

## LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 14, 2009 – 3:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Rowland; Supervisors Daly, Raymond, Veitch, Wright, Yepsen, Raymond and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Larry Benton, Raymond Callanan, IDA.

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

**On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the December 10, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Chairman Rowland announced the appointment of Mr. Wright as the Vice-Chairman of the committee.

Mr. Callanan said bill A.8703 known as the HOYT bill passed the assembly last year, but not the senate and will most likely be re-addressed in 2009. The concern is that with the way the bill was written it will disseminate the IDA where the agency board will no longer report to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Callanan said he is asking that the Board of Supervisors include opposition to this bill in their agenda when meeting with legislators in Albany.

Mr. Benton said the county reconstituted the IDA approximately 30 years ago. Since that time they have been involved in approximately 85 different private projects throughout the county and over \$1 billion of private investment creating approximately 6,000 jobs, millions of dollars in tax revenues including blue chip companies such as quad graphics, Ball manufacturing, and community projects such as Saratoga Hospital.

Mr. Benton said the IDA is an effective tool for economic development by being able to pass on government benefits to private sector to induce a project to take place or to make a project more viable, and profitable. The HOYT bill will counter balance all the benefits that are offered today.

Ms. Raymond said it would be more beneficial to support those parts of the bill that are supportable and not support the parts that are not. She requested that Mr. Benton and Mr. Callanan give a breakdown to the committee members on their recommendations of support.

Mr. Rowland stated that there is a NYSAC Conference scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> at the Desmond Hotel in Albany.

Ms. Raymond said, in this economic climate it is particularly important for anyone who has the opportunity to attend the NYSAC conference. It would be an opportunity to meet with state agency executives, of whom, many are new, she said.

**A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Ms. Daly to authorize the Committee Chairman to act on behalf of the Legislative and Research Committee on matters where time is of the essence. Unanimous.**

The committee agreed to hold the next committee meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 p.m. and thereafter the second Tuesday of the month.

Ms. Yepsen suggested the following topics to consider when meeting with legislators in March:

Economic Stimulus plan to ease Medicaid money

Property tax relief (circuit breakers)

VLT Revenue

Unfunded Mandates

Mr. Rowland said he would like to have a formal presentation package that consists of an outline on Saratoga County policies and plans.

Ms. Raymond said that it is important that all committee members be well versed on the issues to be discussed with the legislature.

**On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Ms. Yepsen the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom