Public Hearing SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATURE June 16, 2016 at 1:40PM

The Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Alvarez at 2:30PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated Mr. Steingart not present.

The Clerk distributed the following legal notice:

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been duly presented and introduced at a meeting of the Legislature of the County of Sullivan, New York, held on May 19, 2016, a proposed Local Law entitled "A Local Law to exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017."

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Legislature of the County of Sullivan will conduct a public hearing on the aforesaid proposed Local Law at the Legislature's Hearing Room, County Government Center, Monticello, New York, 12701, on June 16, 2016 at 1:40 p.m. at which time all persons interested will be heard.

DATED: May 19, 2016

ANNMARIE MARTIN Clerk of the Legislature County of Sullivan, New York

At this point, Mr. Steingart joined the public hearing at 2:31PM.

Chairman Alvarez recognized the following speakers:

- 1. Barbara Lerner see attached comment
- 2. Kathie Aberman see attached comment
- 3. Kitty Vetter
- 4. John Beasley
- 5. Linda Reik (see attached comment)
- 6. Chris Leser
- 7. Diane Mestanza
- 8. Tom Manza
- 9. Ken Walter

****Also attached are emails received against and for the New Sullivan County Jail and Override the Tax Cap

Adjournment

There being no further comments Mr. McCarthy made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Steingart. The public hearing was declared closed at 3:09PM.

ANNMARIE MARTIN, Clerk of the Legislature

LETTERS OPPOSING OVERRIDING TAX CAP FOR NEW S.C. JAIL

Sean Zigmund
Michael Chojnicki, Architect
Mrs. Lynn O'Connor
Patricia Kahn
Paul Henshaw
Tabetha Unser
John and Paula Kania
Gary Cormier
Victoria Smith
Kerry Lynn Huber
Priscilla Bassett and Heidi Schneider
Barbara Lerner
Ines and Jose Rodriguez
Michael and Denise Connolly
Linda Reik
Edward Magio

Maria Grimaldi

Florence LaPolit-Goldfarb



Kathie Aberman 37 Delaware Ave. Liberty, NY 12754

June 16, 2016

Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY12701

Attention: AnnMarie Martin

Please make these comments part of the public record for the public hearing on June 16, 2016, at 1:40 p.m., prior to the executive meeting.

To all Sullivan County Legislators:

According to the 2012 Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress study, there are many reasons to reconsider the current 254-cell plan for a new jail, which represents the largest potential single expenditure of capital dollars in the county's history, without the creation of one new job, and may actually result in a reduction in employment.

Much of Sullivan's population of 75,000 is socio-economically stressed. Population forecasts expect no growth, and currently we are seeing a decline. The only age group forecast to increase are seniors 65 and older, who can least afford further tax increases. On the other hand, younger age groups, 15-44, generally responsible for most crime, are shrinking.

The county is in a bad position to fund new public buildings, and these severe economic restraints should impel out-of-the-box thinking to meet public safety needs and not bankrupt our most vulnerable citizens. The Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CFFEO) aims to help eight county governments to minimize further new construction and reduce jail-operating costs through collaborative efforts.

I am not going to talk about the State COC formula to determine the size jail needed, except to say that, other than a few rare occasions, the state's demand has been consistently higher than justified by our jail census. This has been an issue for many counties in NYS.

Indisputably, we need to do something, but Pattern for Progress encourages us to explore alternatives to building a new jail in accord with SCOC recommendations. We can request to build to reasonable size, in alignment with historic pretrial detainee population levels. We can collaborate with neighboring counties and the state, consistent with regional recommendation in the CRREO

report. We could collaborate with the state by using other, pre-existing facilities. We could break new ground by building a much smaller facility, utilizing these strategies:

- Reclassification
- Boarding out at peak times
- Alternatives to Incarceration

ATI includes:

- Expanding drug courts (average cost \$1,500 \$11,000 per person/per year) and mental health courts
- Electronic monitoring (average cost \$5 15 per person/per day)
- Community corrections (average cost \$20 per person/per day up to \$6,000 a year for intensive supervision
- Restitution and community service
- Restorative justice

The last I looked, incarceration here costs \$227 per inmate, per day, or \$82,855 per year. The alternatives are more effective and humane, and much more cost-effective.

Most of all, there needs to be vigorous, open discussion of all the options, so that the public is educated about the choices and can feel that the Legislature is also educated, informed, and making a decision in the best interest of <u>ALL</u> the stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathie alberman

Kathie Aberman

Barbara Lerner 97 Rockland Road Roscoe, NY 12776

June 16, 2016

Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701 RECEIVED
JUN 1 6 2016

SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Attn AnnMarie Martin

Please make these comments part or the Public Record and include these in the Minutes for the Public Hearing on June 16, 2016. This is the basic transcript for my public comments.

Resolution 224-16 calls the new law:

"A LOCAL LAW TO EXCEED THE NEW YORK STATE TAX CAP FOR 2017". The public hearing notice from May 19 uses the same terminology.

The Management and Budget Committee agenda from June 9th, leaves off the year and changes the name to:

"A LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING THE SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO OVERRIDE THE NEW YORK STATE TAX CAP".

This is the same terminology used on the Executive Committee Agenda for June 16, 2016

This is a significant change in wording and implies that the Tax Cap can be exceeded not only for 2017 but for every year after.

The record should reflect disparities between the public hearing notice and the legislative meeting agenda; and the difference may very well have led to confusion for those residents interested in your attempt to significantly raise taxes for a project that is well over sized and is inconsistent with demographic realities of crime. Nevertheless, despite the substantive flaws in what you have proposed, I suggest that the inconsistent public notices, first the notice and then the agenda, should require you to re-notice this hearing.

Even today, the Monthly Committee cover page listed the Executive Committee meeting at 12:30 when the Agenda lists it at 11:30. If you came at 12:30, you would have missed the Discussion relevant to any public comment you may have wished to make.

On May 19, 2016, the Executive Committee adopted 2 resolutions that will impact our taxes. Resolution 223 authorizes the issuance of \$95,000,000 in bonds to pay for the new Jail Complex. Resolution 224 sets the date for the public hearing to enact a new Local Law to Exceed the Property Tax Cap for 2017. The legislators' website posted the wrong date for this critically important

meeting and public hearing. The correction was finally made but it was less than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Per the New York State Department of State....."municipal officials should regard open meeting procedures as serving more than just the State's objective of keeping local government business open to the public. These procedures give the public the full opportunity to observe and to participate in its own governance, and they help confirm the local government's accountability to its constituents. In addition, fairness in applying hearing procedures results in proper accord for the rights of all parties, a better airing of public opinion on community issues, and ultimately greater public confidence in the decisional process".

This has not been an open process. The Agenda for most of the meetings contain only a one line description of what will be discussed. The meeting minutes are posted more than 30 days after and never include the discussion or comments from the public. Since the new legislators were not at all of these meetings, they have no idea what was discussed or what public comments were made unless they took the time to listen to every recording of every meeting that took place over the years. None of the meetings are held when most people can attend so the vast majority of your constituents have no opportunity to voice their opinion or read what actually was discussed since there is no record readily available. This is not open government.

It was explained that the \$95,000,000 would be split into 2 separate, equal bonds. The first \$47,500,000 bond would be issued for the 2017 tax year and the second \$47,500,000 bond would be issued for 2018. Resolution 224 to override the tax cap appears to only address the first bond. What assurances do we have that we won't have to raise the Tax Cap again for 2018?

Section 2 of Resolution 223 states: IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED THAT THE MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF THE AFORESAID SPECIFIC OBJECT OR PURPOSE IS \$95,000,000.... Both paid consultants disagree. LaBella states that there would likely be an additional 10% and probably more in contingencies. Hill International estimated the cost to be \$103,000,000. Stating the maximum estimate is \$95,000,000 is at best inaccurate and at worst, deceptive.

I'd like to remind you of a resolution that was adopted in 2008

Resolution 250-08

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Manager is authorized and directed to proceed with the conduct of the requisite environmental review, acquisition of land, design and construction of a 303 bed new jail facility, <u>at the most efficient and cost-mitigated manner as possible</u>, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any property tax increase necessary to fund this unfunded state mandate be listed as a separate line on the county property tax bills for the purpose of the requisite environmental review, acquisition of land, design and construction of a 303 bed new jail facility.

Moved by Mrs. Binder, **seconded by** Mrs. LaBuda put to a vote with Mr. Wood absent, unanimously carried as amended **and declared duly adopted on motion** June 19, 2008.

Not only have cost cutting measures NOT been implemented but THERE IS NO LINE ITEM on my tax bill THAT SAYS "JAIL" and we have already paid for the land and associated costs and for a substantial portion of the design.

In 2013, former Legislative Chairman, Scott Samuelson responded to a report from the State Comptroller's office. He stated"incurring over \$80M in new debt at the present time will cause the county significant financial harm including untenable tax increases and a downgrade in its bond rating. This will further exacerbate Sullivan's fiscal stress, make it more expensive to operate the government and provide services to the public, increase the cost of all future borrowing and deter economic development"...... Our economy has not improved since then. He was right then and his response is still right now.

The first shovel is not yet in the ground. There is still time to modify the design to incorporate cost saving measures. A few include reducing the size of the support services pavilion and Sheriff's Road Patrol or perhaps relocating the sheriff's road patrol to a fully renovated portion of the old jail, or building a second story on the support services pavilion and Sheriff's Road Patrol and making the footprint smaller. There is always a way to reduce the cost. You just have to be willing to consider the options.

Respectfully

Barbara Lerner

From:

MARIA GRIMALDI <pantherrock@hughes.net>

Sent:

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 8:43 AM

То:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

Legislative letter

Attachments:

SCJail.pdf

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hi Annmarie,

Please enter the attached letter for public comment at tomorrow's meeting regarding the SC Jail.

Thank you,

Maria Grimaldi

June 14, 2016 Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

Please make these comments part of the public record for the public hearing on June 16, 2016 at 1:40PM, prior to the executive meeting.

I am writing to express my opposition and to protest any Local Law enacted to exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017. The State Property Tax Cap Law encourages local governments to generate long-term tax relief for New York State taxpayers, by sharing services, consolidating or merging, and demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies. This does not appear to be happening in Sullivan County.

On May 19, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Legislature adopted two (2) resolutions that will substantially increase our taxes. Resolution 223 authorizes the issuance of \$95,000,000 in bonds to pay for the new Jail Complex. Resolution 224 sets the date for the public hearing to enact a new Local Law to Exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017.

The issuing of bonds, which includes substantial interest, creates a thirty (30) year debt and will increase taxes, not for one (1) year, but for each year until the debt is paid. In fact, our taxes will not go back down. Furthermore, this debt is being unjustifiably created without consideration of the many cost savings alternatives suggested by numerous independent studies and public input.

While other communities around the state will be enjoying tax relief, we will be getting more tax grief. Property taxes are already too high. If the legislature is overriding the protection of the State Tax Cap Program, this decision should not be made without soliciting vigorous community discussion in a transparent and open forum, held at different times when more people can attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Grimaldi

148 Hardenburgh Road

Livingston Manor, NY 12758

Maria Bremalde.

Town of Callicoon

From:

Cissy Rogers <cissy_rogers@hotmail.com>

Sent:

To:

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:00 AM

Subject:

Martin, AnnMarie New county jail/taxes

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails

Sent from my iPhoneJune 14, 2016 Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin

annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

Please make these comments part of the public record for the public hearing on June 16, 2016 at 1:40PM, prior to the executive meeting.

I am writing to express my opposition and to protest any Local Law enacted to exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017. The State Property Tax Cap Law encourages local governments to generate longterm tax relief for New York State taxpayers, by sharing services, consolidating or merging, and demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies. This does not appear to be happening in Sullivan County.

On May 19, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Legislature adopted two (2) resolutions that will substantially increase our taxes. Resolution 223 authorizes the issuance of \$95,000,000 in bonds to pay for the new Jail Complex. Resolution 224 sets the date for the public hearing to enact a new Local Law to Exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017.

The issuing of bonds, which includes substantial interest, creates a thirty (30) year debt and will increase taxes, not for one (1) year, but for each year until the debt is paid. In fact, our taxes will not go back down. Furthermore, this debt is being unjustifiably created without consideration of the many cost savings alternatives suggested by numerous independent studies and public input.

While other communities around the state will be enjoying tax relief, we will be getting more tax grief. Property taxes are already too high. If the legislature is overriding the protection of the State Tax Cap Program, this decision should not be made without soliciting vigorous community discussion in a transparent and open forum, held at different times when more people can attend.

Respectfully submitted, Florence LaPolt-Goldfarb 109 Starlight Road Town of Thompson Monticello, NY 12701

From:

Sean Zigmund <sean@zigmund.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 5:51 PM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

Comments for hearing on June 16th at 1:40pm

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

June 14, 2016
Sullivan County Legislators
100 North Street
Monticello, NY 12701
Attn: AnnMarie Martin
annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

Please make these comments part of the public record for the public hearing on June 16, 2016 at 1:40PM, prior to the executive meeting.

I am writing to express my opposition to, and to protest any Local Law enacted to, exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017 that I understand is open for public comment on June 16th. The State Property Tax Cap Law encourages local governments to generate long-term tax relief for New York State taxpayers, by sharing services, consolidating or merging, and demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies. It is my understanding that these practices are not being implemented in Sullivan County and that the Legislature has adopted two (2) resolutions that will substantially increase property owner's taxes in Sullivan County.

Resolution 223 authorizes the issuance of \$95,000,000 in bonds to pay for the new Jail Complex. Resolution 224 sets the date for the public hearing to enact a new Local Law to Exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017, which I vehemently oppose. Our taxes are beyond high enough!

The issuing of bonds, which includes substantial interest, creates a thirty (30) year debt and will increase taxes, not for one (1) year, but for each year until the debt is paid. In fact, our taxes will not go back down after the dept is paid, so it is a guarantee of long term property taxation increase. Furthermore, this debt is being unjustifiably created without consideration of the many cost savings alternatives suggested by numerous independent studies and public input related to the jail project.

While other communities around the state will be enjoying tax relief, we will be getting more tax *grief*. Property taxes are already too high and if the legislature is overriding the protection of the State Tax Cap Program, this decision should not be made without soliciting *vigorous community discussion in a transparent and open forum*, held at different times when more people can attend. The fate of the county's citizens should be better handled by our legislature. We are a financially depressed community and this will only make our lives worse.

Respectfully submitted, Sean Zigmund Root n' Roost Farm 845-292-9126 (home/farm) 802-318-1438 (cell)

From:

Michael Chojnicki <mchojnicki33@gmail.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 5:04 AM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

New Jail and Taxes Increase

Attachments:

Jail Opposition Letter_6.14.16.docx

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Ann Marie,

Attached is a letter in opposition to the new jail and increase in taxes to pay for it that will raise the them above the NY State Property Tax Cap for 2017. This move must be widely opened up for discussion with the public prior to any action taken.

Respectably submitted, Michael

Michael Chojnicki, Architect 272 Behr Road Jeffersonville, NY 12748 phone:845-887-4181 cell:845-701-1887 mchojnicki33@gmail.com June 14, 2016 Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

Please make these comments part of the public record for the public hearing on June 16, 2016 at 1:40PM, prior to the executive meeting.

I am writing to express my opposition and to protest any Local Law enacted to exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017. The State Property Tax Cap Law encourages local governments to generate long-term tax relief for New York State taxpayers, by sharing services, consolidating or merging, and demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies. This does not appear to be happening in Sullivan County.

On May 19, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Legislature adopted two (2) resolutions that will substantially increase our taxes. Resolution 223 authorizes the issuance of \$95,000,000 in bonds to pay for the new Jail Complex. Resolution 224 sets the date for the public hearing to enact a new Local Law to Exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017.

The issuing of bonds, which includes substantial interest, creates a thirty (30) year debt and will increase taxes, not for one (1) year, but for each year until the debt is paid. In fact, our taxes will not go back down. Furthermore, this debt is being unjustifiably created without consideration of the many cost savings alternatives suggested by numerous independent studies and public input.

While other communities around the state will be enjoying tax relief, we will be getting more tax grief. Property taxes are already too high. If the legislature is overriding the protection of the State Tax Cap Program, this decision should not be made without soliciting vigorous community discussion in a transparent and open forum, held at different times when more people can attend.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Chojnicki 272 Behr Road Jeffersonville, NY 12748

From:

Lynn OConnor <tarakeeper@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 13, 2016 4:13 PM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

taxes

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

June 12, 2016

Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin

annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

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I am writing to express my opposition and to protest any Local Law enacted to exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017. The State Property Tax Cap Law encourages local governments to generate long-term tax relief for New York State taxpayers, by sharing services, consolidating or merging, and demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies. This does not appear to be happening in Sullivan County.

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While other communities around the state will be enjoying tax relief, we will be getting more tax grief. Property taxes are already too high. If the legislature is overriding the protection of the State Tax Cap Program, this decision should not be made without soliciting vigorous community discussion in a transparent and open forum, held at different times when more people can attend.

People up here are paying high enough taxes as it stands now. We really can't afford any higher.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Lynn O'Connor\

2023 Old Route 17

Roscoe, ny

From:

Pat Kahn <pk3292@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 10:08 AM

To: Subject:

Martin, AnnMarie
Property Tax Override

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Sullivan County Legislators

100 North Street

Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin

annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

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Respectfully,

Patricia Kahn 766 Roosa Gap Road Bloomingburg, NY 12721

From:

paullnyc@gmail.com on behalf of Paul <paul@rarefunk.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 13, 2016 11:38 AM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

RE: State Property Tax Cap

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Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin

annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

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Respectfully,

Paul Henshaw 476 Lt Brender Hwy

Ferndale NY 12734

From:

tabetha Unser <tabethayager@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 13, 2016 11:41 AM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

Opposition to protest any local law to remove the tax cap in sullivan count

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June 13, 2016

Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin

annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

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Respectfully,

Tabetha Unser 2550 2nd Ave

Schenectady NY 12303

Tabethayager@gmail.com

From:

Paula Kania <paula.kania@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 13, 2016 11:48 AM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

State Property Tax Cap 2017

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

June 13, 2016

Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

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Respectfully,

John And Paula Kania 3 Valley View Dr Middletown, NY Town of Mamakating

From:

garyCinstrumentals < garycmusic@earthlink.net>

Sent:

Monday, June 13, 2016 11:19 AM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

Protest Local Law to exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

June 12, 2016

Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin

annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

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Respectfully,

Gary Cormier, Jeffersonville, NY

From:

Victoria Smith <vsmith3415@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 13, 2016 11:36 AM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

Proposal to end tax cap

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin

annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

Please make these comments part of the public record for the public hearing on June 16, 2016 at 1:40PM, prior to the executive meeting.

I am writing to express my opposition and to protest any Local Law enacted to exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017. The State Property Tax Cap Law encourages local governments to generate long-term tax relief for New York State taxpayers, by sharing services, consolidating or merging, and demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies. This does not appear to be happening in Sullivan County.

On May 19, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Legislature adopted two (2) resolutions that will substantially increase our taxes. Resolution 223 authorizes the issuance of \$95,000,000 in bonds to pay for the new Jail Complex. Resolution 224 sets the date for the public hearing to enact a new Local Law to Exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017.

The issuing of bonds, which includes substantial interest, creates a thirty (30) year debt and will increase taxes, not for one (1) year, but for each year until the debt is paid. In fact, our taxes will not go back down. Furthermore, this debt is being unjustifiably created without consideration of the many cost savings alternatives suggested by numerous independent studies and public input.

While other communities around the state will be enjoying tax relief, we will be getting more tax grief. Property taxes are already too high. If the legislature is overriding the protection of the State Tax Cap Program, this decision should not be made without soliciting vigorous community discussion in a transparent and open forum, held at different times when more people can attend.

Respectfully,

Victoria Smith Homeowner, Livingston Manor, NY 12758

From:

KERRYLYNN HUBER <845huber@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 1:14 PM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

Tax Cap

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

June 15, 2016

Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin

annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

Please make these comments part of the public record for the public hearing on June 16, 2016 at 1:40PM, prior to the executive meeting.

I am writing to express my opposition and to protest any Local Law enacted to exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017. The State Property Tax Cap Law encourages local governments to generate long-term tax relief for New York State taxpayers, by sharing services, consolidating or merging, and demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies. This does not appear to be happening in Sullivan County.

On May 19, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Legislature adopted two (2) resolutions that will substantially increase our taxes. Resolution 223 authorizes the issuance of \$95,000,000 in bonds to pay for the new Jail Complex. Resolution 224 sets the date for the public hearing to enact a new Local Law to Exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017.

The issuing of bonds, which includes substantial interest, creates a thirty (30) year debt and will increase taxes, not for one (1) year, but for each year until the debt is paid. In fact, our taxes will not go back down. Furthermore, this debt is being unjustifiably created without consideration of the many cost savings alternatives suggested by numerous independent studies and public input.

While other communities around the state will be enjoying tax relief, we will be getting more tax grief. Property taxes are already too high. If the legislature is overriding the protection of the State Tax Cap Program, this decision should not be made without soliciting vigorous community discussion in a transparent and open forum, held at different times when more people can attend.

Respectfully,

KerryLynn Huber 461 Burlingham Road Bloomingburg, NY 12721

RECEIVED

JUN 15 2016

June 14, 2016 Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Attn: AnnMarie Martin annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

Please make these comments part of the public record for the public hearing on June 16, 2016 at 1:40PM, prior to the executive meeting.

I am writing to express my opposition and to protest any Local Law enacted to exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017. The State Property Tax Cap Law encourages local governments to generate long-term tax relief for New York State taxpayers, by sharing services, consolidating or merging, and demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies. This does not appear to be happening in Sullivan County.

On May 19, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Legislature adopted two (2) resolutions that will substantially increase our taxes. Resolution 223 authorizes the issuance of \$95,000,000 in bonds to pay for the new Jail Complex. Resolution 224 sets the date for the public hearing to enact a new Local Law to Exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017.

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Respectfully submitted,

Riscilla Bassett and Heidi Schneider, Co-chains & SLAC The Fenior Legislative action Committee on behalf of our executive board.

Barbara Lerner 97 Rockland Road Roscoe, NY 12776

June 15, 2016

Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701 RECEIVED
JUN 1 5 2016

Attn: AnnMarie Martin annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

SULLIVAN COMMIY LEGISLATURE

Please make these comments part of the public record for the public hearing on June 16, 2016 at 1:40PM, prior to the executive meeting.

To all Sullivan County Legislators:

Resolution 224-16 calls the new law:

"A LOCAL LAW TO EXCEED THE NEW YORK STATE TAX CAP FOR 2017". The public hearing notice from May 19 uses the same terminology.

The Management and Budget Committee agenda from June 9th, leaves off the year and changes the name to:

"A LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING THE SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO OVERRIDE THE NEW YORK STATE TAX CAP".

This is the same terminology used on the Executive Committee Agenda for June 19, 2016

This is a significant change in that the new wording leaves off the year and seems to allow the tax cap to be exceeded not only for 2017 but for every year after.

The record should reflect disparities between the public hearing notice and the legislative meeting agenda; and the difference may very well have led to confusion for those residents interested in your attempt to significantly raise taxes for a project that is well over sized and is inconsistent with demographic realities of crime. Nevertheless, despite the substantive flaws in what you have proposed, I suggest that the inconsistent public notices, first the notice and then the agenda, should require you to re-notice this hearing.

On May 19, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Legislature adopted 2 resolutions that will impact our taxes. Resolution 223 authorizes the issuance of \$95,000,000 in bonds to pay for the new Jail Complex. Resolution 224 sets the date for the public hearing to enact a new Local Law to Exceed the New York

State Property Tax Cap for 2017. The legislators' website posted the wrong date for this critically important meeting and public hearing. The correction was finally made but it was less than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Per the New York State Department of State....."municipal officials should regard open meeting procedures as serving more than just the State's objective of keeping local government business open to the public. These procedures give the public the full opportunity to observe and to participate in its own governance, and they help confirm the local government's accountability to its constituents. In addition, fairness in applying hearing procedures results in proper accord for the rights of all parties, a better airing of public opinion on community issues, and ultimately greater public confidence in the decisional process".

This has not been an open process. The Agenda for most of the meetings contain only a one line description of what will be discussed. The meeting minutes are posted more than 30 days after and never include the discussion or comments from the public. Since the new legislators were not at all of these meetings, they have no idea what was discussed or what public comments were made. None of the meetings are held when most people can attend so the vast majority of your constituents have no opportunity to voice their opinion or read what actually was discussed since there is no record. This is not open government.

It was explained that the \$95,000,000 would be split into 2 separate, equal bonds. The first \$47,500,000 bond would be issued for the 2017 tax year and the second \$47,500,000 bond would be issued for 2018. Resolution 224 to override the tax cap appears to only addresses the first bond. What assurances do we have that we won't have to raise the Tax Cap again for 2018?

The construction of the casino and resort will likely trigger a reassessment of property values throughout the county within the next 2-5 years. While the increase may be 5% on the 2017 value, when combined with the likely reassessment and potential to override the Property Tax Cap again when the second half of the \$95,000,000 bond is issued in 2018, the impact on property taxes in Sullivan will become untenable.

Section 2 of the Resolution 223 states: IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED THAT THE MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF THE AFORESAID SPECIFIC OBJECT OR PURPOSE IS \$95,000,000.... Both paid consultants disagree. LaBella states that there would likely be an additional 10% and probably more in contingencies. Hill International estimated the cost to be \$103,000,000. Stating the maximum estimate is 95,000,000 is at best inaccurate and at worst, deceptive.

In 2012, The Hudson Valley Patterns for Progress did a case study for the Sullivan County Jail. This study analyzes many of the costs associated with

the construction a new facility in addition to jail population trends and working with other counties to board out inmates if necessary. In this case study, they state that a proposed 70 – 80 million dollar plan could increase property taxes by 10% or more. This is double the amount the County Manager has indicated

They go on to say in #5 of their conclusions. "There is uncertainty about the linkage between decisions on capacity and projected capital and operating costs. For example, further analysis should be applied to cost savings discussed in June 2010 when it was agreed a 48 bed pod would be removed from the 2009 plan to save 5 million, when clearly more could be saved in shrinking more of the common areas supporting the larger population." They go on to say "The decision to delete one pod from the 2009 design to save \$5 million doesn't go far enough; common areas should be downsized as well." If the proposed pod design anticipates reducing the number of people needed to operate the jail, how can you justify increasing the non-incarceration portion to the size it is in the current proposal? What will become of the old jail? It is much larger than what is needed for record storage as was once suggested. Has the cost of renovation or remediation been considered?

In 2013, former Legislative Chairman, Scott Samuelson responded to a report from the State Comptroller's office. He stated"incurring over \$80M in new debt at the present time will cause the county significant financial harm including untenable tax increases and a downgrade in its bond rating. This will further exacerbate Sullivan's fiscal stress, make it more expensive to operate the government and provide services to the public, increase the cost of all future borrowing and deter economic development"...... He was right then and his response is still right now.

The first shovel is not yet in the ground. There is still time to modify the design to incorporate cost saving measurers from reducing the size of the support services pavilion and Sheriff's Road Patrol or perhaps relocating the sheriff's road patrol to a fully renovated portion of the old jail to building a second story on the support services pavilion and Sheriff's Road Patrol and making the footprint smaller. There are ways to reduce the cost. You just have to be willing to consider the options.

Respectfully,

Barbara Lerner

From:

Kathie Aberman < kmaberman@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 8:01 PM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

Letter to the Legislature

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

June 15, 2016

Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin

annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

Please make these comments part of the public record for the public hearing on June 16, 2016 at 1:40PM, prior to the executive meeting.

I am writing to express my opposition and to protest any Local Law enacted to exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017. The State Property Tax Cap Law encourages local governments to generate long-term tax relief for New York State taxpayers, by sharing services, consolidating or merging, and demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies. This does not appear to be happening in Sullivan County.

On May 19, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Legislature adopted two (2) resolutions that will substantially increase our taxes. Resolution 223 authorizes the issuance of \$95,000,000 in bonds to pay for the new Jail Complex. Resolution 224 sets the date for the public hearing to enact a new Local Law to Exceed the New York State Property Tax Cap for 2017.

The issuing of bonds, which includes substantial interest, creates a thirty (30) year debt and will increase taxes, not for one (1) year, but for each year until the debt is paid. In fact, our taxes will not go back down. Furthermore, this debt is being unjustifiably created without consideration of the many cost savings alternatives suggested by numerous independent studies and public input.

While other communities around the state will be enjoying tax relief, we will be getting more tax grief. Property taxes are already too high. If the legislature is overriding the protection of the State Tax Cap Program, this decision should not be made without soliciting vigorous community discussion in a transparent and open forum, held at different times when more people can attend.

Respectfully,

Ines and Jose Rodriquez 36 Delaware Ave. Liberty, NY 12754

From:

Denise Connolly <deniserobin1@verizon.net>

Sent:

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 8:38 PM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

State Property Tax Cap

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails,

Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin

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Michael and Denise Connolly Town of Bethel

From:

Linda 845.439.5433 _ <lmreik@msn.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 16, 2016 9:08 AM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Cc:

Linda Reik

Subject:

Please enter this comment into our Sullivan County Legislature's public hearing on June

16, 2016.

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

June 16, 2016
Sullivan County Legislators
100 North Street
Monticello, NY 12701
Attn: AnnMarie Martin
annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

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Respectfully submitted, Linda Reik Citizen Resident P.O. Box 423 Youngsville, NY 12791 Sullivan County Legislators 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Attn: AnnMarie Martin annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

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Kninel Mago

Respectfully,

RECEIVED
JUN 1 6 2016

SULLWARD CONGRETA LET TO D

LETTERS IN FAVOR OF NEW S.C. JAIL

Amanda Crumley
Jessica Larf
Christina Milk
Amber C. Welton
Roxanne Lace
Erin Allesar
Penny Ackerman
Robert Taylor
Darlene Kurtz
Jon Kurtz
Anthony Skow
Janet Calangelo

Regina Coulter

100 North St

Monticello, NY 12701

June 14, 2016

Dear County Legislators,

I am not happy about a tax increase but I know at this point in time we have no alternative. If we wait any longer on building a new jail it will cost even more.

You have my support to move forward with this project and fund it as necessary.

Regina M Coulter Regina M Coulter 250 County Rt. 164 Cellicoon, NY 12723

100 North St

Monticello, NY 12701

June 14, 2016

Dear County Legislators,

I am not happy about a tax increase but I know at this point in time we have no alternative. If we wait any longer on building a new jail it will cost even more.

You have my support to move forward with this project and fund it as necessary.

Sincerely,

Swan Lake NY 12783

100 North St

Monticello, NY 12701

June 14, 2016

Dear County Legislators,

I am not happy about a tax increase but I know at this point in time we have no alternative. If we wait any longer on building a new jail it will cost even more.

You have my support to move forward with this project and fund it as necessary.

Sincerely, Jessua Jack 40 Box 91 Cochecton, NY 12126

100 North St

Monticello, NY 12701

June 14, 2016

Dear County Legislators,

I am not happy about a tax increase but I know at this point in time we have no alternative. If we wait any longer on building a new jail it will cost even more.

You have my support to move forward with this project and fund it as necessary.

Sincerely,

Christina milk

22 Del Vue Rd

Callicoon, NY 12723

100 North St

Monticello, NY 12701

June 14, 2016

Dear County Legislators,

I am not happy about a tax increase but I know at this point in time we have no alternative. If we wait any longer on building a new jail it will cost even more.

You have my support to move forward with this project and fund it as necessary.

Sincerely,

Amber C. Welton 90 County Road 164 Jeffersonville, NY 12748

100 North St

Monticello, NY 12701

June 14, 2016

Dear County Legislators,

I am not happy about a tax increase but I know at this point in time we have no alternative. If we wait any longer on building a new jail it will cost even more.

You have my support to move forward with this project and fund it as necessary.

POBE 45 POSCH, N. Y 12776

100 North St

Monticello, NY 12701

June 14, 2016

Dear County Legislators,

I am not happy about a tax increase but I know at this point in time we have no alternative. If we wait any longer on building a new jail it will cost even more.

You have my support to move forward with this project and fund it as necessary.

Eur Allesia 25 Community Kal Wood bourne My 12788

Sullivan County Legislature 100 North St Monticello, NY 12701

June 14, 2016

Dear County Legislators,

I am not happy about a tax increase but I know at this point in time we have no alternative. If we wait any longer on building a new jail it will cost even more.

You have my support to move forward with this project and fund it as necessary.

Jenny Ackernance
38 Lansburg Pd.
Cochecton, My 12726

From: Sent: Rob Taylor <rtaylor932@gmail.com>

To:

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 8:05 PM

Subject:

Martin, AnnMarie Jail Project Support

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Sullivan County Legislature 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

June 14, 2016

Dear County Legislatures,

I am not happy to see a tax increase, however I know at this point in time we have no alternative. If we wait longer to build a jail the cost will only be more of a burden.

You have my full support to move forward with this project and fund it any way you feel necessary.

Sincerely,

Robert J Taylor PO BOX 91 Cochecton NY 12726

DARLENE KURTZ

84 Clintonia Way Cochecton, NY 12726 (845)-252-3921

June 15, 2016

Sullivan County Legislature 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

RE: Letter in Support of New County Jail.

Attention: AnnMarie Martin, Clerk to the Legislature

<u>Annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us</u>

Please make these comments part of the public record for the public hearing Scheduled for June 16, 2016, prior to the executive committee meeting.

I am writing to express my support for the construction of the new county jail and the vote to authorize the Legislature to exceed the tax cap if necessary.

The current legislature has inherited a most unfortunate situation. The prior Legislatures and Boards of Supervisors failure to act will now cost the taxpayers tens of millions of dollars extra.

Every alternative plan to building a new jail has been studied and deemed not to be feasible. No one wants a tax increase but any further delays will only add to the cost.

Please continue to make the necessary approvals to allow the jail project to go forward.

Sincerely,

Darlene Kurtz

JON KURTZ

84 Clintonia Way Cochecton, NY 12726 (845)-252-3921

June 15, 2016

Sullivan County Legislature 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

RE: Letter in Support of New County Jail.

Attention: AnnMarie Martin, Clerk to the Legislature Annmarie.martin@co.sullivan.ny.us

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Please continue to make the necessary approvals to allow the jail project to go forward.

Sincerely,

Jon Kurtz

From:

Anthony Skow-Kwestel <anthonyskow@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 4:54 PM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

Letter in Support of New County Jail

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

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Sincerely, Anthony Skow PO Box 77 Ferndale NY 12734

From:

Janet Calangelo < jcalangelo@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:44 PM

To:

Martin, AnnMarie

Subject:

Attn. Legislator Teri Ward-New jail support

Attention from Sullivan County Management Information Systems: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Mrs. Ward,

I know the cost of a new jail is a large purchase for the County. I have seen recent negative comments that it may exceed the 2% tax cap in order to pay for this. There are a few reasons as to why I support the purchase of the new jail.

1) I am a Correction Officer that has been employed at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office-jail division for almost 17 years. The conditions of the current jail are deplorable. Yes, the jail holds criminals, but some of those individuals are innocent awaiting trail. The job as a Correction Officer is not an easy one by no means but to add to these conditions. No heat in the winter causing Officers to wear multiple layers of clothing to get through their shifts. They get sick causing call outs and mandations causing over tired officers. Inches of ice on the inside of the windows, heating system barley blowing warm air. In summer months leaving in soaking wet uniforms from no air conditioning or air movement. Getting heat exhaustion.

Having sewer pipes back up for days and walking through inches of sewer water.

Stairs in areas disintegrating, loosing electric frequently, boiler system breaking constantly. Breathing in dirty stale air.

These are just a few things. Yes, I chose this job but that don't mean I should work in such conditions.

2) I have been to County meetings in the past on the jail issue. I have read reports & studies that show if this was built years ago, the cost would not be so high. But as everything has risen, so has the cost to build a new jail. If the purchase of a new jail continues to be brushed off and pushed aside, what will the cost be when The Commission of Corrections shuts our current one down, and forces us to build a new one. Now is time to build.

Build a large enough jail to house inmates in, take federal inmates and this will help with the cost.

So as a tax payer, I fully support the purchase of a new jail, I ask you and your fellow Legislators to do the right thing and move forward with the funding for this project.

Sincerely Janet Calangelo Jeffersonville, NY