

NEWS

RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Democratic Legislators Want to See Plan for \$800,000 Fund Controlled by GOP Legislators

Troy—Democratic Minority Legislators filed a resolution requesting to see a plan for the so-called Chamber Renovation Fund that contained over \$800,000 as of March 10, 2009. A resolution they filed last month, to terminate the fund altogether and use the money to reduce the burden on Rensselaer County taxpayers, was defeated in committee by the GOP and never made it to the floor for discussion.

“If the intent is to renovate the legislative chambers, as indicated in the resolution establishing this fund, then let’s see the plan to do it. If there is no plan to use this money as intended, what’s the purpose of hoarding taxpayer money in these tough economic times?” asked Legislator Brian Zweig, a sponsor of the resolution.

This account was established over a decade ago and has grown from \$69,000 to over \$800,000 as of March. Only around \$20,000 was spent on modifications to the Chamber during all that time.

“If the GOP has a defensible argument for maintaining the fund at its current level at a time when our residents are facing ever-higher taxes, I hope to hear about it. Let’s decide what we really need to do in the way of repairs and return the balance of the fund to the taxpayers,” added Legislator Kevin Harrington.

The resolution will be reviewed at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 6.