

A Grimm Look at County Government

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Rensselaer County Legislature

Office of the Minority, County Office Building 1600-7th Ave., Troy, NY

Dear Residents of Troy,

Here are a few highlights from the January 8th meetings of the Rensselaer County Legislature. Please contact me about these or other issues at 270-2890 or visit our website at www.rensselaercountygov.com.

Urged Mandate Reform

- Urged the Governor and State Legislature to restrict state mandates on schools and counties, provide 25% rollback of state mandates expenses, and equitable reduction in county property taxes in the NYS 2008-9 budget
- Called for funding for counties to reduce Medicaid fraud and abuse and a review of other mandates
- In addition to this resolution, I joined members of the Democratic Minority in meeting with the Governor's regional representative at the Capitol recently and state mandates was our major topic

Advocated Wicks Law Reform

- The Wicks Law was adopted back in 1964 and has not been updated. It forces school districts and municipalities to get four separate specifications and contracts for certain public work contracts over \$50,000.
- In four decades construction costs have increased dramatically but the Wicks Law has not been updated, causing a costly burden on localities.
- Reform of this outdated and costly law is needed but the State Senate has not acted to help local taxpayers. Unfortunately, the Majority did not support the resolution

Recommended More State Aid to Build County Jail

- Several years ago the State Commission on Corrections ordered Rensselaer County to expand our county jail
- This mandated project will cost over \$50 million and will require costly bonding for construction, not to mention increased operational and personnel expenses.
- This resolution urged the state to provide additional aid for construction of the jail addition
- At a recent meeting with the Governor's regional representative our Democratic Minority questioned the need for county jail expansion while state penitentiaries were closing.

Presentations

- Lansingburgh Football Team upon its championship season

Commendations

- Phyllis Raymond, recipient of 2007 Founder Spirit Award
- Honored Catholic Elementary & Secondary Schools - Catholic Education Week Jan 27-Feb.2

DATES TO REMEMBER:

6:00pm Wednesday

6:00pm Tuesday

Feb. 6 Public Forum

Feb. 12 Monthly Meeting