

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE: General Services Committee

DATE: April 26, 1993

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Legislative Chambers

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Legislators Tipp, Crespino, Sinagra, Gerentine

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Legislators Bertone, Naccarato, Sottile

LEGISLATORS ABSENT : Legislator Cranston, Bischoff

OTHERS PRESENT: Priscilla McBride, Director, Real Property Tax Agency, Joe Lemme, Director, Information Services, Barbara Applegate, Secretary, Members of the Media

A Special Meeting of the General Services Committee was called to order at 7:55 pm by Chairman Sinagra. The reason for the delay in starting the meeting was to wait for Legislators Bischoff and Cranston. The purpose of the meeting was to consider Resolution No. 107, Entitled: Urging the New York State Legislature to review the Entire Method of Establishing Equalization Rates.

Chairman Sinagra asked Joe Lemme for his input. Joe stated that his involvement came after the taxes are levied. Information Services issue the bills from information given them from Real Property Tax Agency.

Chairman Sinagra opened the meeting for discussion. The feeling of those present was that the resolution as written was not very clear, and does not contain much information.

Priscilla distributed a memo to help simplify the issue. The following was included. (1) Real property taxes are based upon the fair market value of property, (2) The fair market value is

determined locally by the assessor, (3) The assessment determined by the assessor is a uniform percentage of the value he established, (4) Equalization rates measure that percentage, (5) A statistically reliable process is used.

Priscilla stated that she has been advised that legislation has been put in on the State level to devise a plan for the mass valuation of residential properties. She has asked a representative from the State to come to a meeting and discuss the resolution and what the State can do. The bill would make the rates more current by using statistical data for residential properties instead of expensive and time consuming surveys. The bill states 1986 data is being used to compute 1992 equalization rates.

Since the members of the minority party were not present, it was impossible to come to any conclusions regarding this resolution.

Priscilla distributed copies of the bill that was introduced in Albany to enable members to review it. (Copies will be sent to members that were not present) Chairman Sinagra asked that Priscilla contact a representative from Albany and set a date for a meeting so this matter can be further discussed.

Legislator Crespino moved and Legislator Tipp seconded that meeting be adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip J. Sinagra
Chairman