

Legislative and Research Committee Minutes
March 11, 2015 - 3:15 p.m.

Present: Chairman Raymond; Supervisors Wright, Lunde, Richardson, Lewza, Collyer, Wood, Peck and Martin; Ryan Moore, Deputy Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Ed Hernandez, Water Authority; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Lunde, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the February 9, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. Raymond said there were two delegation meetings; one with the delegation in Washington, D.C. and the other with the State delegation which took place in Halfmoon. Ms. Raymond said meetings took place in Washington D.C. with staff of Senator Gillibrand, Congressman Tonko and a meeting with Congresswoman Elise Stefanik

Ms. Raymond said on Friday, March 7th a meeting took place in Halfmoon with local representatives.

Mr. Moore said the meeting in Halfmoon was a very good meeting with good news on many of the Legislative Items. He outlined discussions on the following items:

- 1. VLT Benefits** - Mr. Moore said that both senators indicated that the cut was most likely to be reversed and they would work toward getting an increase.
- 2. Star Rebate** - The Senate's position is to reverse the Personal Income Tax (PIT) credit and restore the rebate.
- 3. Design-Build and repeal the Wicks Law** - Feelings are that the design-build piece is not likely to go anywhere, as there has not been an outcry from the business community for that. The Wicks Law being repealed is viewed as a non-starter as the Senate has requested it for many years and it never advances in the Assembly.
- 4. Urging the State to Allow County's to determine their own sales tax rates** - This is a dead issue in the Assembly, but there is an Assembly Bill carried by Assemblywoman Galef and all of the local legislators are supportive of that.
- 5. Opposing the Governors Efforts on IDA's** - Feelings are that this will be removed from the budget. The major reason for that is that Democratic Assemblyman Magnarelli is the local chairman this year and he is adamantly against this proposal as is the Senate.

6. **Peer to Peer Program** - The Senate is attempting to obtain another year of funding. With respect to past years where there have been unused funds, the feeling is that this won't be a problem to carry that money forward and use it. Mr. Moore said Saratoga County has not used the money as rapidly as some other counties have in efforts to set up a program that is not wasteful.
7. **Upstate revitalization fund** - This will be revised where the regions that are not successful in getting the award would at least receive something.
8. **Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Support** - This is a priority in the Senate Agricultural Funding
9. **Juvenile Jurisdiction** - This is something that the Senate is looking at very carefully. If this does go through then the priority is going to be ensuring that the State takes responsibility for increases that would otherwise be the responsibility of local government.
10. **Urging the Legislature and Governor to increase the county share of Department of Motor Vehicles revenue** - Senator Marchione has drafted a bill on this and will continue to work on this issue.
11. **Urging the Legislature to introduce legislation to require a new photo be taken upon the renewal of a license or non-driver id.** - Senator Marchione has drafted a bill on this, and will continue to work on this issue.

Mr. Moore said discussions took place on the county's home rule request to redirect half of the county's occupancy tax revenue to the Prosperity Partnership. All of the legislators around the table thought that it made a lot of sense to do that, and that it was in sync with what the Governor is trying to do statewide in terms of promoting local economic development.

Ms. Raymond said she took the liberty in both Washington and locally to talk about cell service in the northern part of the county. The response was rather than try to reinvent the wheel, work on the definition of broadband which has a lot of funding and support behind it to include wireless cell service.

Mr. Dorsey explained the changes to the Sparkling Devices Law which would include licensing anyone selling fireworks, in particular sparkling devices, to the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control. Originally the local law as drafted with the New York Department of State as the licensing entity. As a result of the new regulation it is necessary to change the provision in the County's Local Law.

Mr. Dorsey said there is an Attorney General's opinion from 1978 with regard to the need for a second public hearing which states that if you change your proposed local law after the public hearing to make certain amendments, it is not necessary to have a second public hearing

relative to those amendments unless the changes are substantial. Mr. Dorsey said he does not consider the changes to be substantial.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Wright to adopt the changes to the Sparkling Devices Law as outlined, and approve the recommendation by the County Attorney that a second Public Hearing is not required. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Wright the meeting was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom