

**Special Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bergen &
Joint Meeting with the Town of Bergen Council
at 6:30pm on February 12th, 2019**

The joint meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bergen and the Town of Bergen Council was called to order by Supervisor Haywood at 6:30pm with the following present:

Mayor Anna Marie Barcaly
Trustee Almquist
Trustee Donovan
Trustee Fedele
Trustee VanEenwyk

Town Council:

Supervisor Ernie Haywood
Councilperson Belinda Grant
Councilperson Anne Sapienza
Councilperson Jim Starowitz
Councilperson Mark Anderson

Also present were: Town Clerk Michelle Smith, Highway Supervisor Mike Johnson, Village Administrator Cortney Gale and Bob Bausch.

Joint Meeting

Town and Village Updates

The Boards discussed their recent accomplishments.

Genesee County Legislator Robert Bausch

- County Unemployment is at 4.1% with 1100 job openings available
- The State is considering expanding Prevailing Wage which will increase the cost of projects and private investment will decrease.
- Phase 2 of the county water project is out to bid
- The jail project is underway and the county has signed an architect
- Drugs in the area continue to be an issue

Joint Meeting Adjournment – 8:06pm

Town Meeting

See Town's Minutes

Village Meeting

Approval of Bills

A motion was made by Trustee Donovan and seconded by Trustee Fedele to approve the bills. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Joint Letter Opposing County and City of Batavia Agreement

The Village Board in conjunction with the Town of Bergen Board agreed to send a letter to the County to express that they are against a 40 year contract for water and sales tax between the County and the City of Batavia.

Resolution 2 of 2019

OPPOSING THE PROPOSED AND AMENDED 2020 EXECUTIVE STATE BUDGET IMPACTING AID AND INCENTIVES TO MUNICIPALITIES AND STATE COST SHIFTS TO COUNTIES — APPROVAL OF

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2019, Governor Cuomo announced a 30-Day Amendment to the 2019/2020

Executive Budget making impacted towns and villages whole from his changes to AIM funding by utilizing revenue from county sales tax, and

WHEREAS, instead of restoring AIM with State funding and signifying a desire by the State to act as partners with local governments, this budget amendment requires counties to make up for lost AIM funding with sales tax revenue, imposing a new mandate on counties, and

WHEREAS, already-existing unfunded State mandates are the cause of high local taxes in New York State, and

WHEREAS, counties were granted the authority to levy a local sales tax in the late 1960's to help pay for Medicaid, indigent legal defense services, probation, and other state mandates on counties, and

WHEREAS, requiring counties to make up for the State's cut in AIM funding to villages and towns sets an unsustainable precedent and unnecessarily shifts the State's burden to local taxpayers who already pay some of the highest property taxes in the nation, and

WHEREAS, currently nine state mandated programs placed on counties like Genesee equals more than 82 percent of the typical county property tax levy, and these mandated costs continue to grow, and

WHEREAS, cutting AIM funding in the first place for Genesee County Towns and Villages would be a loss of \$287,165 and is a tax-shift from broad-based State income taxes to regressive local property taxes, and

WHEREAS, replacing what has been State AIM assistance with funding from county revenues is simply a tax-shift that will ultimately result in higher property taxes and is another erosion of Home Rule Authority by New York State,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Bergen supports the full restoration of this aid program to local governments and urges the Governor and State Legislature to fully restore this state funding in the final 2019/2020 state budget, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Bergen shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, Senator Michael Ranzenhofer, Assemblyman Stephen Hawley, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

A motion was made by Trustee Almquist and seconded by Trustee VanEenwyk to approve Resolution 2 of 2019 opposing the elimination of AIM funding. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Almquist and seconded by Trustee Donovan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cortney Gale
Administrator