

Taxpayers Deserve Answers

It is particularly difficult to deal with the deliberate distractions and distortions of Legislator Reid's recent letter to the editor. As Chairman of the Social Service Committee for Rensselaer County, Mr. Reid is well aware of the simple facts surrounding the lease of the Raddock Building and honesty should equate to simple, straightforward problem solving – not groundless accusations.

Fact #1 - The Republican Majority sponsored legislation to renew a lease on the Raddock Building for our Social Service Department. The resolution called for taxpayers spending \$17.50 a square foot for a total of \$3 million over 5 years. The Raddock Building is badly worn and sorely in need of improvements.

Fact #2 – Research on the going rate for available commercial property in the City of Troy shows that newly renovated, prime space lists for between \$10 and \$12 a square foot.

Fact #3 - Minority Democrats respectfully requested that the Republican resolution be tabled and a formal bid process or request for proposals be completed. After much discussion, all Democrats and some Republicans agreed to table the resolution.

One would think that the simple, responsible solution would be to have both parties work cooperatively along with the County Executive and assist at preparing the necessary specifications to seek proposals and bids. This process would provide legislators with sound data to make an informed decision on the lease.

Not so simple in Rensselaer County. Instead, we get politics instead of performance from Legislator Reid. Not one response about the lease from the Republican Majority deals with the simple facts. Why is the County not seeking competitive bids or requesting proposals on a \$3 million contract, or at the very least negotiating a lease at the Raddock Building that is more in line with prevailing rates? Taxpayers are tired of seeing their tax dollars wasted - they deserve answers Mr. Reid.

Flora Fasoldt
Rensselaer County Legislator
Nassau-Sand Lake-Schodack