

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE JOINTLY WITH THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

**Community Services
Members**

In Attendance: Lois Bronz, Chair, Tom Abinanti, Ken Jenkins, Judy Myers, and Vito Pinto.

**Public Safety & Security
Members in Attendance:**

Vito Pinto, Chair, Gordon Burrows, Judy Myers, Ken Jenkins

In Attendance:

CE: Andrew Neuman, Bill Randolph DES: Tony Sutton DSS: John Befus DPW: Ralph Butler BOL: Mary Jackson, Teresa Toscano, Christina Giliberti, and Sunday Vanderberg NYSEMO: John Gibb
Guests: C. Rohatynskyi, L. Werlinich

Items Discussed:

Proposal for the Food Storage Warehouse

Minutes

Chairwoman Bronz called the Community Services Committee meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Pinto called the Public Safety and Security Committee to order at 3:00 p.m.

The Committees discussed the proposed bond act to fund the design of a food storage warehouse which would be operated full time by a not for profit food pantry and immediately become the County Emergency Services hub in the case of an emergency or disaster.

Tony Sutton, Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services, and John Gibb from New York SEMO, discussed the need for the food storage facility in the case of a natural disaster or other county wide emergency which would leave the county on its own for approximately 3 days before federal aid would be able to get here.

The Committee discussed with Commissioner Sutton and First Assistant to the County Executive Andrew Neuman the additional benefit of having this food storage facility being a regular 24 hour operation, with a day to day staff that will have the expertise and ability to spring into action during an emergency. Whichever organization operates the facility full time their workers will know the building and the supply and be able to work hand in hand with the Department of Emergency Services. Mr. Neuman added that it will be beneficial to the County that this full time operation will already have equipment and materials that are often expensive, such as fork lifts, which we would then have access to in an emergency situation.

Legislator Burrows asked if any federal funding will be sought out in helping to pay for the building, and if the Food Bank will be asked to commit any funding for the building. Mr. Neuman stated the Food Bank has prepared a commitment to cover approximately 1 million dollars in cost of utilities, refrigeration, labor, equipment, insurance and others. Mr. Neuman provided the spreadsheet to be copied for the Committees. Mr. Neuman also stated that we are

seeking federal stimulus money to help pay for the construction of the building, but we need to have the design completed by February 2010.

The Committee discussed the location of the warehouse with the Commissioner and Mr. Neuman. Legislator Abinanti stated that he opposes using the Valhalla campus as a location due to the difficulty of reaching certain roads that lead to different areas of the county.

The Committee discussed the state, federal, and area counties roles in the case of an emergency in the area. Legislator Abinanti requested further information and studies on the location of the warehouse and partnership with warehouse stores that could be utilized. Mr. Neuman provided the Committee with a memo stating the rationale behind the location in Valhalla.

Moved by Legislator Myers and seconded by Legislator Jenkins the Committee on Community Services agenda items 29 & 30, bond act BES07 to complete the design of a food storage building passed with a vote of 4-1, with Legislator Abinanti voting nay.

Moved by Legislator Myers and seconded by Legislator Abinanti the Committee on Community Services adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Moved by Legislator Myers, and seconded by Legislator Jenkins the Committee on Public Safety And Security Adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

A complete audio recording of the meeting is available for review upon request.