

A Special Meeting of the Town of Avon was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2008 at 2:30 P.M. at the Avon Opera Block with the following members present:

PRESENT: Supervisor David LeFeber, Deputy Supervisor Kelly Cole, and Councilmen James Blye, Donald Cook, Jr. and Thomas Mairs

OTHERS: Senator Dale Volker, Senator Catherine Young, Mayor Thomas Freeman, Village Trustees Phil Swanson, William Zhe, Secretary to the Supervisor/Water Clerk Mary Blye, Deputy Town Clerk Mary Rizzo, Court Clerk Janis Cole, Code Enforcement Officer Anthony Cappello, and Town Clerk Sharon Knight

VISITORS: Many attended the announcement.

New York State Senator Catherine M. Young addressed those in attendance stating that Avon is her hometown and with the leadership and persistence of her friend and colleague New York State Senator Dale Volker he had an announcement. Senator Dale Volker addressed those in attendance stating Capital money was allocated several years ago and the renovation of the Opera Block is critical to the Town's future. His attorney's firm is housed in a building that dates back to 1856 and the Looney Family. Funds were sought from many projects within his district and he determined that this project would have the most impact on the Town. He spoke of his high respect for Governor Patterson and due to the Governor's leadership the funds have been made available.

The following news release dated July 15, 2008 was provided:

**SENATOR VOLKER ANNOUNCES \$500,000 FOR RENOVATIONS OF HISTORIC
OPERA BLOCK IN TOWN OF AVON**

*State Funds Renovate Historic Block and Reuse Facility for Town and Village
Operations*

(ALBANY, NY) Senator Dale M. Volker (R-I-C, Depew) today announced that he has secured \$500,000 for the rehabilitation and renovations of the Town of Avon's historic Opera Block. This project will be utilized by the Town for their new Town offices and a joint Town and Village court facility.

"The Opera Block has been a part of the Avon landscape for 132 years, and would leave an insurmountable void in the Downtown Business District if it was no longer here," said Senator Volker. "Not only will this renovated facility be energy efficient and incorporate many green energy technologies, it will also show the rest of the state how to consolidate services, which translates into cost savings for the taxpayers. This is a win-win situation and I am very pleased to have secured \$500,000 to make this project become a reality."

"I would like to offer special thanks to Senator Volker on he behalf of the Town Board and the residents of the Town of Avon for taking an interest in our historic structure and for his hard work in securing funding for this important project," said David LeFeber, Supervisor of the Town of Avon. "His recognition of our community and his

work on our behalf is an important asset to our Town. This funding helps to insure that our Opera Block Town Hall, while offering us the opportunity for shared court space and a central location within our important Village business district, will continue to benefit the entire community through the restoration of this extraordinary structure. I would also like to thank Deputy Supervisor Kelly Cole for his role in spearheading and hands on management of the project. The Opera Block will remain as a standing reminder of the grand community of which we are greatly honored to be a part of”

Kelly Cole, Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Avon said, “Senator Dale Volker has always been a great asset to the people of this community with his support of our many projects and programs. This funding that he has secured is a continuation of that support, and the people of Avon community are deeply indebted to him. Additionally, The Avon Town Board again thanks Senator Volker for his interest and support of our community.”

“On behalf of the Village Board and residents of the Village of Avon. I’d like to thank Senator Volker for his support and for this very positive commitment to all of us here. The hard work that has gone into this project from the Town Board and his office in obtaining this grant will make this project a fantastic achievement,” said Thomas W. Freeman, Mayor of the Village of Avon.

New York State Senator Catherine M. Young spoke of riding the school bus with Supervisor LeFeber and that he currently lives in the home that she was raised. She then asked him for any comments and he provided the following:

Supervisor LeFeber stated Senator Dale Volker has always been a great asset to the people of this community with his support of our many projects and programs. This funding that he has secured is a continuation of that support, and the people of the Avon community are deeply indebted to him. Senator Volker has recognized that the Town of Avon is striving to accomplish several key initiatives with the restoration and rehabilitation of the Opera Block. These are:

- On this, the 200th anniversary of the name change from Hartford to Avon, we stand before this magnificent historic structure that has been a part of the Avon landscape for 132 years, and is a part of our history. When we bought this building, we literally turned the ownership of the building over to each and every resident in the entire Town and Village of Avon.
- While preserving our past, and our heritage, the Town Board has also recognized the importance of incorporating modern green technology into the building with the planned geothermal heating and cooling system. Rather than strapping on another condenser and boiler, we will use the earth’s heat and cooling ability to meet our needs.
- The Town and Village Boards have also recognized and acted upon the consolidation of Town and Village Courts into one facility. This is a move towards the governor’s recommendation of consolidating services wherever possible.

The building has stood the test of time long enough without any restoration or rehabilitation. With the funding that Senator Volker has secured for this building, we can move forward and preserve a piece of our history.

The Avon Town Board again thanks Senator Volker for his interest and support of our community.

Supervisor LeFeber thanked Deputy Supervisor Cole for his day-to-day oversight of the Opera Block, the entire Board for their considerations, Secretary to the Supervisor Mary Blye as well as all employees of the Town of Avon.

New York State Senator Catherine M. Young invited Village Mayor Freeman for comments and they follow.

Mayor Freeman thanked Senator Volker for the funding provided to the Town of Avon for the restoration of the building. Congratulated the Town Board for their work stating they do not always agree on issues but at the end of the day they do come together.

New York State Senator Catherine M. Young then stated that Senator Volker would take any questions. After the questions and answers a beautiful cake with a photo of the Opera Block was shared.

Respectfully submitted, _____ by
Sharon M. Knight, CMC/RMC, Town Clerk