strong line in 2009 and won the primary along with three PCRRO candidates. All were elected in the General election. Corrado chose as her Deputy Clerk long time democrat activist and aid to Congressman William Passcrell, Peter Rendina. She also chose to give a newly created position to Carmello Scangarello was dismissed from his job as an administrative archivist with the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners through the efforts of Governor Chris Christie. According to newspaper reports “Corrado said the state statute that governs the county clerk’s position allows her to hire a confidential assistant on an “at-will” basis, thus bypassing the state Civil Service exam and letting her write the job description.” (see article below)

County Clerk

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Passaic freeholders object to hiring of West Milford GOP chairman as county clerk's aide

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BY RICHARD COWEN

THE RECORD

STAFF WRITER

West Milford Republican leader Carmelo P. Scangarello was hired Tuesday as a “confidential aide” to Passaic County Clerk Kristin Corrado, over the objections of some county freeholders who said the hire smelled of political patronage.

Scangarello was dismissed from his job as an archivist with the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners during Governor Christie’s shakeup of that agency. He will be paid \$58,572 a year in his new job at the county

clerk's office. Scangarello, one of the organizers of the GOP Strong movement that drafted Corrado to run for county clerk in 2009, starts his new job on Monday.

Corrado acknowledged that Scangarello is a political ally and a friend, but said she hired him primarily because of his experience as an archivist. She said she needed someone who can transpose old county records from paper to a digital format.

"Carmin is someone who has a background in documents," Corrado said. "I approached him for the job. He is somebody I know and trust and somebody I can work with."

But freeholders on both sides of the political aisle objected to the appointment. Meeting in [Paterson](#) to adopt the 2011 budget, the freeholders voted 4-2 against the hiring. But their vote was purely symbolic, because Corrado controls the hiring in the county clerk's budget, not the freeholders.

"We just went through handstands to avoid layoffs, and here she's creating a position," said Republican Freeholder Deborah E. Ciambrone, who voted against the hiring. "She was elected just like we were. She has the right to do this, but I would hope she would be more responsible to the taxpayers."

Freeholder Bruce James, a Democrat, wasn't convinced the hiring wasn't political patronage.

"I think every department has to do more with less and the county clerk's office is no different," he said. "I'm not convinced this is necessary. And if looks like sewerage and smells like sewerage, then ..."

The cries of patronage politics came on a day when the freeholders adopted the county's \$414.9 million budget for 2011, ending a budget battle that ended when the freeholders narrowly avoided the layoffs of 75 [Passaic County](#) Sheriff's officers by drawing down on surplus funds.

Corrado said the state statute that governs the county clerk's position allows her to hire a confidential assistant on an "at-will" basis, thus bypassing the state Civil Service exam and letting her write the job description. Corrado said she needs someone to be her "eyes and ears" in the clerk's office, and to take on some extra administrative duties brought on by the opening of a new satellite office in [Wanaque](#).

Scangarello did not return a phone call seeking comment on Tuesday.

Scangarello worked for the [Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners](#) for 16 years and was making \$86,000 annually when he was terminated in February. He was one of more than 90 PVSC employees who lost their jobs after Governor Christie appointed a new executive director, [Wayne J. Forrest](#), with orders to rid the agency of nepotism and patronage.

A former [West Milford](#) councilman, Scangarello is a commissioner with the township's Municipal Utilities Authority. He is a close political ally of Peter Murphy, the [Totowa](#) Republican leader who is locked in a feud with the [Passaic County](#) GOP chairman, Assemblyman Scott Rumana.

In 2009, Scangarello helped Murphy organize GOP Strong, a rival faction that challenged Rumana for the leadership of the [Passaic County](#) Republican Party. Corrado ran for county clerk under the GOP Strong banner in the 2009 primary and defeated Rumana's candidate, Bill Roca. Corrado went on to beat Democrat Keith Kazmark to capture the county clerk's seat the following November.

The freeholders adopted the \$414.9 million budget by a 6-0 vote on Tuesday. The budget, which increases the tax levy by \$6.8 million to \$298.9 million. It increases taxes on the average homeowner by \$44 per year.

