

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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Legislature Votes 15-0 To Seek Bids For Sale Of Sain Building **Possible Uses Of Building To Be Disclosed To All Potential Bidders**

New City, NY (July 6, 2016) – In a 15-0 bipartisan vote, the Rockland County Legislature has decided to seek bids from all parties interested in purchasing the county-owned Sain Building at 18 New Hempstead Road in New City.

“This provides county government with a path forward,” Legislature Chairman Alden H. Wolfe said. “By following the legal process, we will be able to obtain the information necessary for us to make an educated and responsible decision in the best interests of the taxpayers of Rockland County.”

The approved resolution, which was vetted and approved 8-1 by the Budget & Finance Committee on June 28, authorizes the Clerk to the Legislature to advertise for bids for the purchase of the Sain property.

Legislator Michael Grant, the Budget & Finance Committee Chairman, said the issue was debated at length last week.

“The Budget & Finance Committee considered two options,” Grant said. “One to authorize the bid for the Sain Building, and another to authorize the bid for Building A. The Committee disposed of any consideration for Building A and reached a bipartisan consensus to move forward with the sale of the Sain Building by authorizing the Clerk to advertise for bids.”

Without direction from the Legislature, a request for proposals was previously issued by the Purchasing Department for the sale of the property, with one viable offer for \$4.5 million. Purchasing is only authorized to procure, or buy, products and services.

It has been widely reported that the sole bidder for the property intends to build 64 units of senior housing, with the project publicly supported by the town of Clarkstown – the municipality in sole control of the zoning of the property.

Full disclosure will be made regarding the possible uses of the property, which could bring additional and higher bids, via the competitive sealed bidding process.

“There is a legal process when it comes to the disposition of county-owned real property,” Legislator Ilan Schoenberger said. “The purpose is to provide an equal playing field to all potential buyers and to get the highest sale price for the benefit of taxpayers. The sealed bidding process will allow county government to provide that equal opportunity.”

Also Tuesday, the Minority Leader once again unsuccessfully attempted to by-pass the committee process by trying to waive the meeting rules to allow a discussion and vote on three resolutions as “new business.” It marked the second such attempt, with the first made at the June 21 Legislature meeting.

At both meetings, it was explained that new business is only permitted when an emergency exists. Otherwise, the regular process – submitting the proposed resolution for committee review - is to be followed.

The Legislature voted 9-6 Tuesday not to waive the rules. It had voted down the first attempt as well, but the proposals were not submitted for committee review after that meeting.

To date, no legislator has introduced a resolution to accept the sole bid on the Sain property or to declare it no longer necessary for public use.

“I welcome a full discussion of this matter in committee once a proposal is actually introduced,” Wolfe said.

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