

## Racing Committee Minutes

October 4, 2007 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wood; Supervisors Peck, Yepsen, and Sausville; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Jasper Nolan, Saratoga County Republican Chairman; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Ms. Yepsen the amended minutes of the September 10, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Wood said he and Ms. Yepsen attended the first Senate Hearing held on September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Legislative Office Building. He said at the last Racing Committee meeting the committee prepared six points that were of particular importance with regard to the MOU. Mr. Wood and Ms.36 Yepsen attended the Senate Hearing on September 12<sup>th</sup> where they made an appointment with Senator Little to share concerns and important issues with her. Senator Little continues to reference the importance of Saratoga Racecourse to her district.

Ms. Yepsen said Senator Little spoke and asked questions about the two main points that were emphasized with her, that is, a local mechanism to have input into what happens to the buildings and grounds in the future with regard to historic preservation. As well as, expansion issues, property tax, and how important it is to the county and the City of Saratoga Springs.

Mr. Wood said he and Ms. Yepsen would like to meet again with Senator Little during the hearing on September 27<sup>th</sup> to give her updates on concerns they may have.

Mr. Wood said at the September 12<sup>th</sup> Senate Hearings issues that were discussed included: issues and concerns relative to the oversight of NYRA, VLT revenues and projections, and the integrity review process.

Mr. Wood said at the September 27<sup>th</sup> Senate Hearing there were four representatives from the Governor's Office reviewing the process that the Governor's office had followed in selecting new NYRA and developing the MOU. In addition to that, they ultimately gave the reasons why NYRA was selected and gave reference as to why each of the other areas were not selected. The issues of the 20 year versus 30 year contract was discussed and the question was asked, was each of the franchise contenders given knowledge of the fact that you would consider 30 years versus 20 years? They assured everyone that, in fact, they were.

Mr. Wood said the October 1<sup>st</sup> Senate Hearing was held in Belmont New York, where there was concern that NYRA had not listened to them.

Mr. Wood said there would be a Senate Hearing on Racing on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building in Albany.

**On a motion made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Peck the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom