

Otsego County files countersuit against MOSA

COOPERSTOWN — Otsego County has responded to a lawsuit brought by the Montgomery-Otsego-Schoharie Solid Waste Management Authority (MOSA) with a countersuit charging gross mismanagement and wasteful spending. While the authority sought payment of a fine amounting to \$274,000 from the county, the county's suit seeks \$2.4 million from the authority.

Under a service agreement between Otsego County and MOSA, the county had to bring in a certain amount of garbage—guaranteed annual tonnage (GAT)—to the authority every year. When trash haulers from Otsego County began taking the waste not to MOSA but to cheaper operations, the county failed to deliver the preset amount under the agreement and the authority sued for lost income.

A 1994 Supreme Court decision found that authorities like MOSA could not prevent haulers located within their boundaries from taking waste elsewhere. Nevertheless, MOSA sued claiming that

the county's refusal to pay for the shortfall adversely impacted the authorities' ability to pay its expenses.

In the countersuit, Otsego County Attorney James Kostantny claimed that the authority has "engaged in

numerous financial expenditures which have been excessive, unnecessary and have been so determined by

the Office of the State Comptroller." Specifically, Kostantny cited MOSA expenditures to buy itself

out of a recycling contract, build a \$2 million complex, and purchase a building that was never used.

CRAFTS

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creations are most often purchased as interior decorations rather than for use outdoors.

Handmade dolls were widely displayed this year, with angels and bears being very popular with both creators and customers. For the true bear collector, there was even a selection of furniture available for the fuzzy fellows — everything from a high chair to settees and a dining set.

Paintings, sculpture, jewelry, weavings and sundry other talents rounded out the display.



Ornate bird house replicas of homes, barns and stations usually wind up as home decoration.

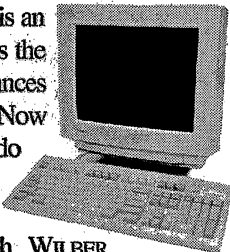
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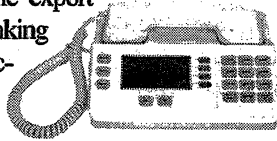
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