

LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES

DECEMBER 8, 2009 – 4:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Rowland; Supervisors Daly, Raymond, Southworth, Veitch, Wright, and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services.

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the October 13, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Rowland said what the committee will talk about today is the VoIP lines which require an amendment to the local law in order to make sure that companies such as Vonnage and other internet providers are paying their fair share of the 911 surcharges.

Mr. Rowland said the county is not getting a full accounting of the money that the cellular systems are using. The State is keeping their share and everybody else's share, he said.

Mr. Hellwig said in 2007 the Board of Supervisors approved a local law where a surcharge was established on cell phones because there was a big expense to the county to setup the infrastructure and to maintain it. Companies such as Vonnage, who have been using the Internet, have had the benefit of the system, but they are not making a contribution. What needs to be done to encompass that group now is to amend the local law and include Vonnage and those types of carriers.

Mrs. Raymond asked what the surcharge fee was? Mr. Rowland said .35 cents.

A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Veitch to amend the local law #2 of 2007 and setting a Public Hearing for January 13, 2010. Unanimous.

Mr. Hellwig distributed copies of a letter from the County Clerk's office with regard to Saratoga County Tax Bills to all committee members.

Mr. Rowland said it is a little late for 2009; however, the process could begin in 2011 to notify residents during the tax billing cycle that if they were to take their material to DMV or mail it to the county directly it would be much better for the county. There wasn't enough time to get this ready for the 2010 tax bills.

Ms. Raymond said this should be forwarded to next year's committee, in addition, she said that the committee should look to eliminate having to pass a local law to put a pertinent message on county tax bills.

Mrs. Southworth distributed a letter to all committee members with regard to Tobacco Control Funding. The following items were highlighted:

1. Tobacco cost New York \$8.17 billion in health care costs.
2. Medicaid covers \$5.4 billion of that amount.
3. If funding is cut and there is no support system out there for those wanting to quit, and no information out there, it will increase the Medicaid costs to the county.

Mrs. Southworth requested that the committee consider recommending that the letter be sent out to State Elected Officials encouraging them to maintain funding through the Tobacco-Free Coalition.

Ms. Yepsen suggested contacting NYSAC to obtain information on who the elected officials are from both houses that would care about this issue.

A motion was made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Ms. Raymond to approve the letter for funding for the New York State Tobacco Control Program as written, and forward it to select State Elected Officials. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Veitch the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom