

Townsend Votes “NO” as the Lone Wolf

Goshen – During the Orange County Legislature Session held Thursday, September 6 Orange County Legislator for the 7th District, Greg Townsend voted against three issues raising many eyebrows. The vote taken on all three issues were 20 in favor and one against – Townsend being the only “no” vote. The three resolutions facing the legislators in question began with a resolution approving an easement to the Village of Kiryas Joel in the Town of Monroe parallel and adjacent to the unimproved section of the Heritage Trail for the installation of a water transmission main.

Mr. Townsend’s response “As an insurance professional for the past 28 years I understand very well the theory of assigned risk and while we should be working with our colleagues in government -- if I had a client that continually filed claim after claim for similar issues, I would have to wonder what were the best business practices this client was practicing. This is what we have here -- the village of Kiryas Joel is our client who’s business practices are lacking and we find them often below standard accordingly. Therefore, I am reluctant to support this application for installing a water transmission main under the Heritage Trail.”

“I appreciate that the village of Kiryas Joel has finally met the standards of filling this application,” Townsend continued, “but it should have been filed in the first place. Accordingly, I cannot support installation of a water transmission main under the Heritage Trail for the village of Kiryas Joel until they make good faith efforts to meet the standards and decided to join the family of our cooperative municipalities. I will continue to view these issues with a jaundiced eye being the watch dog protecting my constituents of the 7th Legislative District.”

The additional two resolutions were the same in nature with different terminology. Items 14 and 15 revolved around a resolution for sidewalks to be installed in the Route 44 area as a safety factor with funding coming from state money taxing all residents of the municipality.

“I am disappointed that the proposal I advanced concerning a sidewalk improvement district was not afforded more attention by this body,” stated Townsend. “I believe that this proposal which benefits the private property owners along this route should be paid for and maintained by the private residents it benefits and **not** the general taxpayers of any municipality.”

Again Legislator Townsend voted against this issue stating further investigation and research should be afforded prior to this item coming to vote. “There are 350 special districts in Orange County – which include water, sewer, ambulance, garbage, drainage, etc. and all areas need to be explored in order to reinforce public safety for all the citizens within Orange County,” Townsend explained.

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