

RACING COMMITTEE MINUTES

JULY 6, 2006 – 1:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Wood; Supervisors Callanan, Lawler, Gutheil and Yepsen; Charles Hayward and Ed Lewi, NYRA; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Mr. Lawler the minutes of the June 13, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Hayward distributed a handout with regard to NYRA past, present and future plans.

Mr. Hayward extensively outlined the following topics to the committee members as follows:

1. Revenue on Track
2. Revenue off Track
3. Handle Trends – On track and Off track
4. Attendance Trends
5. Purses
6. NYRA Handle (YTD) 2006 vs 2005

The following are changes that have been made to the 2006 Saratoga Racing Season:

- Changes in Stakes Program
- Training Dates – Opened April 18th
- Security Barn
- Increase credit for racing \$100 per start to \$250
- Remodeled dormitories
- Total Purse increase of \$1,000,000 for 2006 meet

The following is an outline of the NYRA PLAN:

- Non-for-profit structure to run racing
- VLT revenue split between strategic partner and racetrack operation
- Strategic partner provides capital for the State
- Diffusion of the land issue
- Opportunities for partnerships or purchase of OTB
- Commitment to preserve and protect racing program for the benefit of all stakeholders

Mr. Lawler said the VLT's are a double-edged sword because as the profitability of the VLT's increases horse racing is going to be less important to the private equity firm. The impact to Saratoga County, if that happens, is really serious because we are a county that derives a great deal of employment and tax revenue from the horse industry.

Mr. Lawler said the state needs to look at the long-term impacts that this decision will have on the communities that are directly affected by the facilities.

Mr. Lawler said "What is best for the state might not be what's best for horse racing".

Mr. Wood said, "We need to maintain a strong horse industry and Saratoga Race Course as the premier race course in the country.

On a motion made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Mr. Lawler the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom