

TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD

RESOLUTION NO. 004 OF THE YEAR 2007

At the regular meeting of the Town of Harpersfield held on April 2, 2007, Councilwoman Catherine Straus offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the New York State Assembly has proposed legislation to amend the New York State Constitution to require a format of County-wide assessment, as stated in A.1572, sponsored by Assembly member Galef;

WHEREAS, we have read the aforementioned legislation and cannot support this proposed amendment to the New York State Constitution and in fact strongly oppose this attempt to remove the assessment process from local government, where it has been since early colonial times;

WHEREAS, there had ben no study published that confirms any dollar savings to the taxpayers or any improvement to the quality of the assessment process if transferred to the county form of government and in fact there is evidence it could become more costly to the taxpayers and produce burdens to the local property owner who may have to travel significant miles to a County Seat;

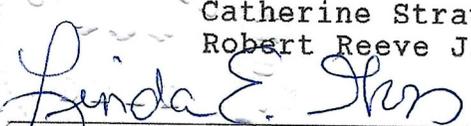
WHEREAS, the local assessor is an essential part of local government and their duties are no longer restricted to producing the assessment roll, but they are able to share their vast knowledge of the local community with other municipal departments and they have become the key person for property data, census information, E911 assistance, local planning history, GIS knowledge and many other areas;

WHEREAS, county government has been overwhelmed with the cost of Medicaid, Social Services, and other State mandated costs; this proposal would require the creation of new areas of responsibility and expense to county government and duplicate many of the hard costs that other municipal governments have expended over the years and many counties have been in dire economic condition for a number of years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we oppose the concept of County-wide assessing and oppose A.1572 as proposed.

Seconded by Councilman Morris Riddell Jr. with a roll call vote as follows:

Adopted:	James Eisel Sr.	Supervisor	Aye.
	Morris Riddell Jr.	Councilman	Aye.
	Catherine Straus	Councilwoman	Aye.
	Robert Reeve Jr.	Councilman	Aye.


Linda E. Goss, Town Clerk
Town of Harpersfield
April 13, 2007