

Dear Residents of Troy,

Here are a few highlights from the August 14th monthly meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature. Please contact me about these or other issues at 270-2890 or visit our website at www.rensselaercountygov.com.

Local Laws - None

Resolutions

County Settles lawsuit with former employee

- Jeff Jackson, former Director of Real Property Tax Services, claimed he was not re-appointed because he opposed the department's reorganization
- He sued the county for \$1.8 million. A settlement costing the county \$65,000 was turned down by the Legislature's Majority in September 2006.
- This settlement, at nearly twice the cost to the county, was reached days before the matter would have gone to trial.
- To avoid any more costs to taxpayers we supported the settlement and wished the Majority had done so a year ago at considerable savings to county taxpayers

Funding Approved for Uncle Sam Parade and Hudson Mohawk Recovery Center

- The Legislature authorized taking \$9,000 from the Chambers renovation project to fund these two worthwhile community organizations.

Legislative Chambers to be Handicapped Accessible

- Our caucus has urged that the Chambers of the Rensselaer County Legislature be made more accessible to handicapped members of the public. Finally, the physically handicapped will be able to access the main floor of the chambers for presentations with approval of a \$9,985 wheel chair lift.
- Nearly a quarter of a million dollars remains in the fund that should be used as soon as possible to aid the visual and hearing impaired members of the public who attend sessions. Any balance should be used to restore the county's fund balance and stabilize taxes.

Tourism Development Fund Defeated in Committee

- Tourism is one of the county's potential revenue sources. It remains an untapped economic engine.
- We proposed that revenue from the county's bed tax that exceeds the anticipated amount in the county budget, be dedicated to a Tourism Development Fund. This fund could provide grants to tourism projects as a means to boost our economy.
- Studies show that, for every dollar invested in tourism, \$7 will be pumped into the local economy.
- Regrettably, the Majority voted this proposal down in committee, preventing a potential revenue generator from bringing relief to county taxpayers.

Commendations

- Commended Nancy McHugh upon being named "Uncle Sam Citizen of the Year"; Adjourned the meeting in memory of Thomas E. Casey

Presentations

- To: Officer Mark Millington upon receiving the John J. Givney Memorial Award; in memory of Jack Hallett to his family; in memory of Bonnie Lee Hunziker to her family; in memory of Louis Marchese to his family

Please Mark Your Calendars

Public Forum - Tuesday, September 5th at 6 PM
Monthly meeting - Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 6:00PM