

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION
MINUTES: August 4, 2008

LEGISLATION

MEMBERS:

Chair: Burton; Legislators: Bronz, Jenkins, Nonna, Harckham, Oros, Abinanti, Maisano, Myers

IN ATTENDANCE:

CE: B. Randolph, A. Neuman; **CA:** M. Gleeson, L. Cipollo; **Tax:** D. Jackson; **BOL:** S. Bass, D. Pyne, R. Pezzullo, K. Delgado, J. Sold, C. Giliberti

With a quorum present, the Committee on Legislation was called to order at 1:39 p.m.

MINUTES

(Jenkins, Harckham) Move the minutes of July 28, 2008. Motion approved 7-0-1 (Myers abstention)

TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY WORKERS

There was a committee discussion about offering a county real property tax exemption to volunteer emergency workers. The discount is 10% on the assessed value of the property. Legislator Nonna mentioned that state law requires that individual's primary residence be in Westchester and that he or she is an active volunteer. People who work in departments with five or more professional workers would not be able to qualify for the exemption.

Tax Commissioner Executive Director David Jackson answered questions about how the exemption will work.

Associate County Attorney Martin Gleeson discussed section 237.91 of the laws of Westchester County which stated that special districts were not subject to tax exemptions.

There was a consensus among the committee to move forward with discussion on this issue. Chairman Burton and members of the committee asked Mr. Jackson for an update of his analysis of what the cost benefits are countywide. Mr. Burton asked the County Attorney's office to draft legislation for committee members to review with a ten year sunset provision to be included.

(Myers, Oros) move to adjourn the Committee on Legislation. Motion approved 7-0. Committee on Legislation adjourned at 2:33 P.M.

AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE FOR REVIEW UPON REQUEST