

Legislative & Research Committee Minutes  
November 29, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairwoman Raymond; Committee Members Preston Allen, Dick Lucia, Mike Smith, Mo Wright; Supervisor Matt Veitch and Tara Gaston; Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Mike Hartnett, County Attorney; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Lucia, the minutes of the September 29, 2021 meeting were approved. Unanimous.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Allen, to adopt the Saratoga County 2022 Legislative Program. Unanimous.**

Mr. Harris said the team was working on an update to the 2022 legislative program and mentioned specific items, including opposing the proposed amendments to tax law to end racing subsidies. Mr. Wright asked if there is a sister bill in the senate for the tax law to end racing subsidies. Mr. Harris said not at the time the program was submitted for the agenda, but it is anticipated there will be. Ms. Gaston pointed out a typo in the title of number nine and asked if there is a plan or legislation regarding the broadband infrastructure expansion. Mr. Wright said they would like the state to come up with a plan to allow counties to ensure accurate FCC mapping.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Smith, to amend the Saratoga County 2022 Legislative Program to include seeking home rule changes to allow each municipality the ability to set closing times for establishments that serve alcohol. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Raymond said the City of Saratoga Springs has requested the County pass a resolution to require establishments that serve alcohol to close by 2:00am instead of the current 4:00am closing time. Mrs. Raymond said this request has been made before and when we asked if the County could pass a resolution to allow the City to change their hours, the State Liquor Authority said we could not, it has to be county wide. Mr. Hartnett said it would require the state law to be modified to allow for municipal specific changes. Mrs. Raymond said the legislature did allow cities and towns to make their own decisions when they passed the cannabis legalization law. A discussion took place regarding the different options the County has regarding the request from the City of Saratoga Springs. Ms. Gaston supported doing something similar to the cannabis legislation. Mrs. Raymond suggested the committee amend the legislative agenda to add as a talking point changes to allow each municipality to set closing times. Ms. Gaston and Mr. Veitch thanked the committee for helping them move forward what their City Council requested of them.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Bridget Rider  
Deputy Clerk of the Board