

COUNTY OF OSWEGO
NUCLEAR TAX STATUS COMMITTEE
December 29, 2009 – 5:00 PM

PRESENT:

John Proud, Chair
Dan Chalifoux (arrived 5:31)
Linda Lockwood
Art Ospelt
Phil Vasho

STAFF/GUESTS:

Barry Leemann, Leg. Chairman
Legs. Sorbello, LeClair, Santore, Flett, Beardsley
Legs.-Elect Terry Wilbur and Amy Tresidder
Philip Church, County Administrator
Richard Mitchell, County Attorney
John Kruk, County Treasurer
Ted Jerrett, Clerk of the Legislature

Media: Aaron Curtis, Palladium Times

Committee Chair John Proud called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM. Chm. Proud noted that Leg. Chalifoux had called to advise he would be late due to poor weather.

1. Approval of Intermunicipal Agreement regarding Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station (Constellation):

Motion to support the resolution as presented: Legislator Ospelt

Second: Legislator Vasho

Administrator Church explained that this resolution approves an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Scriba and the Oswego School District concerning tax negotiations with Constellation over its Nine Mile 1&2 nuclear facilities. He noted that the current Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) regarding those units expires in 2011. Administrator Church said that formal approval of the agreement by the School District and Town of Scriba is pending.

Leg. Flett asked if a PILOT Agreement provides less revenue for the municipalities than being on the tax roll. Administrator Church said that that depends on the agreement, but sometimes less revenue is accepted in exchange for the benefits of revenue predictability and the avoidance of the expense of Utility challenges to annual assessments. Leg. Proud noted that since the last PILOT, broadly accepted assessment models for nuclear plants have been developed and that promises to streamline the process dramatically.

Leg. Santore asked when the law allowing PILOTs on nuclear facilities will expire. Co. Attorney Rich Mitchell said 2014. Leg. Sorbello asked if storage capacity, internal and dry cask, will be considered. Administrator Church said that will be factored in the appraisal. Leg. Ospelt emphasized that a PILOT agreement does not have to mean less revenue for the municipalities.

5:31 PM - Leg. Chalifoux arrived.

Motion to move the question: Leg. Ospelt

Second: Leg. Vasho

Vote: Unanimous

A roll call vote was requested on the original resolution and resulted in the following:

Yes: Proud, Chalifoux, Vasho, Lockwood, Ospelt

No: None

Absent: None

The resolution passed.

5:34 PM, Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss negotiations relating to nuclear facilities: Leg. Ospelt

Second: Leg. Lockwood

Vote: Unanimous

6:08 PM, the Committee returned to Open Session

6:10 PM, Motion to adjourn: Leg. Vasho

Second: Leg. Ospelt

Vote: Unanimous