

Legislative and Research Committee Minutes
October 11, 2017 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Art Johnson; Supervisors Preston Allen, Phil Barrett, Bill Peck, Dan Pemrick, Jean Raymond, Tom Richardson, Jon Schopf, Matt Veitch and Mo Wright; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Keith Manz, Public Works, Jason Kemper, Planning.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Richardson, the minutes of the September 6, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to support Statewide Constitutional Amendment Ballot Proposal #3 that creates a land account to address specific public health and safety concerns for use by towns, villages, and counties having no viable alternative other than using forest preserve land . Unanimous.

Mr. Johnson said that this proposal is particularly important for the northern towns and counties of the Adirondacks and it essentially creates a land bank and circumvents a long and costly process to get different items approved in the Adirondacks. Mr. Wright said that he, Supervisor Raymond and Supervisor Allen have been working with the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages on this issue. They have been trying to create the land bank to make it easier for municipalities if they have projects that need portions of state land. At this point, in order to use portions of state land, it needs to go through the lengthy process of two straight legislative sessions and then on to a vote. A few years ago the Town of Long Lake had to go through a two-year process to take care of a contaminated well issue. The land bank would be 250 acres of land whereby if a municipality needs a portion of land out of the forest preserve, they can purchase the land and the State would have the opportunity to buy the same quantity of land in another area to add back to the forest preserve. Examples of projects that could use this would be dangerous curves that need a small portion of land to increase safety, also broadband is not currently allowed on this land even though electric lines are allowed on previously approved right of ways. There would still be an approval process however it would not be as lengthy as the process in place right now. Mrs. Raymond said that this is mostly to do with public safety and is similar to one that exists now with the Department of Transportation. Mr. Wright said that the proposal has bipartisan support, the support of local government groups and NYSAC. Additional information is available at www.voteyesfortheadirondacks.com.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, to introduce a local law to prohibit target shooting on County owned Loudon Road forest lands and setting a public hearing on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 4:40 pm. Unanimous.

Mr. Johnson said that the issue of target shooting on this parcel has been discussed several times now. Mr. Johnson said that this particular area has a county trail going through it and also has a close proximity to the homes on Loudon Road and Carlyle Terrace. The draft local law was

previously sent out via email. Mr. Johnson said that this local law would not affect hunting and suggested that signage be put up during hunting season to remind those who use the trail. Mr. Dorsey said that he received one correspondence from a resident on Carlyle Terrace stating that houses had been struck by bullets. Mr. Dorsey distributed maps of the area showing the trails, forest land and neighborhood. There is also a subdivision near the county property but the houses have not been built yet. Mr. Kemper said that if the homes are built, there will be a 500ft buffer in the environmental conservation law whereby no shooting can take place within 500ft of a residence, this 500ft buffer would infringe on the county property. Mr. Johnson said that the primary issue is the safety of those on the trail and the residents close to the trail. Target shooting is also causing littering on the property. Mr. Kemper said that target shooting has definitely decreased this summer, he believes that local gun shops are giving incorrect information on where they can target shoot, the Sheriff has spoken with one of the gun shop owners already.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Peck, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for a discussion regarding proposed litigation and matters leading to the employment of a particular person or corporation.

On a motion made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Peck, the meeting was reopened to Regular Session. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Peck, to authorize the retention of Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC as special counsel to commence litigation against the manufacturers, distributors and possibly certain prescribing physicians of opioid pharmaceuticals to recover the County's damages in combatting and treating opioid abuse. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board