

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009

The Committee of the Whole of the Broome County Legislature met on Thursday, February 12, 2009 in the Second Floor Auditorium, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Legislators Present: D. Reynolds (Chair), J. Garnar, T. Cleary, M. Whalen, D. Moran, B. Klipsch, W. Howard, M. Nirchi, S. Buchta, S. Messina, G. LaBare, S. Herz, M. Pasquale, M. Diffendorf, R. Keibel, J. Marinich, R. Materese

Members Absent: J. Sanfilippo, J. Hutchings

Others Present: K. Keough, S. Pufky, C. Haner, P. Sayers, RPTS; B. Fiala, P. Brennan, County Executive's Office; J. Dadamio, Security; J. Knebel, Finance; M. Kalka, Budget; K. McKinney IT; D. Fauci, Economic Development; M. Klein, Personnel; J. Sluzar, County Attorney; G. Allen, Allen Tunnel Corporation; Randy Deal, Randy Deal, IAO, CCD; C. Cullivan, D. Giblin, L. Kyriacou, J. Bartholomew, NYS ORPS; N. Schnurbusch, M. Turna, Town of Chenango; P. Andreasen, S. Morgan, M. Minoia, E. Bielecki; Town of Vestal; J. Baker, D. Hamlin, C. Mills, Town of Fenton; S. Exley, M. Marinaccio, Town of Dickinson; E. Mosher, Town of Colesville; J. Costley, Town of Nanticoke; T. Whitsell, M. Kostyshak, W. Smith, Town of Binghamton; M. Paolucci, R. Silvanic, ME Schools; M. Chaynowski, JC Schools; S. Farrell, JP Morgan Chase; J. Traver, Taxpayer; J. McDonald, Tax Assessor; M. Hanbury, C. Marion, E. Denk, C. Hall, Legislature

The Committee meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:02 pm.

The Committee of the Whole convened for presentations on the Centralized Property Tax Administration Program Study by George Allen from the Allen Tunnel Corporation and the Countywide Collaborative Assessing Considerations for Broome County by Randy Deal, Randy Deal, I.A.O., C.C.D.

Mr. Reynolds stated that in April of 2008 the Legislature approved an agreement with Randy H. Deal to prepare a study to analyze a countywide assessment program and an agreement with Allen Tunnell Corporation for a study to implement a centralized county database for tax collection information. As a follow up to the agreements, in December of 2008 the Legislature approved acceptance of the study from Randy H. Deal and the study from Allen Tunnel Corporation.

Mr. Reynolds introduced Kevin Keough, Real Property Tax Director and turned the floor over to him. Mr. Keough thanked everyone for coming and introduced Mr. Allen.

Mr. Allen went over the findings of the study (copy of file with the minutes) and his recommendations. He suggested that all tax collection districts have vendor common software to collect taxes and send tax information to the internet for public access. It was stated that there is funding available for this from NYS ORPS and applications should be processed by the end of the State's fiscal year, March 31, 2009. Mr. Keough stated that having a centralized tax collection database would be a benefit to realtors and title searchers and would reduce the number of phone calls to County and Town Offices from people looking to obtain this information. The cost for maintenance would be based on the number of parcels and training would be included with the license.

Randy H. Deal discussed the findings for Countywide Collaborative Assessing Considerations for Broome County. In his introduction he stated that New York State's system is very complicated and confusing. The goal of the study was to identify a system that would provide a mechanism to obtaining and maintaining transparent, equitable and efficient assessment system. Mr. Deal discussed the options that are available and stated that for a centralized tax collection to work all parties need to take the necessary steps which would require Town-wide revaluation or update. He indicated that this could be a costly project that all Towns might not be open to partaking in.

Mr. Kyriacou, Executive Director from NYS ORPS stated there needs to be equal treatment for every property taxpayer. He stated the New York State assessing system is arcane and difficult with 1128 assessing jurisdictions with no requirements for periodic reassessments. He stated that the State provides for a payment of up to \$5 per parcel to an assessing unit that conducts a reassessment at 100 percent of market value.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, Mr. Whalen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. LaBare. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.