

Legislative and Research Committee Minutes
May 3, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Tim Szczepaniak; Supervisors Tara Gaston, Art Johnson, Todd Kusnierz, Jean Raymond and Matt Veitch; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney, Margie Van Meter, League of Women Voters.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Kusnierz, the minutes of the February 14, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Veitch distributed a handout regarding Opportunity Zones. Mr. Veitch said that he was made aware of opportunity zones at the NACo conference in February, it was discussed during the Community Economic and Workforce Development Committee meeting and during a round table which included Senators Tim Scott and Cory Booker. The handout outlines the history of opportunity zones, locations in the County in which opportunity zones exist and how the program is handled in NY State. The Governor has included all of the Saratoga County opportunity zones in the list of 514 NY zones. An opportunity zone can receive funds from Opportunity funds. Mr. Veitch said that the last step is for the Treasury Department to approve the Governors zones. Mr. Veitch has also discussed this with SCPP and will bring it to the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Veitch gave a brief update on the NACo conference. Mr. Veitch serves on the Community Economic and Workforce Development committee. They discussed CDBG funding, Opportunity Zones, Arts & Economic Development funding. Mr. Veitch also met with Congresswoman Stefanie and discussed the County's legislative items. They also met with Senator Gillibrand's office. Mr. Veitch said that the conference was productive and worthwhile. Mrs. Raymond serves on the Transportation Steering Committee. They were updated on changes to the Tiger grant program and new funding streams that may not have previously been available. There were discussions regarding new transportation funding. Mr. Veitch said that they are also part of the Northeast Regional Caucus whereby they participate in a monthly conference call on issues that affect the area.

A discussion took place regarding the research and availability of grants not only for the County but for Towns and Villages within the County. Ms. Gaston said that there are websites whereby you can set up alerts under certain keywords, Grants.gov and grantspace.org are two of these websites. There is also some free education provided on these websites. Mrs. Raymond said that there is also a monthly newsletter sent out by the Assembly speakers officer which contains grant information.

Mr. Veitch said that they have been in discussions with the City of Saratoga Springs regarding occupancy tax and Airbnb. He met with the City last week and it appears that they are not moving forward with this. The Commissioner of Finance has requested that a resolution be brought forward from the City as well as the County urging the State to get involved and provide

the details needed to be able to collect. At this point it's haphazard, some counties collect from Airbnb, some don't. Mr. Veitch said that he is currently still researching this and has also had discussions with Assemblywoman Woerner's office. Mr. Veitch said that he may bring this forward at a later date. Mrs. Raymond said that there could also be liability associated with registering homes.

Mr. Szczepaniak said that they will hold future meetings of the Legislative & Research Committee on an as needed basis rather than every month.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board