

For Your Information
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Rensselaer County Legislator
Nassau-Sand Lake-Schodack

The following are highlights from the July 11, 2007 Meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature (RCL):

Local Law Amendment – Item Pricing – A motion was made by the Democratic Minority to table this local law amendment in order to gather additional information and collect input from consumers, particularly senior citizens. The motion to table the amendment was defeated. The Legislature then voted to approve the amendment which will provide waivers of the item pricing requirement for stores that demonstrate and maintain a very high level of computer-assisted pricing accuracy and provide consumer protections and services that enhance the ability of consumers to record and verify item prices. The County Executive will hold a Public Hearing on this amendment on Monday, July 30, 2007 at 5:30 PM in Conference Room A of the County Office Building. Please plan to attend the Public Hearing if you have questions or concerns regarding item pricing.

Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) Budget – Subsequent to a public hearing, the Legislature unanimously approved the HVCC Budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008. The county's share, as a sponsor of HVCC, remains at \$3,138,900 for the eighth consecutive year.

Universal Access to Health Care – The Legislature approved a resolution supporting Federal Legislation H.R. 676, co-sponsored by Congressman Michael McNulty. This federal legislation assures universal access to comprehensive, quality health care coverage by providing coverage of all medically necessary services, containing costs by slashing bureaucracy, protecting the doctor patient relationship and providing a free choice of doctors. The support for this resolution demonstrates a commitment to undertake a major overhaul and reform of the health care/ insurance system and make it a priority. (14 Ayes, 3 Nays - Kelleher, Reid and Zweig)

Tax Anticipation Notes (TANS) – The Republican Majority authorized the issuance of up to \$7,000,000 in TANS in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes or assessments. Minority Democrats voted no on the borrowing. Minority Democrats continue to call for the county to begin to develop multi-year financial plans that would benefit the overburdened taxpayers of our county by providing long-term financial planning.

Animal Protection Coalition – The Legislature unanimously approved a resolution establishing an Animal Protection Coalition the county. The coalition is comprised of individuals who have knowledge regarding a variety of species of animals and can provide educational information, find suitable locations for unwanted, abandoned animals or victims of cruelty.

Power Outage-New York State Public Service Commission (NYSPSC) – The Legislature approved a resolution requesting the NYSPSC conduct an investigation into the massive power outage in Troy and surrounding areas on July 10, 2007.

Please feel free to contact me at 674-0223 or e-mail at electflora@aol.com with any questions or concerns. The Public Forum of the RCL is on Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at 6 PM. The next meeting of the RCL is August 14, 2007 at 6:00 PM; members of the public have an opportunity to speak prior to the opening of the meeting.