

Legislative and Research Committee Minutes
February 9, 2015 - 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Raymond; Supervisors Wright, Grattidge, Barrett, and Lunde; Ryan Moore, Deputy Administrator; Brian O'Connor, Auditor; Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Frank McClement, Veterans; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Lunde, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the minutes of the January 6, 2015 minutes were approved unanimously.

Ms. Raymond said this year the committee will not only have an agenda for State Officials, but because there is delegation going to the NACO meeting, there will also be some federal items that will be taken to Washington. A handout was distributed to all committee members for their review.

On a motion made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Lunde the State Legislative Program Agenda was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Wright the National Legislative Program Agenda was approved unanimously.

Mr. Wright expressed his concerns with the State saying they would like to ban the use of rough cut lumber in construction.

Ms. Raymond requested Mr. O'Connor to look into the ban on rough cut lumber and report back to the committee.

Mr. Hayner said currently only 12.7% of every transaction is kept locally to help offset county property taxes and operate the DMV offices. This shared service with NYS receiving 87.3% of the revenue, despite local DMV's doing the majority of the work, was negotiated over 15 years ago. Supporting an increase in the county share of Department of Motor Vehicle revenue will help the DMV offices to continue to provide high levels of service and offset annual increases in costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Wright to approve urging the Legislature and Governor to increase the county share of Department of Motor Vehicles revenue and adding it to the State Legislative Agenda. Unanimous.

Mr. Hayner said New York State is currently one of two states that does not require a new driver's license photo to be taken upon the renewal of a license. New legislation should be introduced and passed that would require a new photo be taken with the renewal of a driver's

license every eight years or upon any such renewal. This will help prevent fraud and identify theft, increasing overall public safety.

A motion was made by Mr. Lunde, seconded by Mr. Barrett to approve urging the Legislature to introduce legislation to require a new photo be taken upon the renewal of a license or non-driver id, and to add it to the State Legislative Agenda. Unanimous.

Ms. Raymond said there has been a request generated through the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership for Home Rule Legislation to revise the allocation of the county's occupancy tax revenue. She said what they are looking to do is to update some very early legislation on the occupancy tax that would allow a portion of it to be directly allocated to the Prosperity Partnership, rather than going to the county, and then to the partnership as it is done currently, and to revise the legislative Advisory Committee.

Mr. Dorsey distributed a copy of the proposed resolution to all committee members. He said the goal is to pass the resolution and send it to the State Legislature, who will introduce a bill making the changes to tax law 1202-g. Once the bill numbers are assigned to the two bills in the Senate and Assembly the Board of Supervisors would be asked again to pass a second resolution asking the Assembly and Senate to pass the two bills.

Mr. Moore said currently the occupancy tax collections are 1% to the entire county and within the City of Saratoga Springs there is an additional 5%. That 5%, by statute, is distributed 1% to the general fund, 2% to the Convention and Tourism Bureau and 2% to the City Center. The proposal would include only the 1% county distribution which is between \$800,000 - \$900,000yr. This year there is a \$1.2 million Economic Development budget that includes the Prosperity Partnership, both Chambers of Commerce and CEG. This request would be to appropriate all that revenue and some additional revenue from the general fund to fund the county's economic development efforts. What this change would do is it would take half of the county's \$800,000-\$900,000 and that money would automatically go to the prosperity partnership. Mr. Moore said this would be a way for the county to take money that it would otherwise give to the Prosperity Partnership and have that money go directly to the partnership. The reason for doing this is that it is desirable from the prospective of an incoming President to have a dedicated revenue stream that is not subject each year to the appropriation process in the county budget. Currently, by Statute, if the Prosperity Partnership does not use all of the allocation, it must return the unused allocation to the county.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Lunde to approve a request for Home Rule Legislation to revise the allocation of the County's Occupancy Tax Revenue. Supervisor Grattidge was opposed. Motion passed.

Ms. Raymond said that the tentative date for the Legislative meeting is March 6th at 2:00p.m., at Senator Marchione's office in Halfmoon. When that date is confirmed, a notice will be sent to all Supervisors.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom