

SENECA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SPECIAL MEETING

December 27, 2010

4:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Lafler called the meeting to order at 4:39 P.M.

Roll Call of Members by the Clerk

Thirteen members of the Board answered roll call. Mr. Kaiser was not present

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Communications:

206. From Robert J Pagano, Jr., president, ITT, a copy of a letter to Congressman Hanna, dated December 21, 2010 regarding opposition to the conveyance of "land into trust" to the Cayuga Indian Nation.

207. From James S. Calvin, president, NYACS, a copy of a letter to Governor Paterson dated September 1, 2010 urging him to issue an executive order suspending the July 1 cigarette tax hike until full and fair tax collection begins.

Comments by Chairman Lafler

Chairman Lafler read Communication #206, a letter to Congressman-Elect Hanna from Robert J.; Pagano, Jr., president of ITT :

Congressman Elect Hanna:

Thank you for taking time to discuss the "land into trust" issue and its impact on local communities and businesses.

Goulds Pumps, Inc., as the largest private employer in Seneca County, recognizes the potential for adverse impact upon the businesses and landowners of our community if a substantial portion of the area's available property becomes exempt from taxes. This is likely to lead to increased taxes for remaining property holders.

In our case, higher taxes would negatively impact our competitive position in the global market, which could translate into lower demand for workers at our Seneca Falls manufacturing facility.

Additionally, the obligation to deliver public services to increasing numbers of non-taxed residents is likely to result in a degradation of services and an adverse image for those aspiring to draw new talent to the area.

Perhaps most importantly, the impact to local businesses that must compete in an imbalanced economic state is likely to drive businesses from the community resulting in additional job losses. This has already begun and is likely to escalate should the "land to Trust" initiative succeed.

For those reasons, we oppose the conveyance of "land into trust".

Comments by Mr. Shipley, Indian Affairs Committee Chair

Mr. Shipley read a statement, "...we ask you, as our Congressman, to provide the leadership necessary to legislate measures to stop the DOI/BIA from overstepping their authority and to reject and prohibit this deliberate LIT action by a Federal Agency. The U.S. Constitution should not be circumvented to grant special privileges...to any group that advocates a sovereign nation within the United States of America..." A copy of his statement is attached hereto.

Comments by Peter Tortorici, Chair, Cayuga County Legislature

Chairman Tortorici appealed to Congressman Hanna stating that Cayuga County and Seneca County "can't do this alone" and we "need a louder voice in Washington D.C." Several legislators from Cayuga County were present.

Comments by Dr. David Dresser, former Supervisor and Chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee:

Dr. Dresser provided Congressman Hanna a copy of a timeline of the Cayuga Indian Land Claim / Trust Application. A copy is attached hereto.

Comments by Menzo Case, Seneca Falls Savings Bank

Mr. Case spoke about the negative economic impact on Seneca and Cayuga counties should the Cayuga Nation's application for land in trust be granted.

Comments by Jeff Shipley, Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Shipley spoke about the negative impact on tourism and businesses that would occur if the Cayuga Nation's application for land in trust were granted. A copy of his statement is attached hereto.

Comments by Robert McKeveny, Seneca Falls Central School District

Mr. McKeveny address the impact that land in trust would have on the Seneca Falls School District. A copy of his statement is attached hereto.

Comments by Tom Kime, IDA Chair

Mr. Kime stated that tribal businesses aren't promoted by IDAs because they fail to collect taxes and thus decreases the property tax base. The IDA's goal is to promote businesses that will generate sales tax that can be passed on to the county population.

Comments by Brad Jones, Chair, Citizen's Advisory Committee on Indian Affairs

Mr. Jones read a statement that focused more on the "root cause of this debacle". A copy of his statement is attached hereto.

Comments by Rich Ricci, Citizen's Advisory Committee

Mr. Ricci stated that history proves that the Cayuga Indian Nation have been paid eight times for the land claim area. He questioned if Seneca County will also have to fight claims from other Cayuga Indians such as the Algonquin Cayugas, Wisconsin Cayugas, etc. Mr. Ricci provided a copy of an article dated November 11, 2010, "Native American tribes seek trade ties with Turkey", of which a copy is

attached hereto; and a copy of a report prepared by the Republican Staff of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security, “Tobacco and Terror: How Cigarette Smuggling is Funding our Enemies Abroad”, or which a copy of attached hereto.

Comments by Rich Tallcot, Citizen’s Advisory Committee

Mr. Tallcot appealed to Congressman Hanna to uphold and enforce the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Comments by Philip Spellane, County’s Land-Claim Attorney

Mr. Spellane gave an overview of the Carcieri Fix and stated that the Cayuga Nation has no right to make an application because it is not a federally recognized tribe.

Statement by Congressman Hanna

Congressman Hanna promised that he would carry the concerns expressed to Washington D.C. He reminded the board that he ran on a platform that opposed land into trust stating that “there is no reason to be anxious that I am not committed” to supporting the counties. He also stated, “I have been offered money from tribes and refused it” and if “it is done accidentally I will return it” and closed his comments with, “I get it and I’m with you”.

Special order of the day

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.