

Legislative and Research Committee Minutes

December 14, 2010 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Hargrave, Lawler, Raymond, Rowland, Southworth, Wood, Collyer, Veitch and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Press.

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

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

Mr. Veitch said New York City OTB is currently closed. The Senate failed to act to keep New York City OTB going. Originally OTB's were set up to put an end to the illegal gambling that was happening in New York City outside of the racetracks. In the 1970's it was smart for the State to create a revenue stream out of the money surcharges that were charged on bets in New York City OTB, and it worked very well for a long time. Those surcharges go to NYRA horsemen, breeders, harness tracks and municipalities. The concern here is for the municipalities and Saratoga County as well as for NYRA. The loss to NYRA does effect Saratoga and for Saratoga County directly, we have \$600,000 budgeted in 2011 for OTB surcharges. We could potentially lose quite a large percentage of that. It is important for revenues for next year to try and fix the problem at the State level.

Mr. Veitch distributed and read the Racing resolution to all committee members and asked for their support.

**A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Rowland to approve the Racing resolution urging the New York State Legislature to take up this issue as its first order of business when it reconvenes in January 2011. Unanimous.**

Mr. Rowland said that he would like to include that the resolution be sent to NYSAC and the Association of Towns, and NYCON for their support as well.

**A motion was made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Ms. Raymond to amend the Racing Resolution to include sending it to NYSAC, Association of Towns and NYCON for their support as well. Unanimous.**

Mr. Wright distributed the end of the year report to all committee members for their review.

Ms. Raymond expressed her appreciation, and on behalf of the committee, to Supervisor Wright for a job well done as Chairman of the Legislative and Research Committee.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom