

Legislative & Research Committee Meeting

May 8, 2007 – 2:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Grattidge; Supervisors Wormuth, Keyrouze, Lucia, Richardson and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Sue Lent, Self-Insurance; Ed Tremblay, Fire Advisory Board; John McBride, Hillcrest Fire Dept.; Paul Parker, Dep. Fire Coordinator; Dave Meager, Resident Town of Milton; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lucia the minutes of the April 10, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Meager said the new administration in Albany has put together a Workers Comp reform package that has been embraced by labor and business. One of the things that it does, is it raises the amount of weekly benefit a person would receive if they were injured as the result of an on the job injury.

Mr. Meager asked, what are they going to do for the volunteer firefighter and the volunteer ambulance worker? They are not covered under the standard workers comp law, the firemen are covered under VFBL (Volunteer Firefighter Benefit Law). For ambulance workers, they are covered under the (Volunteers Ambulance Workers Benefit Law), which is similar to workers comp and VFBL.

Mr. Meager said the new legislation does not include volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance personnel. He urged the Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution to encourage the State to revisit the issue of workers comp reform to include volunteers.

A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Richardson urging the NYS Legislature to amend the recently adopted Workers' Compensation Reform Legislation to include benefit increases for volunteer fire and ambulance workers. Unanimous.

Mr. Wood said in 2002 Governor Pataki signed into law a bill that created the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission. The purpose of the commission is to encourage and promote events and programs that recognize the historical events of Samuel de Champlain, Henry Hudson and Robert Fulton's voyages of exploration.

The State Legislature is now reaching out to the local municipalities to gather as much support for programs, projects and activities that would foster support for a variety of events.

Mr. Wood requested a resolution of support for the mission of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission and requesting designation as an Explore NY 400 Community.

Mr. Wood encouraged each municipality to apply for designation as an Explore NY 400 community. Upon designation as an Explore NY 400 Community you may apply for funds for various projects and activities, he said.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mrs. Keyrouze to approve a resolution supporting the mission of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission and requesting designation as an Explore NY 400 Community. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Richardson the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom