

RACING COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6, 2008 – 2:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Wood; Supervisors Hunter, Lawler, Peck, Veitch, Grattidge, and Yepsen; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Jasper Nolan, Republican County Chairman; League of Women Voters; Press.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Lawler the minutes of the October 4, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Wood announced Mr. Peck as the committee Vice Chairman.

Mrs. Yepsen said that she hoped that the best interests of the City of Saratoga Springs and the county can move forward and a resolution will be reached very soon.

Mr. Lawler said all the parties that are involved with the Racing decision certainly have to come to the best interest of the taxpayers and hopefully in the end give high regard to the residents of Saratoga Springs and the County taxpayers. In doing that, everyone needs to realize that an element of compromise needs to be reached to get to the common goal that racing continues. This is not a one year decision that is being made, it is a decision that will have tremendous impact on the taxpayers of New York State and first and foremost, taxpayers, residents, and businesses in Saratoga County and Saratoga Springs.

Mrs. Yepsen said Senator Bruno has brought forth excellent points with regard to accountability and oversight. Compromise on both sides is necessary and both have good ideas and hopefully they will come together with the best interest of our economy and district.

Mr. Wood said everyone would like to see a resolution to the racing franchise, however, it should account for the best interest of thoroughbred racing in Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County with a vision focused on the long term effects.

Mr. Wood said if there has been no racing franchise resolution by February 12th or 13th he might call a special meeting of the Racing Committee.

Mr. Wood said one of the accomplishments of last years Racing Committee was the development of a Racing Brochure, covering the impacts of thoroughbred racing in Saratoga County and upstate New York that were distributed to all members of the NYS Legislature, racing organizations and surrounding counties. He suggested revising the brochure with the most updated information available. The committee agreed.

Mr. Peck suggested enclosing a cover letter listing the suggested items to be included in the franchise agreement along with a copy of the Racing Brochure and sending one to Senator Bruno, Speaker Silver, and Governor Spitzer in an expeditious manner.

On a motion made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Hunter the meeting was approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom