



Special WAYS AND MEANS

Time: 6:00 PM
Location: WebEx

June 18, 2020

- MEMBERS PRESENT** Supervisors David Baker, Jeff Gallahan, Bob Green, Dan Marshall, Kris Singer, and Andrew Wickham. Supervisor Peter Ingalsbe was declared necessarily absent.
- OTHERS PRESENT** Interim County Administrator Brian Young, Chairman Marren, Supervisor Russell, Human Resource Director Michele Smith, County Attorney Holly Adams, Assistant County Attorney Art James, Finance Director Mary Gates, Treasurer Gary Baxter, Real Property Director Robin Johnson, Board Clerk Kristin Mueller, and Deputy Board Clerk Diane Foster.
- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting of the special Ways and Means Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Baker.
- Resolution:**
- ♦ *Laidover - Resolution No. 321-2020 - RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF SENATE BILL NO. S-8138-B AND ASSEMBLY BILL A-10252 REGARDING PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL*
- County Treasurer Gary Baxter gave a brief overview of the Senate and Assembly bills. He also provided committee with a fact sheet regarding these bills. He noted that the NYS Treasurers Association and NYSAC are against these bills. One of the most concerning points of these bills is that it allows schools to give an extra 120 day for taxpayers to pay their school taxes. This does not provide enough time for the County to be able to relevel the unpaid school taxes on the Town/County tax bills. The County would have to wait till 2022 to relevel the unpaid taxes.
- County Attorney Holly Adams said that they have spoken with Steve Acquario from NYSAC. They asked him why the bills hadn't been signed by the Governor yet? He said that there has been a lot of push back from Long Island regarding these bills and that is holding the Governor up from signing them.
- Assistant County Attorney Art James went over his timeline and example that he provided to committee. He also, let committee know that even if the school districts provide the taxpayers the extra 120 days to make payments the County will still have to make the schools whole for the unpaid taxes. The Towns also fall under these bills and they would not be able to make themselves whole. They would have to wait for the County to do this.
- Real Property Director Robin Johnson said that the bills are very vague. She also noted, like Mr. Baxter, that with these 120-day extension they will not be able to relevel the unpaid taxes on the Town/County bill until 2022. This will create a whole new problem for her department as the billing software is not setup to accommodate the different tax rates and interest from the 120-day extension.

Finance Director Mary Gates talked about the cash flow issues that the County, Towns, and school district would have if they provided these 120-day extensions. She also said the ability to not relevel the unpaid taxes until 2022 will be a real cash flow problem for the County.

Treasurer Baxter requested to amend Resolution No. 321-2020 with the following amendments:

- Remove the 2nd WHEREAS
- Update the 1st WHEREAS with the dates that the bills were passed
- Update the 1st RESOLVED to take out the language of all tax bill deferrals

Supervisor Marshall offered these amendments to Resolution No. 321-2020. Supervisor Singer seconded the motions. The motion carried.

Supervisor Gallahan asked if the resolution can reflect Towns and County with the School districts.

Chairman Baker recommended to bring this amendment to the Board meeting with proper language.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:21 PM by Supervisor Marshall, seconded by Supervisor Wickham and carried.

**RESPECTFULLY
SUBMITTED**

Kristin A. Mueller, Clerk to the Board