



County's Absurd Spending

Additional Spending Allocated for Ardsley Building

The following letter from John appeared in the June 24th edition of the North County News:

If you thought the absurd level of spending in County government reached its peak, think again. Recently, the County Administration approved additional spending allocations for the Ardsley warehouse building purchased last year to store the county voting machines. This ill-conceived purchase is a perfect example of what is wrong with county government today.

The purchase of this unmarketable, dilapidated structure last year for an outrageous cost to taxpayers of \$6 million was irresponsible enough. The additional \$7 million in renovation costs approved soon after the purchase was still not the end of this "money pit" created by the board majority. Recently, the same group who approved the \$13 million in spending a year ago have approved to spend over \$2 million more in taxpayer funds for roof repair, demolition costs and asbestos abatement. What was the original \$7 million in renovation costs for? County Legislator Oros and his colleagues Maisano and Burrows were justified in opposing this scheme. Oros was right on the money when he predicted that "the building was ignored for three years by prospective buyers for a reason" and predicted "no doubt there will be additional remediation work necessary that out paces the administration's estimates."

Now, the renovation requires additional "change orders" to allocate even more taxpayer funds to be used on this disaster. Close to \$100,000 in additional funds are being allocated for asbestos abatement alone. Who knows when this will end? The building was deemed mold infested when purchased so be prepared for that change order soon.

Despite the lack of transparency that has been exposed with this deal the county board majority keeps throwing good money after bad. This is why we need someone who will continue to stand up to this kind of arrogance toward the taxpayer and represent District 1 at the County Board of Legislators with experience, leadership and integrity. We can't afford someone who will merely go along with the majority and rubber stamp this kind of mismanagement.

As your next County Legislator I will fight this kind of activity and work to bring transparency and accountability to County Government. I look forward to bringing my experience as a mayor of a city who has made tough decisions and kept tax increases at 0% for three years in a row as well as the leadership needed to stand up for the people who pay the bills, the taxpayer.