



Legislative & Government Affairs Committee

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 2PM
40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY

Minutes

Present: Chairman Eric Butler; Committee Members Mark Hammond, John Lant, Kevin Veitch.
Absent: Sandra Winney.
Supervisor Mo Wright; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Stephanie Hodgson, Christine Rush, Anne Van Vorst, County Administrator; Michelle Granger, County Attorney; Charles Foehser, County Clerk.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hammond, seconded by Mr. Kevin Veitch, the minutes of the June 7, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Hammond, to support Empire State Development's (ESD) designation of a cellular-specific point person to lead the state's efforts on enhancing cellular coverage, and further encouraging the state to implement a unified strategy to assure every major road corridor has reliable cell coverage as recommended by ESD's Upstate Cellular Coverage Task Force Final Report. Unanimous.

Supervisor Wright gave an overview of the proposed Resolution. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mr. Hammond, seconded by Mr. Kevin Veitch, to support Senate Bill S7645 that repeals certain provisions of the Executive Law establishing a fee for background checks on certain firearm and ammunition purchases. Unanimous.

Supervisor Wright gave an overview of the proposed Resolution. The current fees are \$2.50 for an ammunition background check and \$9 for the long gun or firearm check. This bill will eliminate the fees.

Mr. Bulger reported that State of New York has not yet finalized the 250th Commission membership. State budget has allocated funds in the amount of \$200K for the entire State celebration. In comparison, other states from the original colonies have allocated millions of dollars. Mr. Bulger requested a letter of support to the Governor requesting that the 2024 budget include an appropriate amount of funds for the 250th Celebration.

A motion was made by Mr. Hammond, seconded by Mr. Lant, committee approval to send a letter to the Governor requesting the State include an appropriate amount of funds for the 250th Celebration. Unanimous.

Mr. Bulger reported that the NYSAC legislative program for 2024 will be released shortly. Once received, it will be discussed in the new year for creation of the 2024 Saratoga Legislative priority list.

On a motion made by Mr. Hammond, seconded by Mr. Kevin Veitch, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board