

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE: General Services Committee
DATE: April 12, 1993
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Legislative Chambers
LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Legislators Tipp, Sottile, Bischoff,
Crespino, Bertone, Naccarato, Cranston
Gerentine
LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Legislator Sinagra
OTHERS PRESENT: Priscilla McBride, Real Property Tax Agency
Arlene Kerans, Purchasing, Barbara
Applegate, Secretary, Members of the Media

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Deputy Chairman, Alice Tipp.

I. REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE

Priscilla presented the agenda.

She distributed a booklet showing the houses that will be sold at auction April 29th. There are 144 properties that will be auctioned at that time. The total amount outstanding is \$2,690,000; half of that amount \$1,347,326.24 is for one property in the Town of Wawarsing. Priscilla circulated pictures of some properties, and the sign that is posted on the property when it is being auctioned. She also explained the auction procedure, and that the adjacent property owner is always notified that the property is going to be auctioned.

Priscilla discussed legislation at the State Level. One of the ideas that is being considered is a school income tax.

Priscilla distributed a report on IBM Downsizing, Equitable Assessment Administration in Ulster County. Briefly the report

states prior to the downsizing of IBM, there has been a general market value decline or softening due to local, state and national economy since 1989. This decline has not been uniform across the county nor has it affected all property types the same. The current downsizing of IBM is anticipated to further reduce market values, generally, but at varying rates for different types of property in different parts of the county. The depth of the impact is unknown.

Towns able to monitor the market fluctuation should electronically record the market sales and be prepared to perform updates on assessments across the entire municipality as significant inequities are observed. Towns not able to keep assessments equitable should anticipate increased complaints on the equity of their assessments roll and the resulting court challenges and loss of credibility associated with inequity. It has been stated in recent court decisions that local governments have the responsibility to determine equitable assessments. Taxpayers should not be put in a position where they have to grieve in order to achieve an equitable assessment because the local government failed to provide it.

Priscilla distributed New York State Division of Equalization and Assessment Residential Assessment Ratios within Ulster County. This explained how the R.A.R. is calculated.

II. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Arlene Kerans presented the agenda.

By reviewing the bills from New York Telephone Company, the telephone man was able to save the Sheriff's Dept \$7400.00. This money will stay in the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Cranston asked that a resolution be drawn stating, "When an internal audit results in a savings to a department, they only receive 50% of the monies, the other 50% going to the General Fund." Discussion followed. No second.

Legislator Bischoff made a motion that the Deputy Chairman appoint a work group to look into what other departments have saved money as a result of an internal audit of the utility bills. Seconded by Legislator Cranston. Discussion followed. Motion defeated. (Legislators Cranston, Bertone, Bischoff in favor. Legislators Tipp, Sottile, Gerentine, Naccarato, Crespino opposed).

Legislator Sottile moved that Arlene Kerans provide revenue information to the entire committee regarding what other

departments have saved money as a result of an internal audit of the utility bills. Seconded by Legislator Gerentine. Legislator Cranston asked that the motion be amended to include "information should be given to the committee by next month." Unanimously carried. (Legislators Tipp, Bertone, Sottile, Gerentine, Cranston, Naccarato, Crespino all in favor. Legislator Sinagra absent.)

S.A.M.P.O. Conference will be held in May at Saratoga. Arlene will be teaching a course. She has done a lot of work on planning the conference.

Arlene will take the second part of the NIGP Certification Test April 16th. If she passes this part of the test she will be a certified Purchasing Officer.

She has also completed an application for Professional Purchasing Manager of the Year. The award will be presented at a conference in Alberta, Canada this summer. She will be going to the conference at her own expense.

The Purchasing Dept. presented three postal seminars to county employees last week. Each 1 1/2 hour in duration.

Central Services will be having an open house for county employees which will give interested individuals an opportunity to stop by and observe what goes on in the department. It will be held between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. No date has been set yet, but it will be in the near future.

Legislator Tipp introduced a resolution requesting transfer of funds for Purchasing Dept. Transfer \$1000.00 from AAA-1345-0-4500, Fees for Services and \$1000.00 from AAA-1345-0-4600, Postage, to AAA-1345-0-1997, Overtime \$2000.00. Moved by Legislator Tipp, seconded by Legislator Bertone. Unanimously carried. (Legislators Tipp, Bertone, Sottile, Gerentine, Cranston, Naccarato, Crespino all in favor. Legislator Sinagra absent).

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Legislator Bischoff asked if all committee members had a copy of "A Call to Action for Ulster County Development" by Blair Goodman. He felt it was very informative and members that did not have a copy will be given one.

Legislator Gerentine made a motion that Deputy Chair Tipp ask Chair Sinagra if two Special Meetings, one scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

April 22nd, to consider Resolution No. 106, Resolution Establishing an Industry/Business Panel to Study County Government, the other scheduled 7:30 p.m. April 26th, to consider Resolution No. 107, Urging the New York State Legislature to Review the Entire Method of Establishing Equalization Rates, could be combined into one meeting. Seconded by Legislator Sottile. No discussion. Unanimously carried. (Legislators Tipp, Bertone, Sottile, Gerentine, Cranston, Naccarato, Crespino all in favor).

Legislator Naccarato moved that meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Legislator Bertone. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Tipp
Deputy Chairman

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