

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MINUTES: May 27, 2008

MEMBERS: Acting Chair: Vito Pinto; Legislators: Bronz, Burton, Harckham, Myers, Rogowsky, Spreckman

IN ATTENDANCE: PARKS: Peter Tartaglia, John Condon, Peter Neglia, Joe Stout, Neil Squillante; **STAFF:** Sally Schecter

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by Acting Chair Vito Pinto. Legislator Pinto introduced Commissioner Stout and the other members of the Parks Department.

The Commissioner talked about Twin Lakes Equestrian Center which is next door to River Ridge. The riders ride English saddle, they do not hire out horses and the stable is in good condition.

River Ridge, which is very rustic, was leased out approximately 30 years ago. The riders ride Western style. The lessee has been renovating the sheds and barns and removing asbestos and one of the legislators wanted to know if sprinklers were being installed. Commissioner Stout said in Westchester they are not required but sprinklers are being installed with the renovation. There are about 68 horses at River Ridge and 45 horses are boarders. Four horses are being evicted because the owners have refused to sign the boarding agreement. Prior to the renovation, the boarders were informed of the construction and were told if they had any concerns, they should move their horses because no one would be allowed on the grounds between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. No one moved their horses and there have not been health issues with the horses. The fee at River Ridge is cheaper than Twin Lakes, \$600 per month compared to Twin Lakes of \$1000. The Parks Board determines whether to raise or lower the fee. The trailer which houses the office is not being renovated. Legislator Rogowsky questioned the lawsuits against River Ridge. There were questions as to whether two tests were to be done by a licensed vet or under the supervision of a licensed vet. The board agreement states that the boarder can bring in their own vet. The vet has to obey the laws of NYS and the County.

Commissioner Stout then discussed golf. The year end report for 2007 is now available and it was a good year. There were lots of projects, i.e. youth clinics, minority outreach and Mohansic is now operational. It is within a few \$100,000 of breaking even. Hudson Hills is not making money yet because the acquisition of the land is being paid off. The County has six golf courses and they operate without subsidy. Hudson Hills generates over \$2 million a year in revenue and is a very difficult course. During the week the cost is \$85 with a cart. Legislator Rogowsky wanted to know if Parks was happy with Billy Casper. Commissioner Stout said yes but they would not be hiring them for any other courses. Parks has cut back on pesticide use and they are using organic fertilizers. The

County uses far less fertilizer than private courses.

Legislator Pinto thanked Commissioner Stout for his time.

He then went on to the remaining items on the agenda – the Town of Cortlandt has requested the reinstatement of Willow Place into the Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District. This was passed on the motion of Legislator Myers and seconded by Legislator Burton. The Town of Mt. Pleasant has requested removing 311 Bear Ridge Road, Pleasantville from the Saw Mill Sewer District. On the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Myers, this was passed. The County Executive has advised the Board of Legislators that the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Facilities has approved the return of seven parcels to the Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District. They are 3211 East Main Street, 3219 East Main Street, 5 Skyview Avenue, 9 Regina Avenue, 17 Regina Avenue, 19 Regina Avenue, and 3275 Lexington Avenue. On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Spreckman, this was approved. And the last item was a request from the Town of Mt. Pleasant to remove 59 Hamilton Drive, Chappaqua, from the Saw Mill River Sewer District. On the motion of Legislator Meyers, seconded by Legislator Harckham, this was approved

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Harckham, the Government Operations Committee was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.