

DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Tina B. Molé, Chairman
Penny A. Bishop, Clerk

February 8, 2023

Sridhar Samudrala, Mayor
Village of Delhi

Village of Delhi Community Coalition

Dear Mayor Samudrala and Community Coalition Members:

First, let us say thank you for your presentations to the Finance Committee. It is refreshing to see residents taking pride in their village and actively looking for solutions to better their community. The County is committed to not only working with, but also for our local communities, therefore we must weigh all of the costs and benefits of each request. Your committee has brought to light many thought provoking concerns and we can assure you we have looked at these issues through many lenses as we considered your request.

Let us start by saying we have reviewed the impacts to the village as the County seat and although we concur the loss of tax base can be a burden on the local community we also see that there are many benefits afforded to the village. The County buildings bring over 500 employees into the village on a daily basis. During that time, these employees frequent the many businesses that populate the village. Also, as the county seat, the village enjoys the foot traffic by people from all corners of the County and beyond coming to do business with the County, whether that be the Department of Social Services, the County Clerk or the Courts, just to name a few. All of these people support the village's ability to maintain the local businesses within its borders.

As you know, nothing in government is ever as simple as it seems, especially when it comes to the financial constraints facing our communities. The Board of Supervisors works diligently, making difficult decisions in an effort to keep the County's fiscal affairs moving in a positive direction. The balance of providing services to all residents residing in our 29 municipalities while also keeping the taxes below the state mandated tax cap each year becomes more difficult as the State places additional mandates on us. Although we respect the village's position, the County is currently not able to commit additional funds to what the village currently receives pursuant their host community benefit agreement with the Department of Social Services.

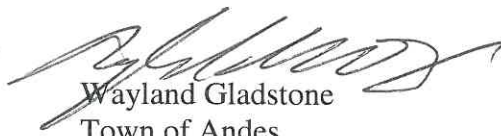
It is unfortunate that the State no longer pays the village in lieu of taxes from the SUNY campus. We are sure that the village of Delhi is not the only community affected by this loss of revenue. We will present a resolution to the full Board urging the State to reconsider their position in light of the financial stress it causes. We will share the resolution with the New York State Association of Counties so that other similarly situated communities can pass similar resolutions. We will also make sure the resolution is forwarded to the Governor, all of our state representatives, Chancellor King and the SUNY Board of Trustees. Hopefully, this will have an impact and the State will reconsider their short-sighted decision.

Again, thank you for your presentation. Bringing issues to the Board that affect our individual communities is always helpful when making decisions that will impact the County as a whole.

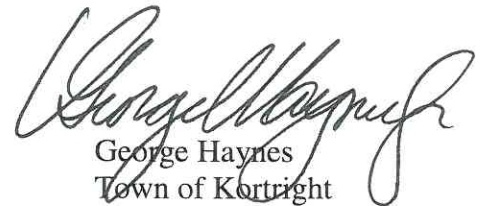
Sincerely,



Art Merrill
Budget Officer

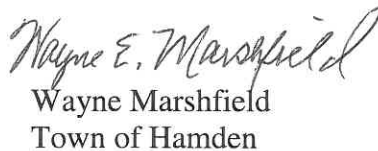


Wayland Gladstone
Town of Andes

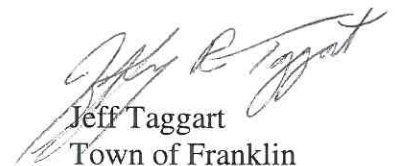


George Haynes
Town of Kortright

John Kosier
Town of Stamford

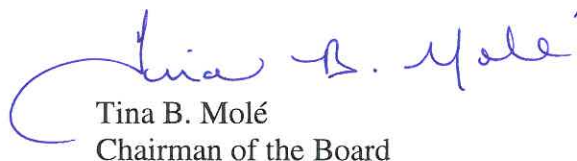


Wayne Marshfield
Town of Hamden



Jeff Taggart
Town of Franklin

Mark Tuthill
Town of Delhi



Tina B. Molé
Chairman of the Board