

RACING COMMITTEE

JUNE 6, 2009 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Veitch; Supervisors Hargrave, Hunter, Lawler, Southworth and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Hunter the minutes of the May 7, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Veitch said that since the last Racing committee meeting a letter was received from the Treasurer's office that the county had not yet received payment from the State and it had been sixty days since they had been billed. Shortly after a letter was received by the Treasurer stating that they are processing the voucher.

Mr. Lawler suggested a review of the legislation to see if there is any direction in the legislation that would require action by the State by a certain time frame.

Mr. Lawler asked how much the State owes the county? Mr. Hellwig said the total is \$597,000; with \$305,000 owed to the City of Saratoga Springs, and \$172,000 for the County; and a re-levy utility payment that has already been paid of \$119,000.

Mr. Veitch said he has received a letter regarding the Task Force on the Future of Off Track Betting.

The emphasis of the Task Force is focused on the off-track betting system's ability to raise revenues for the state and local governments, as well as strengthen the racing and breeding industries in New York.

The Task Force is looking for input from the county with the following mission in mind:

1. Describe what impact the regional off-track betting system has on your municipality and what you would like its future role to be. Be specific by including the branch locations in your municipality, related jobs, monies received from you regional off-track betting corporation, if any and any other relevant information.
2. Describe any legislative and/or regulatory issues that effects off-track betting operations in your municipality and provide any suggested changes that you believe will allow your regional off-track betting corporation to meet is statutory purpose.

3. Explain, in detail, how you believe the State's regional off-track betting system can be optimally utilized with an emphasis on its ability to raise revenues for the state and local governments, as well as strengthen the racing and breeding industries in New York.

All responses are due by June 15th.

Mr. Lawler suggested having all committee members e-mail their comments to the Mr. Veitch and then forward them on to the task force as a whole. A copy of the Task Force letter was distributed to all committee members.

Mr. Veitch said that the Aqueduct VLT bidding process bids have been received and a decision is expected to be made by September.

Mr. Veitch said NYRA has selected the five members for the Advisory Board. The County has five members and the City of Saratoga Springs has five members. Mr. Veitch said it is very unclear as to how the process will begin.

Mr. Veitch said he has been in contact with the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation and one of the things that the Advisory Board is suppose to do is take an inventory of the structures at the Saratoga Race Course. The Preservation Foundation has applied for a grant to do the inventory.

Mr. Veitch said he would contact the Franchise Oversight Board and see if they are the ones who are to call everyone together. Mr. Veitch said there are to be two meetings a year.

Mr. Veitch said Saratoga County Day at the races is scheduled for August 30th. E-mail was received from Mr. Lewi's office stating that they would like to offer the Racing Committee members an opportunity to be on the honorary committee for the pre-traverse celebration. Mr. Veitch said each supervisor would be listed individually. If anyone does not want to be a part of that, please let him know.

The next Racing meeting will take place at the Racetrack; the time is to be announced.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Hunter the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom