

## LEGISLATIVE & RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

**November 2, 2006 – 3:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Chairman A. Johnson; Supervisors Raymond, Sausville, Trottier, Gutheil; David Wickerham, Co. Administrator; Mark Rider, Co. Attorney; George Hodgson, EMC; Jason Kemper, Planning; Bob Christopher, Social Services; Ann Magnuson, LWV; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order.

Mr. Sausville moved to approve the minutes of the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Trottier seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Johnson said at our last meeting, we talked about our County Local Laws. As of now, our Local Laws are kept in the bottom of a file cabinet in the Clerk of the Board's office, and they date back to the 1950's. They are filed by year and number, he said. He said there is no particular way to get information without looking at each local law. He said he had Barbara Plummer contact General Code for a proposal for a codification process, and he received the proposal today. He said between now and the next meeting, he will have a copy of this proposal made for the Committee members. The cost to do this codification is \$18,250 with this proposal, he said.

Ms. Raymond asked where the local laws were prior to the 1950's. Mr. Rider stated the laws are in the Proceedings. A lot of enactments are in resolutions rather than local laws, he said. He said an indexed codification is a good idea, he said. Ms. Raymond asked if this was a bid out service. Mr. Wickerham stated this would be a bid type item. Ms. Raymond said she would like someone from General Code meet with the Committee. Chairman Johnson said he would get everyone a copy of the proposal and invite the gentleman to our next meeting. Ms. Raymond said she would like to see what we have from day one and do a clean up.

Chairman Johnson said last month, we discussed Saratoga County becoming part of the Hudson River Valley Greenway. We referred this to Jason Kemper to get his view, and he distributed copies of Mr. Kemper's memo to him. Mr. Kemper's memo stated "becoming a part of the Hudson River Valley Greenway is another opportunity to received additional state funding when seeking community revitalization grants, as well as community planning projects that protect natural and cultural resources, create economic development, public access to the river and other natural areas and heritage and environmental education." Mr. Kemper stated if the Green Infrastructure Plan is adopted, we could tweak that in order to accomplish some of the goals. I see no harm in moving forward with the first step in becoming part of the council, he said. Mr. Hodgson stated currently, Saratoga County is not in the Greenway boundary, but Waterford is. Chairman Johnson said he sees no down side with being in the Greenway. **Mr. Trottier moved to request that the Hudson River Valley Greenway legislation be amended to include the balance of Saratoga County. Mr. Sausville seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Christopher said recently, they became aware of a rate increase being foisted upon them by the State. He said it is relative to kids in the care and custody of the Office of Children and Family Services in detention facilities. We have to pay a rate on each one of these children, he stated. He said the State has increased our rates from 2001 through 2005 for a total of 51%. We are guessing that number because we do not have anything official, he stated. That rate increase will move forward into the future, he said. He stated they did not have the opportunity to budget for that increase for 2006 or 2007. We think we will be OK because the state is proposing to take the four-year retro amount and spread that increase over the next four years, he added. I do not think this is fair to pay the retroactive increase because they did not give us any lead time, he said.

Copies of a resolution entitled “In Opposition Of The Office Of Children And Family Services (OCFS) State Training Schools’ Rate Increases” adopted by the Warren County Board of Supervisors were distributed to the Committee. Ms. Raymond said we should join in with Warren County and pass a separate resolution requesting the legislature to outlaw the retroactive rate increases. She said we should have 120 days advance notice of when counties have to adopt their budgets. **Mr. Sausville moved to oppose these rate increases. Ms. Raymond seconded. Unanimous.** Ms. Raymond stated copies of this resolution should go to Intercounty and NYSAC. She said their inability to project their costs shouldn’t be our expense.

Ms. Raymond asked if we would be meeting with our State delegation early. Mr. Wickerham said we always meet with them around budget time. Mr. Sausville said we should get our agenda on the table in December. Ms. Raymond said we should review our agenda and see if there is anything appropriate to get in the Governor’s budget or introduce early enough in the process. She asked Mr. Wickerham to see if there would be anything that would benefit us to be out in front of the curve.

Ms. Raymond said after the Green Infrastructure Plan is adopted, we should meet with our legislators and talk about our innovative comprehensive approach to see if we could get seed money to implement some of the programs.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann