



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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ULSTER LEGISLATURE TO ADVANCE “TRUTH IN TAXATION” LAW

In January, upon being elected Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature, Terry Bernardo (R-Rochester), promised to fight for a local law sought by Town of Ulster Supervisor Jim Quigley to allow County mandated expenses to be shown on Town tax bills. At the January 3, 2012 organizational meeting of the Legislature, Chairman Bernardo, in her acceptance speech, asked Vice Chairman Jim Maloney, who is knowledgeable in taxation issues, to look into this matter.

Quigley and other Town of Ulster officials had simply sought to show the costs to his taxpayers in the Town of Ulster for the County mandated costs associated with the Safety Net program and the costs of local elections.

The Ulster County Attorney refused Quigley’s request, saying it was illegal, despite the fact that the City of Kingston already shows such costs. “The truth matters and sometimes the truth hurts. The truth is Ulster County government has put the costs of the safety net program on the Town taxpayers. If a Town simply wants to say that, the County should not be fighting efforts to simply tell the truth,” said Bernardo.

Town of Ulster Supervisor Jim Quigley said, “I applaud the County Legislature, for helping to shed sunlight onto the tax bill process. Why anyone would want to hide the truth is beyond me. We may not be able to end the mandates, but voters deserve an honest explanation of what they are.”

The proposed local law would allow localities to pass their own local law, requesting what mandated expenses to delineate on the Town tax bills. “This is hardly revolutionary idea—telling the truth. It is in fact quite sad that it takes us to pass a local law to allow the truth to be told, but since there is a refusal by other County officials, we will take up the initiative, as promised in January,” said Jim Maloney.

The Legislature this week will consider setting a mandatory public hearing on the proposed local law. If approved by the Legislature this evening, the public will be invited to speak at a hearing on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 7:00 PM on the proposed local law at the County Legislative Chambers, at 244 Fair Street, 6th floor, Kingston. A copy of the proposed local law can be obtained by emailing Fawn Tantillo at FTan@co.ulster.ny.us or on-line after March 21st at www.co.Ulster.NY.US/Legislature.

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