

AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 29, 2010

The Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Tuesday, June 29, 2010 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: Daniel D. Reynolds, Jerry F. Marinich, Barry L. Klipsch, Richard A. Materese (Legislature); John M. Bernardo (Town of Union); Debra A. Preston (Town of Conklin); Andrew Block (for Mayor Matthew Ryan, City of Binghamton); David C. Hamlin (Town of Fenton); Michael Marinaccio (Town of Dickinson); Peter Andreasen (Town of Vestal)

Members Absent: Donald T. Moran, Ronald J. Keibel (Legislature)

Others Present: Suzanne M. Messina, Eric S. Denk, Jennifer K. Royer (Legislature)

The Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman of the Legislature Daniel Reynolds at 5:00 P.M.

Mr. Reynolds stated that there would be six representatives from the Legislature and six representatives from the municipalities. There has also been some discussion as to whether someone from the County Executive's office will become a member, but that has not been finalized yet.

The intention of this committee is to ensure direct communication about county-wide issues and any legislation which may affect municipalities in the county.

Two handouts were provided to those in attendance. One was an agenda for the meeting and the other was information regarding current sales tax figures.

The Chairman stated that he would then like to open up the floor to other issues which the municipalities would like to discuss.

It was stated that municipalities which care for county roads during the winter months received a letter from the Broome County Department of Public Works Highway Division regarding renewal of the intermunicipal agreements to care for the roads. The letter proposed that there be a ten percent decrease in what the county reimbursed the municipalities for each mile of county roads they maintain between November and April. The municipalities intend to study the issue and conduct a cost analysis of the last three years of the costs to maintain county roads and the cost of personnel/materials required to maintain all roads. They would like to determine if there are cost efficiencies as well as time/location efficiencies. They will bring the comparisons to the next meeting.

It was stated that New York State intends to get out of the dog licensing business. It was

suggested that Broome County determine whether it is feasible for the County to host a central database for the dog licenses. The shared information would be useful to municipalities, dog control officers and law enforcement agencies. It was suggested the input/retrieval of information could work similarly to how assessment presently works. The County would have to determine the cost of the software, the cost of maintenance and what kind of fee it would be able to charge to municipalities which opt into the central dog licensing database.

It was stated that the members would like to have a discussion about the County budget, as well as the various municipal budgets at the next meeting. It is possible that working together we can find some cost efficiencies through constructive discussion of mutual problems. It is also possible that the discussion can determine other ways to generate revenue to take the burden off of property owners. Once the state budget is passed this committee should discuss how certain provisions may affect both the county and the municipalities. There have been some issues with the potential for sales tax being reinstated on clothing for at least one year. Also, the property tax cap is problematic because school districts will most likely be exempted, as they were with the Wicks Law.

It was stated that the libraries have already received extensive cuts in funding. Also, the Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Broome County Soil and Water District have been very helpful to the municipalities during the current natural gas drilling discussions. Town Officials urged the County to be careful with decreasing funding to these agencies because they do not feel that we can rely on the state for many functions necessary to the gas exploration and monitoring process. It was stated that the meeting was helpful and that the goal is to find efficiencies and increase communication to change the way government operates for the better.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 5:00 PM in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 P.M.