

Legislative and Research Committee Minutes

February 2, 2010 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Hargrave, Lawler, Raymond, Rowland, Southworth, Wood, and Wormuth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Sam Pitcherelle, Treasurer.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mrs. Southworth the minutes of the January 12, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Pitcherelle said the county is looking for more timely information from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance with regard to either monthly or quarterly filings and on the annual filings of sales tax distributions. One of the issues of the past is, while the tax problems are only 6% of the total vendors, they are actually 85% of the tax money that is paid.

Mr. Pitcherelle said the issues that the county is looking for have already been sponsored by NYSAC. The committee suggested that the following items be discussed when Mr. Pitcherelle meets with the Department of Tax and Finance.

- Enhanced revenue forecasting
- More detail about retail sales tax
- Zip code distribution of tax money
- Statewide study on the process of collection and distribution of sales tax money
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Mr. Lawler suggested sending out an RFP out to hire a consultant to audit sales tax data in Saratoga County.

Mr. Hellwig said his office would prepare the RFP and will then bring it back to the committee for their review.

Mrs. Raymond suggested inquiring through NYSAC what other counties have done.

A copy of the 2010 Legislative Program was distributed to all committee members for their review.

Mrs. Raymond said the Batchellerville Bridge is going out to bid, with anticipation of a bid opening in May.

Mr. Wood asked if the committee would like to add to the legislative program the fact that the Hudson River/Black River is looking to the county as an additional revenue source.

Mrs. Southworth said the Equalization and Assessment committee denied the request for a correction of \$544,000 by National Grid.

Mr. Lawler said he would like to add to the Legislative Agenda the following: Saratoga County is opposed to any effort on behalf of the Black River/Hudson River to assess any fees or charges to any municipality in New York State.

Mrs. Raymond said the county should call upon the State to make the regulating district pay their taxes.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mrs. Southworth to approve a resolution to approve the Saratoga County 2010 Legislative Program and to include the opposition of the Hudson River/Black River to assess any fees or charges to the county. Unanimous.

Mr. Hellwig said that as soon as he confirms a date for the Legislative meeting in Albany he will notify all supervisors.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom