

Racing Committee Minutes
February 7, 2013 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Veitch; Supervisors Barrett, A. Johnson, Southworth, Wood, and Yepsen; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Ms. Yepsen the minutes of the December 10, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman Veitch announced the appointment of Tom Richardson as the committee Vice Chairman.

Mr. Veitch said a meeting was held on Wednesday, February 6th with the Secretary of Racing and Gaming at the State Capitol. He thanked Supervisor Yepsen for scheduling the meeting. He said the case was made as a county and city to get a casino located in Saratoga Springs at the Racino, stressing that we have the infrastructure in place and everything has been done to make sure that the State knows we are interested. Resolutions were passed in 2012 by both the City of Saratoga Springs and the County. Mr. Veitch said he spoke about all the benefits that come from having a casino in Saratoga Springs and benefits to the City, County and State as well. Concerns were listened to, but there was not a lot of information about what is going on at this point, he said.

Mr. Veitch said there were conversations about revenue sharing and concerns. He said the State of the State mentioned a 90% - 10% split, with 90% to education and 10% to the local municipalities. Mr. Veitch said the county and city are both happy to get the local share of any revenues that come through from Casino Gaming, but there are concerns with the fact that the horse business was not mentioned as a potential beneficiary of any revenue sharing. With Saratoga Harness and Saratoga Flat Track and all the farms within the county, those entities should get some part of the Casino Gaming revenue to make sure they are well funded going forward and can compete with a huge competition to their product, which is Casino Gambling, he said.

Ms. Yepsen said that they recognize that the Secretary works for the Governor, so we really need to keep going with the Assembly and Senate as well. Numbers were brought in from the Racino from 2008 to the present in terms of revenue realized, and just the statutory payments alone are extremely impressive, she said. It was stressed that if you build on the success that you have, it will make the State more money. Ms. Yepsen said as far as the revenue split it was said that there was much more room for discussions on that and Saratoga County was invited back in March to further that discussion. Ms. Yepsen said there were discussions about how the entire county is behind this. The Governor recognizes the importance of local government being supportive and cooperative on this and that is huge support, she said. Ms. Yepsen said it

was also said that with the addition of the casino that host communities including counties and cities, will actually make out financially better than they currently are.

Mrs. Southworth said the concern would be at what percentage. If they take away the VLT money because they are not calling them VLT's anymore and they are renaming them, then maybe we are only going to come out slightly better than we are now and that is really not what we are anticipating, especially with the extra burden on the infrastructure.

Mr. Veitch said he anticipates that there will be a couple of Racing Committee meetings scheduled before and after the racing season. He said he would like to invite the new board chairman of NYRA to come to one of the committee meetings. He said next month he has plans for Mr. Wait to attend the Racing Committee meeting to give an overview of the 150th anniversary of Racing. Mr. Veitch said he would like to continue having a day at the races for the Saratoga County Board promoting the Boards involvement in racing.

Ms. Yepsen suggested having someone from the Racing and Gaming Commission attend a Racing Committee Meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom