



Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority

Center for Regional Excellence, 4039 Route 219, Suite 200, Salamanca, New York 14779
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"This institution is an equal opportunity organization"
John Margeson, Chairman

MINUTES – February 27, 2007

The Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany and Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority met at 10:00 AM on February 27, 2007 at the BOCES Conference Room, 4039 Route 219, Suite 200, Salamanca, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members

William Daly
Joseph Eade
Terry Everetts
Karl Kruger
Tom Livak
John Margeson

Representing

Chautauqua County
Cattaraugus County
Cattaraugus County
Allegany County
Cattaraugus County
Allegany County

Others Attending

Thomas Barnes
Thomas Brady
William Burt
Robert Iszard
Kathleen Kellogg
Edward Long
Rick Miller
Diane Monroe
Ann O'Brien
Nick Pircio
Donald Rychnowski
Brian Schrantz
Peter Tie
Sharon Turano
Brian Winters

Representing

Southern Tier West
Brady & Swenson
WNYP
NYS ESDC
Buffalo News
Norfolk Southern Employee
Olean Times Herald
Allegany-Limestone School District
Olean School District
WHDL
Southern Tier West
Southern Tier West
Portville Central School
Jamestown Post Journal
Salamanca Press

Call to Order and Introduction of Those Present

Chairman John Margeson called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. Mr. Margeson welcomed all who were present, which included a large number of members of the public who did not sign in on the sign-in sheet. He noted that he had been advised that it had been misreported in the media that this was a public hearing, which it was not. He indicated that this was a special Board meeting of STERA, with regular business. However, he noted that the Board was one member short of a quorum, so it did not intend to undertake any business on this day. Instead, he indicated that it was his intention to depart from the scheduled agenda to provide the general public with a chance to speak, then he intended to call for executive session to discuss a real estate contractual matter. If time permitted, there would be discussion of the regular business agenda. Following this, introductions were made of those present..

Remarks by Karl Kruger

Mr. Margeson granted the floor to Karl Kruger, who read a statement regarding the lack of intent to acquire real estate or abate taxes on that portion of the Norfolk Southern north-south line north of Machias Junction.

Remarks by Members of the General Public

The STERA Board heard remarks by an unidentified Norfolk Southern employee, by Edward Long, a Norfolk Southern employee, by Ann O’Brien of the Olean School District, by Diane Monroe of the Allegany-Limestone School District, and by two identified representatives of the Town of Hinsdale. Members of the Board and Mr. Burt provided responses to questions raised. Issues discussed included: potential Norfolk Southern job losses, the potential for business development and job creation, a suggestion for inserting performance measures in the agreement with Norfolk Southern, the amount and suddenness of the loss of tax revenue by taxing jurisdictions, the amount and adequacy of the transition payment negotiated with Norfolk Southern, the impact of State legislation on reducing property taxes on railroads, the use of out-of-state rehabilitation contractors, the possibility of changing the process for sharing information and involving the public in the future, the impact of lost tax revenues on the local tax climate, the perceived competition for scarce investment funds, local cost of railroad and highway bridge repairs, the safety of WNYP operations, and the prospects for maintaining or upgrading signal systems on the north-south line. Mr. Margeson thanked the members of the general public for attending and providing comments.

Executive Session

The Board entered executive session to discuss a real estate contractual matter (Eade, Kruger, passing unanimously).

The Board adopted a resolution to re-enter the public meeting (Kruger, Eade, passing unanimously).

There were no actions taken.

Adjournment

The Board adopted a resolution to adjourn at 12:15 PM (Kruger, Eade, passing unanimously).

I certify that this is an accurate summary of the meeting of the Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany and Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority held on the date indicated above.

Name: _____

Office: _____

Date: _____