

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON MINERAL RIGHTS  
MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2009

The Ad Hoc Committee on Mineral Rights of the Broome County Legislature met on Friday, February 6, 2009 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: S. Herz (Chair), T. Cleary, M. Diffendorf, R. Keibel, M. Nirchi

Members Absent: None

Others Present: K. Keough, RPTS; R. Behnke, County Attorney's Office; G. LaBare, J. Marinich, D. Reynolds, E. Denk, M. Hanbury, C. Hall, Legislature

The Committee meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 12:40 pm.

Mr. Reynolds formed the Ad Hoc Committee on Mineral Rights to study the advisability of having a policy in place regarding the County's retention of mineral rights in conveyance of tax foreclosed property and to give a policy recommendation to the full Legislative Body for its consideration.

Mr. Keough stated when the topic of mineral rights came to light, a decision was made that the County would keep the mineral rights on parcels of five acres or more. Mr. Keough went over the procedure of foreclosure. He stated that there is a final date of redemption where if the taxes are not paid, the properties are submitted to the Court which awards title to the County, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law. Mr. Keough stated that some previous owners will then submit a hardship letter stating why the taxes weren't paid, usually catastrophic or mental incapacity, and request that the property be sold back to them.

Mr. Keough stated that there are presently 271 properties in the foreclosure process. Mr. Keibel requested a breakdown of how many of those properties are greater than five acres.

Mr. Cleary asked about the procedure for other County's. Mr. Keough stated that Tioga County does not keep mineral rights but Stuben and Chemung do.

Mr. Herz asked the members to submit any questions or issues for the next meeting agenda. It was determined that at the next meeting, the committee will continue to focus on the procedure for properties sold back to former owners prior to auction.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 13, 2009.

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.