

## LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 4, 2008 – 2:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Sausville; Supervisors Grattidge, Richardson, Wormuth, Southworth and Yepsen; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Blue Neils, Cooperative Extension; Steve Dorsey, Mark Rider, County Attorney; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Richardson the minutes of the February 7, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Sausville presented the idea of a Fire/Ambulance Tax Exemption for Emergency Response Volunteers to the committee for their consideration. He said, Mr. Rider has been working on the bill specific to Saratoga County. The town of Malta has passed a resolution of support to have it apply to Malta. The idea is to create incentives for volunteer firemen and ambulance workers, enabling towns, by resolution, to provide the exemption for volunteers.

Mr. Grattidge said he was not in favor of shifting the burden when the hardware and buildings are paid for by the taxpayers.

Mrs. Wormuth said recruitment and retention in the town of Halfmoon is a huge issue. The ambulance squad has gone from mostly volunteers to mostly paid because coverage couldn't be provided.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Richardson to forward the Fire/Ambulance Tax Exemption for Emergency Response Volunteers to the Public Safety Committee for their consideration. Unanimous.**

Mr. Sausville said the van will be leaving the county office building at 1:30 p.m. on March 5<sup>th</sup> for a meeting with the Saratoga County Legislative Delegation.

Mr. Neils gave a brief explanation of how the MS4 Stormwater Management Program is being funded. He stated that in 2008 there would be no additional funding opportunities, leading further to the argument of unfunded mandates. One of the issues is that information is unavailable. He encouraged the county and Board of Supervisors to ensure that any information available is sent to State and Federal legislators.

Mr. Sausville said that approximately 84% of the cost of the MS4 program is funded through the towns with 15% funded by the State, which is another example of an unfunded mandate.

Mr. Wickerham said NYSAC has taken a very strong position on the State budget. The Intercounty of Western New York has already come out with a very strong press release. As the Governor's budget stands, there will be approximately \$2 million in losses to Saratoga County, with half of it coming from the County Nursing Home.

A copy of the proposed 2008-2009 Executive Budget was distributed to all committee members for their review.

Mr. Grattidge said he supported having the County Administrator put together a package for the Property Tax committee to present at the April meeting in Albany with regard to property tax relief.

**On a motion made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Richardson the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom