

**Herkimer County Legislature
Committee on County Properties and Ways & Means
Committee Meeting
Friday, February 5, 2021
Via Zoom
Follows Natural Resources and Ways & Means**

Persons Attending:

Raymond Johnson (Chairman, County Properties, Ways & Means committee member)
Mark Gaworecki (County Properties committee member)
William Keeler, Sr. (County Properties committee member)
William Weakley (County Properties committee member)
Robert J. Schrader (County Properties committee member)
Ray Donley (County Properties, committee member)
Patrick E. Russell (Chairman of Ways & Means)
Kurt J. Ackerman (Ways & Means committee member)
Raymond Smith (Ways & Means committee member)
Frederick J. Shaw, Jr., (Ways & Means committee member)
John P. Stephens (Ways & Means committee member)
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature
James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator
Brandy Serow, Sec. to County Administrator
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer
Steve Billings, Personnel Officer
Scott Scherer, Sheriff

(Non Committee Members signed in)

Legislator Gregory Malta, Sr.
Legislator Bob Hollum
Legislator John L. Brezinski
Legislator Peter F. Manno
Legislator Peter Campione

Absent:

N/A

Mr. Johnson called Properties to order at 9:56 a.m.

Items Discussed:

COUNTY PROPERTIES AND WAYS & MEANS:

1. Approve contract for Sprinkler and Fire Suppression at new jail
2. Other – Discussion on outstanding property taxes

Committee Vote Record

COUNTY PROPERTIES AND WAYS & MEANS:

Mr. Johnson: "One thing on the agenda is to approve contract for the Sprinkler and Fire Suppression at our new jail. The contract is \$5,664 a year, the maintenance contract for the new system. Can I have motion?"

Item #1 - On motion of Mr. Keeler, seconded by Mr. Donley for the County Properties Committee and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Shaw for the Ways & Means Committee, Item #1 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Schrader: "Ray can I ask you a question about the sprinkler system? Do we have a current contract with the same company through the old jail?"

Jim Wallace: "I would ask the Sheriff of Sheri."

Mr. Schrader: "Okay. Jim Wallace, a question for you, does this seem like a reasonable price?"

Jim Wallace: "Sheri, are you on?"

Mr. Stephens "If you read what was sent to us by Sheri it says this is possibly only for a year so they can bring Donny and the maintenance staff up to speed on how it works because it is new."

Mr. Schrader: "Okay. That's fine."

Mr. Johnson: "Anything under other for Properties?"

Mr. Bono: "Mr. Chairman, I have one other thing. Ray, are we aware of any properties that haven't paid taxes that should be paying taxes? I know of one business and I am not going to say the name because I do not want to embarrass them but hasn't paid taxes and continues to operate and is getting grants."

Mr. Johnson: "I know Lorraine is working on a couple of things Jim, back and forth with the courts. This COVID is screwing everything up as far as moving forward in the In Rem. You know the situation with the other thing in Ilion. Update on our money from the Land Bank, we are waiting for the State to send them money and then we will get our money there. As far as any certain business operating, I haven't heard anything yet. Unless Lorraine knows something."

Mr. Bono: "Well I do and I think maybe a couple of others but I will send you a note on which business that is. That has to be rectified because that is not right that they continue to operate not paying taxes. They made a partial payment but they are not current and they need to. To get a State grant on top of that which I am shocked at being in arrears, shame on the State. I will give you the details."

Jim. Wallace: "Jim, as we talked yesterday, I'm also pursuing it as well."

Mr. Wallace: "Yes, and Jim is on it too. Thanks Jim."

Mr. Weakley: "Mr. Bono, can you send that to all of the committee members please?"

Mr. Bono: "Absolutely. It will go to all."

Mr. Schrader: "I know you said previously we were going to have a meeting with the Ilion representative."

Mr. Johnson: "As far as our taxes that were paid? Lorraine, if you are on jump in at any time because I do not want to over speak or say something wrong. She is handling it. We went through MaryJo, the Village Treasurer, her and Lorraine are working it out. They are working out the details. I did talk to the school as far as their end. I thought it would be easier to have both parties deal directly with Lorraine rather than Lorraine telling me something, going to the other party and saying something, getting it mixed up. It's going back and forth. I'm pretty sure the Village has a meeting Tuesday night, John, if I'm not mistaken and Lorraine is going to have something or present something to go over it. Lorraine, did I leave anything out?"

Mr. Stephens: "They changed to Mondays."

Lorraine Lewandrowski: "You got it right. Like Ray said, the Village Trustees will consider the information we have submitted. Jennifer Casey did a breakdown of exactly the chain of events that occurred with the building sending the County a list of taxes that were not paid. On the list were properties owned by Coolidge associates which is Duofold. Almost simultaneously the Village in March, the Village purchased the property at the same time they were made whole so things crossed in the mail. Jennifer submitted all of the details with the dollar amount to make the Village whole and as we have spoken with the Clerk over at the Village, what we are seeking reimbursement so the next meeting is Monday night I think then we will know more after that meeting what way the trustees want to go."

Mr. Johnson: "Thanks Lorraine."

Mr. Schrader: "What I want to emphasize on this is I am not looking for the penalty, I just want the original money back we were owed."

Mr. Johnson: "That's what we are trying to do Mr. Schrader. It's just going back and forth now through the different channels."

Mr. Schrader: "Okay. I don't want any extra money from them. I just want to make sure the County, the tax payers get what is owed."

Mr. Johnson: "And on that note Bob I will reiterate doing that does not hurt the IDA or anything moving forward with Duofold projects."

Mr. Schrader: "Okay. Thanks for clarifying that up."

Item #2 – Discussion only. No vote taken.

Mr. Johnson: "Can I have a motion to adjourn Properties?"

On motion of Mr. Schrader, seconded by Mr. Keeler, the County Properties committee adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

The Ways & Means committee continued.