

Legislative and Research Committee Minutes
February 14, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Tim Szczepaniak; Supervisors Tara Gaston, Todd Kusnierz, Jean Raymond, Jon Schopf, Matt Veitch and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Ms. Gaston, the minutes of the February 6, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Ms. Gaston, to approve items 1, 2, 4-14 of the 2018 Legislative Agenda . Unanimous.

Mr. Hellwig distributed copies of the final list. Ms. Gaston requested a separate vote on item #3.

1. Supporting the Governor's Proposal to Enact Legislation to Impose and Internet Fairness Conformity Tax
2. Supporting a Constitutional Amendment Banning New Unfunded State Mandates and Additional Measures to Provide Mandate Relief.
3. Supporting Increased Voter Participation but Opposing the Proposal for Early Voting and Automatic Voter Registration through DMV.
4. Urging the Governor to Delink the State Property Tax Cap and County Eligibility for Mandated Raise the Age Costs.
5. Supporting Legislation to Promote the Full and Expanded Use of Video Conferencing for Court Appearances for Inmates Held at the County Jail.
6. Supporting an Increase in the County Share of Department of Motor Vehicle's Revenues.
7. Supporting the Passage of Laree's Law.
8. Supporting Scaffolding Law Reform.
9. Urging the Governor to Restore Foster Care Block Grant Funding to 2016 Levels.
10. Urging the County's State Representatives to Assist in the Recovery of Allocated Grant Funds.
11. Strongly Requesting that the NYS Assembly Kill Any Same As Bill to Senate Bill S3948 Related to Refunding Surplus Auction Funds to Former Owners.
12. Urging Statewide Consideration for Legislation Requiring Coroners to Refer all Deaths to Federally Designated Recovery Agencies for NYS Donor Registry Verification.
13. Urging the Governor to Extend the NYS Historic Commercial Properties Tax Credit and the NYS Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Credit.
14. Urging the Governor to Maintain Current Tax Parity Formulas for Leveling the Playing Field Between VLGs and Casinos.

A motion was made by Mr. Kusnierz, seconded by Mr. Schopf, to approve item # 3 of the 2018 Legislative Agenda. The motion passed. Ms. Gaston was opposed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to oppose taxable NYS owned land conversion to PILOTS. Unanimous.

Mrs. Raymond said that this affects all the land in the Catskills and Adirondack Parks and Forest Preserve. The State assesses the state lands. This items seems to come up every few years. Mrs. Raymond said that it is very threatening and it would affect the borrowing power of communities. Mrs. Raymond said that the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages and InterCounty will support this next week. Mr. Kuznierz said that the resolution should be forwarded to the Chairs of the Legislative Committees, Leader Flanagan and Speaker Heastie. Mrs. Raymond said that it should also go to the Chair of Local Government Committees.

Mr. Veitch said that he and Supervisor Raymond will be attending the NaCO conference in Washington March 2-7. They will update the committee after the conference.

On a motion made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Ms. Gaston, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board