**Herkimer County Legislature**
**Ways & Means Committee Meeting**
**Wednesday, October 7, 2020**
**Via Zoom**
**Follows Legislature Meeting**

**Persons Attending:**
Patrick E. Russell (Committee Chairman)
Kurt J. Ackerman (committee member)
Raymond Smith (committee member)
Raymond Johnson (committee member)
Frederick J. Shaw, Jr. (committee member)
John P. Stephens (committee member)
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature
James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator
John Piseck, Executive Director of IDA
Scott Flansburg
**(Non-Committee Members Signed In)**
Legislator Gregory Malta, Sr.
Legislator Mark Gaworecki
Legislator Robert J. Schrader
Legislator Bob D. Hollum
Legislator William E. Keeler, Sr.
Legislator John Brezinski
Legislator Peter F. Manno
Legislator Ray Donley
Legislator Peter Campione
Legislator William Weakley

**Absent:**
N/A

Mr. Russell called the meeting to order at 2:24 p.m.

**Items discussed:**
WAYS AND MEANS:
1. The Herkimer 9 Project
2. Other

**Committee Vote Record:**
WAYS & MEANS:
Mr. Russell: "Jimmy do you want to do the introductions?"

Mr. Bono: "Yes. Pat has called the meeting to order of Ways and Means. We are here today to talk to Scott Flansburg, a Herkimer native who is proposing a very innovative project in the Village of Herkimer. He has some insight to Herkimer and how it relates to the history of basketball. Scott has proposed a plan. He has presented it in the Village of Herkimer a few weeks back and it's refreshing to see something like that and so you are going to give us all of the details in front of the Legislature here. We will ask some questions afterwards so welcome."

Scott Flansburg: "Thank you."

Mr. Russell: "If I could just say something please. Try to be as concise as you can. Some people are going to have to leave so don't take to the offense."

Scott Flansburg: "Certainly, I won't take it personally and I will take the most important stuff first and then carry on as long as you want afterwards. I want to thank Mr. Bono and Mr. Wallace first off. I was born and raised in Herkimer, New York. It's an honor to be here in front of all of you and I have spent a lot of time with Mr. Bono talking about this project. He has helped steer me. I have had several meetings with Mr. Piseck as well. Mr. Piseck directed me to the Delta Group who has helped me with the designs and planning up to this stage and will continue on this project moving forward. They have been an incredible contribution. Just real quick about myself, I'm currently known as the Human Calculator. I've been doing that for thirty years. Traveling the world, performing for kids and schools and doing workshops for parents and teachers. I'm launching a new event called the National Counting Bee. It's like a National spelling bee but it is a count bee. I started, I own it. We will be doing the first one in the world here in Herkimer, New York April 28th next year. It will be the inaugural USA National Counting Bee and I am licensing the Counting Bee to every country in the world so they can host their own in their own language and we will be hosting the top math mental athletes and human calculators from around the world in Herkimer every year at the International Counting Bee. We will have the National Counting Bee and the International County Bee two different times during the year. This is a ninety second video that will explain the Counting Bee and a little bit more about me. The Counting Bee is a fifteen second counting contest. That is what it is based off of. We did the Arizona Counting bee last year. It went over huge. Thousands of kids tried out so now we are doing the National Counting Bee where we will launch that later this fall and I am bringing that to Herkimer. Last summer I was here in Herkimer helping my family with some health issues and I stayed for the summer and I walked into the Herkimer Historical Society and Ted, I asked him what was so cool about Herkimer? I was born here, my dad was born here and he brought up a Basloe Basketball story. I had never heard about it. I got the book. I did all of the research. There is a lot of evidence and proof that Herkimer contributed greatly to the beginning of basketball and just didn't get the proper credit in Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and so me, I have a television show on the History channel, I am the producer and I was just thinking about doing a documentary about Mr. Basloe's book to help Herkimer get on the map with sports and basketball and then the Historical Society pointed out to me that the building was the YMCA was between the M&T Bank and the Palmer House Hotel so I was just going to acquire that parking lot and rebuild the YMCA so the basketball fans from around the world could come here to Herkimer and shoot baskets where the first game might have happened as well as the first game that had a rim and a net both invented here in Herkimer, New York. And so ESPN magazine did a story three years ago authenticating that. That they traced the rim and the net back here to Herkimer and the guy's name was Lambert Will's kid who ran the YMCA as a volunteer. That really got me thinking about, and my sister Kathy Penree's on the Town Board and I said Kathy, what can we do to help Herkimer? I mean I walked down Main Street when I was here last summer, my dad was at the Folt's Home and I was scared to walk down Main Street at night. It's really gotten strange here in Herkimer and I asked my sister what I could do. She is married to Bill Penree who was a Sergeant at the Herkimer Police for many years and we all sat there and this basketball story fell in my lap and I said well I'm going to do this. Then I decide to try and build the YMCA and now over the winter and during my research it turned out to be much bigger than that and what I would like to do is the whole block. We will get this going and I will show it to you. Most of you I sent it to you in email and I can actually just use this to refresh your memory if you want. This is the block. Main Street is right here, your guys office is right here, this is the Palmer House, here is where the M&T Bank currently is. The Citizen's Bank and here is the Quackenbush building over here. All the way to the Library and such. And so, what I would like to do is, this is the most historic block in Herkimer history. Mr. Quackenbush started the first bank, the first library, he was the president of the YMCA. When this all happened, his son was on the winning team. Mr. Quackenbush had fifty patents including the nut cracker, kaleidoscope, extension ladder, an amazing man and used this block as an industrial center for Herkimer to make it a highlight in 1891. In 1891, I don't know if you guys ever knew this but in March of 1891 the Herkimer newspaper said that it was the highlight of Herkimer's history. The population had just doubled. The waterways were the best in the state and we are having 10,000 firemen for the New York Expo later that year. Thomas Edison had just selected Herkimer, New York as the test village for arc lighting and Herkimer was the first village in the world to have Thomas Edison's arc lighting along Main Street and beyond and that all happened in March of 1891 the same time that the Palmer House Hotel had its grand opening and the same month that this basketball event happened at the YMCA here in Herkimer. And so I

would like to take this block and take it back to 1891, to its highest days as far as giving it a chance to become a tourist center. I would like to buy the houses along here. There are five houses over here, there are three over here and there are two banks. It would cost less than $3 million. It's only $38,000 in taxes per year to the village and so we would like to flatten this block and make it all the park except build a gym right here that we can house three gym courts, three basketball courts as well as one NBA court so we can host all kinds of tournaments here. Junior basketball, all of the AAU, regional sports as well. We would mimic what Cooperstown is doing for baseball we would do for basketball. We would host tournaments here all year round. The difference between us and Cooperstown is they have to close the fields due to weather for six months. We don't have to. This thing could be running twelve months a year. So what I would like to do is I'm going to redo the Palmer House Hotel to its original beauty of 1891. It was a premier hotel in Mohawk Valley in 1891. In place of the YMCA we are going to place the largest basketball in world. You can see the pictures over here. It's going to be thirty-one feet in diameter and people will pull off of the thruway to just take a selfie with that even if they are not a basketball fan but it would be an opportunity for us to celebrate the history of Herkimer's basketball story. The County, we have discussed me getting the Court House. The red Court House right here on Main Street and I would like to renovate that and turn that into a museum to tell the story of Herkimer's history so that basketball fans from around the world can come here and see the actual time line from day zero of basketball all the way to current with all of the evidence that now exists that didn't exist many years ago when the whole thing was decided to be put in Springfield and there is a contentious relationship between Springfield and Herkimer that's existed so I am working on that trying to get them to be a partner in this but it is not expected. I am just hoping but I need your guys help first. This village is really in a tough spot. Never worse in my eyes being born here and I would like to help fix Main Street which is right in your front office, your front door here. Last year when I started to contemplate this I was sitting in front of the Basloe Library and somebody tried to sell me drugs while I was sitting on a park bench in front of that library and that inspired me to create the Herkimer 9 Foundation. This Herkimer 9 Entity, it's an LLC as well as a foundation, is the following nine people; my sister Kathy Penree who is on the town Board, the first woman on that, Richard Rhymestine who a lot of you people know locally, Kevin Crosley from ARC is going to help me set up the companies as well as how to run them. Bruce Fall is extremely excited about this as well as his family about making this happen. Shep Hummel is the most excited probably. He was next door neighbors to the basketball family who would love to see this happen and will help. Steve Ponte is a family friend for forty years. My mom worked for him for twenty-five years. Renee Scialdo is the biggest cheerleader of this project and is going to do anything she can to make it happen and we have invited the Basloe family to have a representative on the board as well as the Senator. Philip Ruth who is the Lampert Will heir, he is the great great grandson of Lampert Will. He is a Senator in Vermont and has had dealings with the whole thing based upon memorabilia the family donated to the Hall of Fame 1992 for temporary display that was soon gone about Herkimer and Lampert Will and it's never been seen again. The properties have never been returned to the family so we are helping to sort that out and hopefully have a partner in Springfield but it is not guaranteed but we don't need them, it's been 130 years this way. All I want to do is celebrate the Herkimer history. I need your help to tear down that block. It's a logistical nightmare for a single guy like me to come in here and try to figure out a way to work around all of this stuff when you guys have the power and the connections and the where with all to make this happen the most efficient way and so I am hoping this project will bring the village and the county together to work on a project to overcome all of these things that have happened in the past and I am begging you guys for the Quackenbush Factory. Mr. Quackenbush is the most historic man from Herkimer other than General Herkimer. He had the most contribution to this village. I will put all of my resources available to remediate that building to turn it into an amazing museum as well as an a steam learning center and that will be a place kids around the county and country can come to be introduced to using their hands to create things. The Herkimer Historical Society has been incredible. Every step of the way they connect to me in the center. They have done incredible research to help make this and they are going to continue to do that to make this museum incredible. The Community Foundation I've met with Alicia Dicks and Joe and they are extremely excited about this and think it is a slam dunk and they want to make it happen. They are going to help with any funding they can as well as helping raise support financially and through the community. Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Stephen Smith, is very excited about this and wants to help us in any way possible and a few other things guys is this old

Courthouse. I really need that because it's my neighbor to this project. The Herkimer 9, we are really going to make this block come alive. It's going to be electric just like Thomas Edison did in 1891with tourism, economic impact, history, sports, and education all in that one block. I believe if we fix that one block that will be enough to get this village going in the right direction because right now it is trending only downwards and I do not see anything in the pipeline that is going to change that. This project could do all of those things and Cooperstown is really excited about this. We met with the Cooperstown folks from the Hall of Fame and if Herkimer can get on the map for sports it would benefit them tremendously so I promised them that I would put the world's largest baseball here in Herkimer to remind people leaving the Adirondacks to take twenty eight miles and go south on Route 28 to go see the Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame before they leave our area. Rob is extremely excited about this. Thinks it's going to compliment his efforts over in Utica and he has promised me he will build the largest hockey puck in the world to complement our largest basketball and largest baseball in the world. I believe that tourism, the economic impact, the revitalization of this block, the amount of negative energy in this village is unbelievable that I have been dealing with for the past four months and I am just asking all of you to be a part of this. I'm not asking you for a certain amount of money or a certain way to do anything, I'm asking you all to get together and figure out what's the best way you could help if you decided to be a part of this project. All I am telling you guys is this is going to happen no matter what. I am putting all of my resources behind this. The people I just read from the list are more excited about it than I am because they have lived here their whole lives and are vested in this community and so we need your help to make this happen and allow this mayor of the Village of Herkimer to make this happen. This is a huge project. We are going to need an administrator obviously, we are going to need a lot of people, we are going to need to know how to help a lot of partnerships, government grants, private money, everything we can. We have access to opportunities zone money, historic zone money and several other funds and grants that are available that I do not know how to tap into but you guys do this for a living. I need help from every person in this room to make this project happen. It's not only going to benefit Herkimer Village. It's going to benefit the whole county and the whole area because when we put on basketball tournaments here for AAU or Junior basketball you have to have a minimum of eight basketball courts. We are going to incorporate all local basketball courts including the historical ones because the first real basketball game happened at the Mohawk YMCA. So for little junior high kids to come from around the country to play basketball where one of the first games happened in Mohawk and at the Little Falls YMCA, at the Herkimer College and all of the local high schools. We have enough gyms to host any level sized basketball tournament here that we choose to and it will not only bring everybody to Main Street in Herkimer but get people to go throughout the whole Mohawk Valley looking at all of these gyms and going to these events and I want to use this block as an event center. We will have live music we will have farmer's markets, we will have expos, we will have speakers, we will have concerts. We can do this gym anywhere from one thousand to four thousand five hundred seats based upon the size available in that block so the mayor and I are juggling numbers but we can't really make any decisions until we see where you guys stand. I'm not asking you for money, I'm asking you for your support. We are going to need money, we're going to need funding, we're going to need connections, we are going to need grants, we are going to need everything possible to make this happen. We can have this done within two to three years and that block will be a tourism center. It will be comparable to Cooperstown and my goal is to make Main Street in Herkimer comparable to the Cooperstown Main Street where it is clean, safe, fun, good stores and good restaurants. I will take any questions."

James Wallace: "Any luck with the College?"

Scott Flansburg: "Yes sir. We are meeting with them next. Their response has been very overwhelming. They are excited and the college feels like they could contribute greatly to the management of this basketball and give them a footprint on Main Street in Herkimer. I really think Herkimer College deserves and needs a footprint on Main Street in Herkimer so when parents bring their kids here to see if they want to leave them here because there are more positive choices."

James Wallace: "They can help you financially with the State funding."

Scott Flansburg: “Yes sir and you mentioned they had a great person who can write up grants so we are going to approach them on that. Also, two other grant writers have stepped forward as well that will help the Herkimer 9.”

James Wallace: “Thank you.”

Scott Flansburg: “Anybody have any questions? I have given you all my email, everybody has my phone number.”

Mr. Bono: “Any potential number on jobs that will be created when all is said and done?”

Scott Flansburg: “Yes sir. We did numbers for the basketball center, the Quackenbush and the hotel and we had over one hundred and fifty jobs starting in the year 2023. That would be the base economic impact not including any restaurants or the hotel which will have a restaurant as well on the top, the Townhouse Hotel.”

Mr. Bono: “Estimated cost of everything?”

Scott Flansburg: “Yes sir. It’s very flexible. The mayor and I have been working hard on this and we believe that all of this combined if we all work together, we could get that whole block of property and knock it all down for three and a half million dollars, maximum five million dollars. That would give us that whole block from the Quackenbush to the Jail. With just the Quackenbush, the jail and the Palmer House, they would build a gym and the rest would be park with a fountain and ice skating rink for the kids and this block is all about the kids. The Learning Center, the Library will be enhanced. The field house will have some flexibility. We could spend up to forty million dollars on the field house. You know, it depends on who our partners are going to be, if we get association with the Hall of Fame, the NBA, we are going down all of those paths. There are people that would just write a check to build the gym as a write off so we are dealing with that level of people but I believe that we have to knock that block down and they will come. Worst case, we have a beautiful park in the middle of Herkimer which there really isn’t much grass in Herkimer anyway but I would like to take up half of that space and put in this gymnasium event center which we can house anywhere from one thousand to four thousand five hundred people so it just depends on our budget and the ability for us to raise the funds.”

John Stephens: “Three and a half to five million is just your demo cost?”

Scott Flansburg: “That’s to secure all of the properties, those houses and the banks, relocate the banks in the Montgomery Ward’s building and to take away all of that stuff.”

John Stephens: “Your construction costs are way above that.”

Scott Flansburg: “Well there is only one construction cost. Really the Palmer House is going to be redone. That is going to cost us a million, million and a half. The Quackenbush is going to be at least a million in remediation and then another million and a half to build that out and the gymnasium is the only other cost. Really we are just renovating two buildings and we are building a gym which happens all of the time. We have people that build gyms here in Herkimer and run gyms in Herkimer.”

Mr. Russell: “How many properties do you have to try to purchase over there?”

Scott Flansburg: “Twelve.”

Mr. Russell: “Have you talked to the individuals?”

Scott. Flansburg: “Most of them and the biggest ones except for the Citizens Bank. That’s privately owned where M&T is a rental. So yes and the response has been over whelmingly positive including

some of the house owners. I'm not guaranteeing a hundred percent that everybody is just going to give us their house for nothing but worst case scenario the average house price is thirty two thousand dollars."

Mr. Russell: "Can the village do anything through eminent domain?"

Mr. Netti: "Yes we can. I don't want to do it but might have to to try and move us forward."

Mr. Hollum: "It does sound very positive. Almost too good to be true. Is there a fear of all of a sudden all of these properties tripling the cost? Wanting more money? Is that figured in?"

Scott Flansburg: "Worst case scenario is that everybody triples cost and it will cost an extra eight hundred thousand dollars and in the scheme of things eight hundred thousand dollars would be nothing when it gets to economic impact. We are trying to do this as friendly as possible and we are going to offer these people a brick, or something on the building or we will do whatever we can to minimize the upfront costs there."

Mr. Hollum: "It seems like you guys have really thought about a lot."

Scott Flansburg: "Thank you."

Mr. Campione: "I know you touch on this a little bit but what exactly are you asking for from the County?"

Scott Flansburg: "Well as a joke, not a joke I asked these guys last week for nine million nine hundred ninety nine thousand nine hundred ninety dollars and ninety nine cents. Nine nines because it is all about the Herkimer 9 and all about the number nine and promoting the nine theory with the counting being around the world and so it would be more of a symbolic gesture. I don't care if you guys did it just as a PR stunt and gave it to us over ten years. It's more just the symbology of the Herkimer 9. I don't think we are going to need that much. The mayor and I are tapping in as many sources as we can assuming you guys aren't going to do anything. We have been going along as there is not going to be anything here and so if you guys jump on board and make everything a lot easier, raising money, you know how that works, sometimes it takes weeks and months and years but we have access to funds. Not as much as I expected because this originally was a million dollar project that's turned into a twenty million dollar project. Anything you guys can do to help us with the funding, procurement, logistics of that block and please let me have the Quackenbush and save that building."

James Wallace: "That's nothing to do with the County, the Quackenbush building."

Mr. Hollum: "Stop me Chairman if I am going too far into this question. With the Quackenbush building, obviously there is something going on between the village and the IDA, so I guess what I am saying is acquiring the Quackenbush building could be a pretty difficult situation. Mayor, is there any input you can put on how this will be addressed? "

Mr. Netti: "I don't really want to say right now but it looks to be going in the right direction."

Scott Flansburg: "And I promised the mayor that I am moving forward on this project with or without the Quackenbush. I told that to John Piseck as well as Mr. Bono and Mr. Wallace. This is not dependent on the Quackenbush. I'm just literally begging you guys to help me secure that building to be a part of this project, the Herkimer 9, and allow us to round out that block with the most amazing, historic input to this village by Mr. Quackenbush. He deserves to be celebrated. Thanks for asking."

Mr. Bono: "Anybody else? How about anyone on Zoom? Anybody want to make a comment?"

Mr. Russell: "The Quackenbushs', do they have any interest in putting money into it?"

Scott Flansburg: “Yes sir. Not only money but they have tons of stuff they can put in the museum part. They are very excited to have some place to display it and well as Remington Arms because Remington Arms, Mr. Quackenbush started there as a teenager and was a prodigy at Remington Arms and then started the factory here in Herkimer. So the Remington Arms Group as well as the Remington Arms Society has reached out to me and they have thousands and thousands of fans of Remington rifles that are very interested in Mr. Quackenbush’s past and have tried to access the building every year for the past fifteen years when they have their annual meeting and have never been able to get in there so they are very excited that this could happen. So just to give you an example as the Human Calculator if you will share your birthday with me or a date that is special in your life, if you tell me the month, day and the year I can calculate what day of the week that it was on. So pick a date that you can check me on that you would know.”

Mr. Russell: “Two twenty sixth, fifty seven.”

Scott Flansburg: “That was a Tuesday. I promise. I’ve been in the genius book for thirty years guys. I’ve been on Oprah Winfrey. The video had more of this to share but anyway, I’ve been on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Ellen, I have performed for all of the first families, Obamas, Clintons, Bush, Tony Robins. I’ve been doing Tony Robins bits for twenty five years. When this gets done I will be bringing everyone I know on the planet earth to Herkimer one way or another through sports. Just so you know as a side note, I moved to Phoenix thirty years ago and ended up being a neighbor on Phoenix Country Club to Jerry Colangelo who is now the chairman of the Basketball Hall of Fame and I had no idea Herkimer had anything to do with basketball. I have been hanging out with this circle of friends for twenty eight years out there not knowing that Mr. Colangelo could help us eventually if this gets to where it’s not contentious and the first tour I ever did in America as the Human Calculator was in Philadelphia and my first radio show ever, where I had to sit in the green room and wait, the other person in the room was Charles Barkley. Charles and I had thirty minutes and he has been a friend of mine for thirty years now. He lives in Phoenix and our other best friend is Alice Cooper. Alice Cooper loves this idea. He thinks it’s a great idea and so I will do everything I can to bring the whole world to Herkimer including the smartest people in the world as well as athletics. Cooperstown when we have signings once a year, Herkimer could have celebrities sign the big basketball every weekend. From Japan, from Korea from every country in the world we could invite the top basketball teams to come in. Have tournament at the basketball place and then autograph the big basketball and do workshops with kids and all that kind of stuff to really make that block where kids, when they come here, they learn. They have great experiences and when they leave they want to come back. Just like Cooperstown.”

Mr. Russell: “I just want to verify that the day was Tuesday.”

Scott Flansburg: “Yes sir. Thank you. If you have an iPhone calculator there is this crazy thing that happens. Just punch in five plus five and if you hit equals it says ten but if you hit equals again it says fifteen and if you keep hitting equals it keeps counting by that number. It’s called a constant. So, if you clear the calculator and you put in twelve plus twelve and you just start hitting equals it says twenty four, thirty six, forty eight, sixty, it starts counting by the number. At West Canada High school, that happened to me by accident. My buddy had a calculator and he did twenty eight plus twenty eight and I said fifty six and he hit equals by mistake and it added twenty eight more. He goes what’s twenty eight more and I said and I said eighty four and he goes what’s the next one? It was like something woke up in my brain and now I have been in the Genius Book of World Records for twenty years in a row as the fastest human calculator. Pick a two digit number randomly you want me to count by. Clear your calculator, say it out loud.”

Mr. Hollum: “Let’s go with fifty four.”

Scott Flansburg: “Fifty four, so everybody punch in fifty four plus fifty four equals and I’m just going to start counting by fifty four. Just hit equals to keep up with me. One hundred and eight, one sixty two, two sixteen, two seventy, three twenty four, three seventy eight, four thirty two, four eighty six, five forty, five

nine four, ……. Like that and I can keep going. And so that is my world record for twenty years. I have been the chairman for the Olympics for mental sports, all the top memory, mental, math and speed ring experts in the world. I will have all of those competitions come here to Herkimer to celebrate the smartness that this village has portrayed since the 1800s with all of the history we have here from General Washington on."

Mr. Schrader: "Scott, I just want to thank you and I speak for myself, I am one hundred percent behind you. The funding is one of my questions. You are saying that you have figured it out without even any County money that you are definitely going forward with this?"

Scott Flansburg: "Nothing personal guys, just based on the contiguous nature that I have experienced in the four months being here listening to everybody, if I met each one of you individually, everybody is a jerk but somebody said to me I am just kidding. So I always walk into every meeting at zero. And today when I walked in here, I had zero expectation and I started at each one of you with zero so I hope that you guys will take this opportunity to make an impact on this County that will live long past all of us. Kids will still be playing basketball here when we are all gone and all because of what we are doing here today. The mayor can't do this without you. This needs to be a project that we can all embrace and get on the same page. Let's get past the past and let's focus on the future. Get Herkimer on the rebound and start moving forward and I guarantee you this project is a magnet. I'm already getting requests from all around the world about this project about basketball, about events, about the history, about documentaries, movies, all of these things. It's going to happen. I need you guys on this team. We need to all be on the same team to make this happen in Herkimer. We can't have what's been going on. The Quackenbush is just the symbol of that. That's why I am asking for that but just any help you can give, if you give none, I won't take it personally. I will just be confused because I do not know what else is going on in Herkimer but nothing else is bigger or more exciting than what we are about to do with this project, the Herkimer 9."

Mr. Schrader: "I want to thank you for bringing this initiative to our County. It's not just one Legislators thing here it's every Legislators thing because I think with that said I think like Scott said I think this could spawn out into Little Falls, Old Forge, I think it's a great opportunity."

Scott Flansburg: "Thank you. And I want to mention one thing guys, I'm not here to make money. I've told the mayor, I've told everybody that I have met, that is not my mission here. I just want to facilitate it. If I don't end up with any of this property, the hotel, if I can get a contractor to come in and do it and he works for the village great, I'm good. I don't need any of that. I will do whatever it takes though. If I have to run the gym and the hotel and the Quackenbush and the Court House I will do all of that but we will get facilitators and curators for all of that as well."

Mr. Russell: "I would just assume not to see anybody steer towards Cooperstown."

Scott Flansburg: "Yes sir. That's why the baseball is going to be on Route 28 across from Basloe Field so when people are coming up 28 from the thruway they will all see that so everybody going to Old Forge will see the baseball."

Mr. Stephens: "The financial part obviously is our biggest concern, my biggest concern, I can't speak for everybody else but you mentioned Barkley and Alice Cooper are they going to be financially vested in this? Do you have like an Excel sheet of investment people?"

Scott Flansburg: "I won't ask Charles or any of those people into this because of the contentious nature between Springfield and Herkimer and he is in the Hall of Fame so I would never ever put him in that spot until there was a relationship and then obviously there is a green light there. I won't even approach Mr. Colangelo because of the contentious nature of this until I knew that it was going to be a thing and then I am going to go to Springfield and go through the normal chain of command, work my way up to the top and hopefully Mr. Colangelo will call me instead of me calling him."

Mr. Russell: “Any other questions?”

Scott Flansburg: “You guys, great questions, thank you all. If you have anything please, I will give you my phone number, my email, I’m available twenty four seven. I just got a house right here in Herkimer by Main Street. I’m committed to this project one hundred percent. I will be here until this is done and all I can ask guys one more time is not only for your support, your help but please talk to the people in the County about what we are trying to do here. I think you are going to see that people around the County are hoping and want to help Herkimer. We just need something to help with and Alicia Dicks said the same, she said Scott, we have been trying to figure out a way to help Herkimer. This is the first thing that really looks like we can help with. Any help is greatly appreciated. I hope you guys decide to make a vote around this. I’m not asking for a certain amount of money. It’s just more about having a great, productive, happy relationship between the village and the County. A number you guys are comfortable with and we will go find the rest. Thank you everyone for you time”

Item #1 – Presentation.

Item #2 – N/A

On motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Russell, the Ways & Means committee adjourned at 2:57 p.m.