



The Avalon Home and Land Owners Association

RECENT AHLOA PAPERS

SEPTEMBER 2009 – SENATOR JEFF VAN DREW, STATE MATTERS AND RIPARIAN RIGHTS

Senator Van Drew

The Senator stated that the State is in dire straits financially. Management of state finances has not been good. People want fiscal responsibility. Irresponsibility increases with the level of government.

If taxes are rolled back then revenue has to be increased, or spending decreased. This did not happen and the State started to borrow money by issuing different type of bonds through different agencies, since this approach did not need public approval at the time. Now voter approval is needed before any money is borrowed.

A portion of the Realty Transfer Tax goes to pay for beach replenishment (\$25 million a year). Originally if the money was not put to the beaches, the tax could not be collected. The Room Tax has similar constraints for promoting tourism. Originally a 'poison pill' was inserted into the legislation to prevent the money being side-tracked, however, fund deviation occurred by inserting other items to avoid the poison pill.

The next governor will have a tremendous budget problem in 2010. The State will have to start living within its means.

The Senator praised Avalon for fighting the system over the proposed Beach Access Regulations. He agrees that people have to have access to the beach and bay, but it does not have to be at every point.

In order to settle the question of COAH it may be necessary to change the constitution so that affordable housing is defined. Voters vote on constitutional changes, getting them is difficult. New Jersey is the only state that requires affordable housing for everyone. The current regulation puts numbers on communities. These numbers do not include RCA's, in addition senior citizen allotments will be reduced. The rules keep changing.

Senate Bill 130 (a Senate version of Assembly 2054) is not the same as the House Bill. It started as a question of legal possession, now it is a question of dollars and cents.

Veterans have to go to Philadelphia or Wilmington for hospitalization, those in Ocean County go to East Orange. The Senator feels we have to try to get a hospital in Hammonton, or at worst get enhanced services in Cape May County.