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## Sorvino: Film still in works

GRETCHEN M. WINTERMANTEL

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Paul Sorvino met the majority county commissioners Monday on Courthouse Square before the unveiling of the Jason Miller bust. But they did not ask him about the county's investment in his film, he said.

"Why would they? The answer is I'm in post-production," Mr. Sorvino said. "I am hoping that within four or five months the movie will come out, but that I have no control over."

"The picture will be finished within several months."

Lackawanna County invested \$500,000 in "The Trouble With Cali," which was filmed in and around Scranton in 2006.

The county is now seeking a way to recoup its investment.

Commissioner Corey O'Brien said the county is "reviewing all of our options with respect to Mr. Sorvino and this movie project," though he would not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sorvino said the proposed film production studio in the former Corning Inc. plant in Benton Twp., for which he was seeking \$6 million in funding, is dead.

"The Republicans have apparently killed it," Mr. Sorvino said Monday. "I wanted to do it, and it got tied up in politics, and you know, life is too short."

Reached later by phone, state Sen. Bob Mellow, D-22, refuted Mr. Sorvino's claim.

"It's unfortunate Mr. Sorvino would say that," Mr. Mellow said. "It was not one party versus another. There was never a follow-through on their behalf."

Mr. Sorvino said "it got beat to death apparently in the halls of the legislative body, and that's the end of it."

"It's sad because I had so many plans. I did so much preparation. I did so much work on it," Mr. Sorvino said.

Mr. Mellow had a different recollection and called Mr. Sorvino's statements "disingenuous."

"He couldn't be any more inaccurate," said Mr. Mellow, who requested funding for the project in the state's capital budget in April. "He said he had a plan in his head, and he was going to come back to us with plans on paper, and how he was going to find the matching funds."

Mr. Sorvino never did that, Mr. Mellow said.

"There were no concrete plans," Mr. Mellow said.

As for "The Trouble With Cali," Mr. Sorvino said he is still seeking investors for the film, which was initially expected to cost \$3 million. In an attempt to keep costs down, the budget was cut to about \$1.3 million, but the movie is short about \$300,000.

In July, Mr. Sorvino said he was seeking more funding from Hudson Atlantic, a group that had already invested \$300,000 in the film. Mr. Sorvino has invested at least \$175,000 of his own money.

Mr. Sorvino on Monday said the film is in post-production.

"I'm working on the second cut, a rough cut, and then post-production, and hopefully it'll be out in four to five months."

In February, Mr. Sorvino told The Times-Tribune he had a rough cut and projected a final cut could be completed "in two to five months."

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