

Equalization and Assessment Committee Minutes
June 9, 2014 - 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Collyer; Supervisors Jenkins, Lent, Lunde, Richardson, Wood, Ziegler, and Sausville; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Chris Aldrich, Real Property; Gary Bowitch, Bowitch & Coffey, LLC.; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Richardson the minutes of the May 14, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Aldrich requested a resolution to approve a tax credit in the Town of Ballston for \$31.15. The reason for the tax cred was because the subject property should be wholly exempt from all taxes including the Ballston Spa Ambulance District.

Mr. Dorsey said the Former Saratoga County Infirmary located in the Town of Providence was originally built as a treatment center for Tuberculosis. He said since it has been abandoned, over the years it has been subjected to vandalism. The building contains asbestos and has been left on the county's tax foreclosure list from last year where the county decided not to take title of the property relative to the concerns of asbestos issues. Mr. Dorsey said currently the county has a tax lien against the property for approximately \$27,000.

Mr. Dorsey introduced Mr. Bowitch, from Bowitch & Coffey, LLC who discussed options with regard to the Saratoga County Homestead Sanatorium facility located on Barkersville Road in the Town of Providence.

Mr. Bowitch outlined the following options for the committee's consideration:

- **Explore potential Town/County application for NYSDEC Environmental Restoration Program funds for remediation of Site**
- **Encourage NYSDEC to use State Superfund money to investigate/remediate Site**
- **Seek NYSDEC referral to USEPA**
- **Seek to have USEPA carry out a "removal action" for full abatement of all asbestos contaminated materials at site**
- **Evaluate potential for on-site solid waste disposal "cell" for asbestos covered building materials and construction and demolition debris from building demolition**

- **Evaluate legal issues related to the County taking title to the site**
 - **Through in-rem foreclosure; and**

- **Through bankruptcy proceedings as appropriate**
- **Explore subdivision options for site and development of "clean" portions of property; and**
- **Explore use of the State brownfield site tax incentive program for remediation/redevelopment**

The committee agreed that the investigation process should begin by entering into a minor contract with Mr. Bowitch to pursue access to the property.

On a motion made by Mr. Lent, seconded by Mr. Lunde the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom