

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OSWEGO COUNTY  
LEGISLATURE HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2009.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Leemann called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with all legislators present. The invocation was given by Ted Jerrett, Clerk of the Legislature, followed by the salute to flag.

**MINUTES:**

Under a motion by Leg. Brown, seconded by Leg. Walker, the minutes of January 6, 2009 were approved.

**PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICES:** None.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:**

Chairman Leemann invited the members of the Phoenix Firebirds wrestling team to the front with Coach Gene Mills, and his staff and legislators representing the Phoenix High School District: Legs. Lockwood, Hayes, Ospelt, Brown and Sorbello. A recognition was read acknowledging the team as the 2007-2008 NYS Division II Wrestling Champions. Leg. Hayes and Coach Mills offered a few comments.

Chairman Leemann invited Leg. Potter and Gardner and members of the Strategic Planning and Government Committee forward as well as Ted Jerrett, Clerk of the Legislature, his wife Donna, and his parents, George and Wilma Jerrett. Leg. Potter presented Mr. Jerrett a certificate for 30 years of dedicated service to Oswego County. Mr. Jerrett thanked the Legislature for the privilege of serving them as Clerk.

Chairman Leemann invited Leg. Gardner and members of the Community and Consumer Affairs Committee forward and invited Computer Operator Bruce Allen and Central Services Director, Rick Hogan, to join them. Director Hogan presented a certificate to Mr. Allen for his 30 years of service to the county and offered a few comments.

Chairman Leemann invited Leg. Proud and the members of the Health and Human Services Committee forward and invited Senior Typist Marlea Munger and Associate Public Health Sanitarians, Natalie Roy and Evan Walsh to join them. Natalie Roy presented a certificate to Ms. Munger for her 25 years of dedicated service to the County. Ms. Roy and Mr. Walsh praised Ms. Munger's work for the County.

Chairman Leemann invited Leg. Santore and members of the Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee as well as Senior Telecommunicator Paul VanDyke and E-911 Director, Mike Allen, to the front. Director Allen presented a certificate to Mr. VanDyke for his 25 years of service to the County and offered a few comments. Leg. Sorbello offered his own thanks for the quick response and professionalism of the E-911 department after a recent personal crisis.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON RESOLUTIONS OF THE DAY:** None.

**REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS:**

Chairman Leemann presented the 2009 State of the County Address. (A complete copy is attached.)

Leg. Brown presented a brief report on the NYSAC conference which she recently attended. She also gave a report on the recent meeting for the Farmland Protection Board and its approval of applications to join the County Agriculture District.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:** None

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** None.

**RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS:**

Leg. Potter offered Resolution No. 7, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS IN

THE OSWEGO COUNTY LEGISLATURE RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS. Leg. Malone moved to amend the resolution as follows: under rule 4 - quorum, to change the time from forty-five minutes to twenty minutes. Leg. Gearsbeck seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, a vote was taken on the amendment to the proposed resolution. The amendment failed, Legs. Malone and Bryant voting for the amendment, all others opposed it. Discussion returned to the original resolution.

Original Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

Leg. Malone in opposition.

YES: 24 NO: 1 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Potter offered Resolution No. 8, entitled RESOLUTION CHANGING THE LOCATION OF THE AUGUST 13, 2009 MEETING OF THE OSWEGO COUNTY LEGISLATURE. This resolution changed the location of the August 13, 2009 meeting of the Oswego County Legislature to the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse in Pulaski, New York.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

Leg. Malone in opposition.

YES: 24 NO: 1 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Potter offered Resolution No. 9, entitled, RESOLUTION URGING SUPPORT FOR THE EXECUTIVE'S PROPOSAL TO BASE INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES FUNDING ON A THREE-YEAR AVERAGE. This resolution supported the State executive's proposal to base the County's state aid for indigent defense services on a three-year average, and opposes the Public Defenders Association's attempts to establish a state takeover of public defense.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Santore offered Resolution No. 10, entitled, RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE OSWEGO COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD FOR 2009.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

Leg. Bryant abstaining.

YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 1

Leg. Santore offered Resolution No. 11, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGETARY MODIFICATION SHERIFF'S DEPT. - SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP). This resolution accepted \$18,990 from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee obtained through the NYS Sheriff's Association.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Beardsley offered Resolution No. 12, entitled, RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION GRANT ESTABLISHING A CAPITAL PROJECT TO PERFORM THE DESIGN PHASE FOR AIRCRAFT TIE-DOWN APRON REHABILITATION AT THE OSWEGO COUNTY AIRPORT. This resolution established Capital Project #185 for the design phase of the Aircraft Tie-Down Rehabilitation Project. The Highway Department -Airport will receive 95% Federal finding (\$71,250) and 2.5% State funding (\$1,875). The local share for this project will be \$1,875, which will come out of the Airport budget.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

Leg. Gearsbeck in opposition.

YES: 24 NO: 1 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Beardsley offered Resolution No. 13, entitled, RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CAPITAL PROJECT #182 REHABILITATION OF COUNTY ROUTE 2 BRIDGE OVER TROUT BROOK BIN 3313760, TOWN OF RICHLAND. This resolution establishes capital project 182 for the purposes of rehabilitating the County Route 2 Road Bridge over Trout Brook, BIN 3313760 in the Town of Richland. Leg. Gearsbeck asked whether the engineering would be done in house. Hwy. Supt. Ospelt said "yes".

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Beardsley offered Resolution No. 14, entitled, RESOLUTION APPROVING FIVE (5) YEAR COURT MAINTENANCE CONTRACT RENEWAL.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Beardsley offered Resolution No. 15, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF SNOW AND ICE CONTRACT HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
Leg. Gearsbeck in opposition.  
YES: 24 NO: 1 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Beardsley offered Resolution No. 16, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A NEW PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE ENGINEERING CONSULTING RELATED TO THE RENOVATION OF THE PULASKI TRANSFER STATION. This resolution awarded the professional services contract to Thomas Arctander Architects, P.C.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
Leg. LeClair in opposition.  
YES: 24 NO: 1 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Beardsley offered Resolution No. 17, entitled RESOLUTION AWARDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT "MAINTENANCE OF JAIL SECURITY AND FIRE PROTECTION AT PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING" DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (JOHNSON CONTROLS). This resolution authorized a professional services with Johnson Controls for Maintenance of Jail Security and Fire protection at the Public Safety Building at the quoted price of \$43,532. Leg. Malone asked if this was an annual contract, he was answered in the affirmative.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Sorbello offered Resolution No. 18, entitled, RESOLUTION SUPPORTING APPOINTMENT TO THE REGION 7 FISH AND WILD LIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD. Eugene Blumer of Pennellville, NY was reappointed as the Landowner Representative to the Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board, the term expiring on December 31, 2010.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
Leg. Bryant abstained.  
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 1

Leg. Sorbello offered Resolution No. 19, entitled, RESOLUTION FIXING TIME AND PLACE FOR PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE REQUESTS OF LANDOWNER INCLUSION WITHIN THE EXISTING CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THE NYS AGRICULTURAL

AND MARKETS LAW (AML). SECTION 303-b, AS AMENDED. This resolution established the public hearing date for March 12, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the Oswego County Office Building.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Sorbello offered Resolution No. 20, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATURE TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT IN RELATION TO THE SNOWMOBILE TRAIL DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT MONIES AND BUDGET MODIFICATION FOR THE 2008-2009 SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Sorbello offered Resolution No. 21, entitled, RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BOA PROGRAM AWARD AND APPROVING A BUDGET MODIFICATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND PLANNING.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Sorbello offered Resolution No. 22, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGETARY MODIFICATION DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND PLANNING - ENTERGY DONATION FOR PRO-AM FISHING TOURNAMENT. Entergy has donated \$1,500 to the county for this event.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Sorbello offered Resolution No. 23, entitled, RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT FOREST PRACTICE BOARD. This resolution reappoints Mr. Norman Bullard and Ms. Connie Smith.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
Leg. Bryant abstained.  
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 1

Leg. Sorbello offered Resolution No. 24, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A NEW PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE BROWNFIELD OPPORTUNITY AREA GRANT PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF OSWEGO.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Upon request of the video technician, a brief recess was allowed to change tapes. Leg. Oldenburg left the meeting at 3:04 p.m. and returned at 3:09p.m.

Leg. Sorbello offered Resolution No. 25, entitled, RESOLUTION OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF STATE FUNDING TO COUNTY AND YOUTH FAIRS.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
Leg. Bryant in opposition.  
YES: 23 NO: 1 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Sorbello offered Resolution No. 26, entitled, RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE OSWEGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS. This resolution reappoints Leg. Beckwith, Leg. Lockwood, and Mr. Cal Dorn.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

Leg. Bryant abstained.

YES: 23 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 1

Leg. Proud offered Resolution No. 27, entitled, RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBER TO THE OSWEGO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH. This resolution reappoints Ellen Holst.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

Leg. Bryant abstained.

YES: 23 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 1

Leg. Proud offered Resolution No. 28, entitled, RESOLUTION INCREASING AUTHORIZATION OF CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 168 - CAMP HOLLIS RENOVATIONS. Leg. Walker questioned if it would be better to install a new pool. Youth Bureau Director Kathleen Fenlon explained that it would cost a quarter to half a million dollars for a new pool because of the requirements of a public pool. Therefore, the department chose to renovate the existing pool.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Proud offered Resolution No. 29, entitled, RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE NYS LEGISLATURE TO REMOVE MANDATED DETENTION SERVICES FROM THE PROPOSED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Proud offered Resolution No. 30, entitled, RESOLUTION AWARDED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT DRIVER EDUCATION - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES. This resolution awarded a contract for Drivers Education Services for a sum not to exceed \$10,000.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Gardner offered Resolution No. 31, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF DEEDS FOR PROPERTY SOLD BY THE OSWEGO COUNTY LEGISLATURE, TITLES TO WHICH WERE ACQUIRED BY THE TAX FORECLOSURE OF 2004.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Ospelt offered Resolution No. 32, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE. This resolution awarded a professional services contract to KVS Information Systems, Inc. for Centralized Tax Collection Database Services.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Ospelt offered Resolution No. 33, entitled, RESOLUTION APPOINTING TRUSTEE FOR

OSWEGO COUNTY'S 457 PLAN. This resolution replaces State Street Bank with Reliance Trust Company as the passive, nondiscretionary Trustee for the Oswego County Deferred Compensation Plan.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
Leg. Bryant abstained citing financial interest.  
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 1

Leg Ospelt offered Resolution No. 34, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT WITH OSWEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S SILVER STAR ASSOCIATION. A roll call vote was requested.

Resolution passed, with a roll call vote.  
YES: 24 NO: 1 ABSENT: 0

YES: KASTLER, POTTER, DOYLE, LEEMANN, BRYANT, PROUD, BROWN, BEARDSLEY, HAYES, LOCKWOOD, OSPELT, GARDNER, OLDENBURG, WALKER, SANTORE, FLETT, KUNZWILER, CHALIFOUX, MALONE, BECKWITH, VASHO, SORBELLO, BREWER, LECLAIR.

NO: GEARSBECK.

ABSENT: NONE.

Leg. Ospelt, offered Resolution No. 35, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION PLAN 2009-2012. A roll call vote was requested.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
YES: 20 NO: 5 ABSENT: 0

YES: KASTLER, POTTER, DOYLE, LEEMANN, BRYANT, PROUD, BROWN, BEARDSLEY, HAYES, LOCKWOOD, OSPELT, GARDNER, OLDENBURG, SANTORE, FLETT, CHALIFOUX, BECKWITH, SORBELLO, BREWER, LECLAIR.

NO: GEARSBECK, WALKER, KUNZWILER, MALONE, VASHO.

ABSENT: NONE.

Leg. Ospelt offered Resolution No. 36, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGETARY MODIFICATION DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL - 2009 COUNTY OBLIGATIONS.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.  
YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Leg. Doyle motioned to waive the rules to consider an additional resolution, Leg. Kunzwiler seconded the motion with no objections offered.

Chairman Leemann offered Resolution No. 37, entitled, RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NEW VISIONS POWERLINE COMMUNICATION, INC. EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS THROUGHOUT OSWEGO COUNTY. Leg. Gearsbeck asked if there was any cost to the county or the taxpayers for this. Chairman Leemann stated that the only cost was a minimal one to print the survey which was sent out. Leg. Brown asked if the entire area would be serviced so that everyone would be equal access. The representative said "yes". Leg. Chalifoux called the question, seconded by Leg. Bryant. All in favor, with the exception of Leg. Malone.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote.

YES: 25 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Ted Jerrett reminded the Legislators to check their mailboxes for the annual ethic disclosure forms and commended the County Attorney's office for working to save the otherwise large amount of postage.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Leg. Walker moved to adjourn the meeting, and Leg. Doyle seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON GENERAL ISSUES:**

There was no one wishing to speak.

**2009 STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS  
FEBRUARY 12, 2009**

Let me begin my 2009 State of the County Address by stating, I am proud to be Chairman of this Legislature during such a critical time for our county's residents. Our work will not be easy, in fact it will be very difficult, but we will be successful and we will get through this recession in much better condition than many other county governments in our state. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I'd also like to thank the Legislature and County Administrator Church, and the department heads for the countless hours that were spent in preparing our county to withstand the State's fiscal disaster. I realize it is not just the State's problem; it is being passed down to us also. We are going to have to rely on our own ingenuity, frugality, and our fund balance to be able to keep our residents' services intact and property taxes stable. In our efforts to reach these goals we will work to continue to improve our excellent record of controlling costs and providing services to our residents.

It would be very easy to have a negative tone to this State of the County Address but I refuse to by anything less than optimistic. We are positioned to withstand the State's fiscal crisis, because we had the foresight to build up our fund balance and reserve. We are working on a four-year plan to keep our property taxes under control while not depleting our fund balance below recommended levels. It is this Legislature's challenge to use our savings wisely and sparingly over the coming years, so that the state's

crisis doesn't become our local taxpayers' crisis.

Throughout the state, we hear predictions of doom and gloom, but Oswego County government is weathering the storm well. There is an old saying, "In time of plenty, plan for times of famine." That is exactly what Oswego County did during the past few years, which were financially favorable for us. We kept our belts tight. We took advantage of high interest rates and our growing sales tax revenues to rebuild our reserve and fund balance, which, just a few years ago, had been depleted. During this same time we reduced the generic tax rate from 9 dollars and 22 cents to 7 dollars and 18 cents per 1,000 dollars of assessed value.

We are one of the only counties to be upgraded by Moody's Investors. They recently increased our rating from A-3 to A-2. Moody's based their decision on our improved financial operations and a healthy fund balance.

To keep our healthy financial standing, we are taking several steps this year. They include:

1. Placing a moratorium on budget transfers that would move money out of personnel lines. This will maximize savings from our hiring freeze and vacancy review process.
2. Only necessary travel will be approved.
3. We must place priority on capital projects that provide necessary repairs that will keep facilities open and services operating, and which produce short or long-term efficiencies and financial savings. As projects come to your committees for consideration, I ask you to examine them with these key criteria in mind.
4. If the State cuts non-mandated services that don't generate revenue, our first option to examine should be to lobby the State, to reduce State spending in a manner that does not shift costs to local taxpayers.

### **Special Committee**

As you are aware, the tax agreements with the three nuclear power plants at Nine Mile Point expire in stages during 2010 and 2011. The revenue from the plants is critical to keeping our property taxes low, maintaining services, and providing opportunity for local economic growth. The tax status of the plants involves more than just Oswego County; it involves the Mexico and Oswego school districts and the town of Scriba. We may be involved with inter-municipal agreements, property assessment, and county finances. These issues fall under the jurisdiction of three standing County committees. Some legislators are employed by the plants, or have family members employed there. We must avoid conflicts of interest – real or perceived. Therefore, I will appoint a special committee to handle the plants' tax status. The committee will be bipartisan and will be comprised of legislators with no potential conflict of interest. This committee will be responsible for keeping the full Legislature updated. Any resulting agreements will only be made by the entire County Legislature.

### **Green Team**

Last year I stated the GREEN TEAM – a Sustainability Committee. I would like to update you on this very productive committee.

Not many counties in our area have a green committee. In fact, Onondaga County is the only other one. Our members include the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy systems, the Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse, University (this is a federal EPA-FUNDED organization), SUNY Oswego, the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. We are taking a regional approach and

have included our own county departments and internal experts to work on this important project. We have had discussions with wind energy folds to see if there are opportunities to erect wind turbines on County property, for example, the Scriba Highway facility. The committee has researched bio diesel and its potential for our fleet. We have met with Destiny USA and Ascent Technologies to learn more about the possibilities. We have also had discussions with the New York State Thruway Authority who presently use bio diesel in their fleet of trucks. Work is still ongoing but plans are to put bio diesel in a highway facility for a test in the spring of 2009.

Our Purchasing Department is working with other municipalities on Green purchasing opportunities. The Green Team committee is also looking at bringing other Central New York County leaders together to talk about ways to cooperate on sustainability issues. I would like to see a larger regional summit to discuss these issues. We need to keep Oswego County in the driver's seat on these important matters. Therefore, I will look at developing a "carbon budget" for our county. This would involve research and analysis on the amount of carbon generated by our activities and the amount which is naturally absorbed in our environment. SU has an internationally-known researcher that is willing to assist us in this project.

### **Airport**

Last year I also appointed a Temporary Airport Advisory Committee. I want to thank them publicly for a job well done! I asked them in September to review our airport and report on its current status, plans in place for development, and recommendations for future plans. I also asked the committee to consider the need for a permanent airport advisory committee. They held many meetings and were able to provide a report to me, as requested, before Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The report was very well prepared and provided valuable information on the status of the airport. It provided recommendations for this legislature to consider, and we will begin tackling these recommendations this year. They recommended that we reestablish an airport advisory committee and I expect to follow through with this in the coming months.

I am also going to reinstate the County Planning Board. This board will be revised from its previous structure and will only be involved with larger construction and development projects.

### **Tax Bills**

I will assign the Consumer and Community Affairs Committee to work with the appropriate county departments to develop a "Citizen-Friendly" tax bill. The most recent tax bill made the county tax look higher than we had promised by combining it with workers compensation costs of the towns and cities. Lines were renamed without providing a definition. We need a consistent design and terminology on tax bills from year to year. The wording should be very clear and easily understood by the average resident. This will allow people to know exactly what they are paying for and to whom they are paying it.

### **Camp Hollis Task Force**

Camp Hollis has been serving Oswego County children and families for 62 years. There have been many changes over the years but Camp Hollis continues to be a memorable part of growing up and living in Oswego County. The culture and environment around the traditional "sleep over" camp is changing. It is necessary from time to time to take a look at the programs and services to see if they are still meeting our needs and to see if they can be improved upon.

A Camp Hollis Task Force, made up a variety of stakeholders from the community, could take a look at the programs and services offered at Camp Hollis, as well as the physical structure. Working together, they could develop recommendations to improve upon the programs and services offered and preserve the physical structure.

### **Broadband Internet**

The County recently surveyed residents about broadband Internet service. A representative sampling involving nearly 1,400 Oswego County residents indicates that there is overwhelming support for a high-speed Internet, or broadband service in Oswego County. This information will help providers in their efforts to leverage grants or other funding to bring broad band services to all residents and businesses in all areas of Oswego County, and do it in a way that the infrastructure can be developed at no cost to the local taxpayers.

In conclusion, as Legislators, we have a very difficult year ahead; we will have to make some very tough decisions. This legislature does not take this national recession lightly. We will deal with the failing economy to the best of our ability, keeping the interests of our residents foremost in our minds. We will accept assistance from others but will not wait for others to assist us. We know we can count on ourselves and the people of Oswego County to work together. And by working together, the Legislature and the people of Oswego County can survive this national fiscal crisis with minimal negative impact.

Thank you again for this opportunity to address you. As always my door is always open to any and all who have questions or suggestions.

Barry Leemann  
Chairman  
Oswego County Legislature  
2-12-09