

Regular Meeting
Chautauqua County Legislature
**Meeting was Held Virtually due to Social Distancing Guidelines
And Live Streamed on Social Media**
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 6:30 p.m.
Mayville, N.Y. 14757

Chairman Chagnon called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Clerk Tampio called the roll and announced a quorum present (Absent: Odell)

Legislator Bankoski delivered the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Whitford and duly carried the minutes were approved. (01/27/2021)

1st Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Chagnon: That brings us to the first privilege of the floor. Kathy, are there any communications received for the first privilege of the floor?

Clerk Tampio: No, we have not received any communications for the first privilege of the floor.

Chairman Chagnon: O.K., thank you.

**VETO MESSAGES FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE WENDEL
NO VETOES FROM 01/27/2021**

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. Letters (5)– County Executive Wendel – Appointments to various Boards**
 - 2. Letters – County Executive Wendel – Appointment of Acting Director of Real Property Tax Services**
 - 3. Report – NYS Small Business Development Center - Chautauqua County Quarterly Report**
 - 4. Report – NYS Small Business Development Center - Chautauqua County Business Permit Center Quarterly Report**
 - 5. Report – NYS Small Business Development Center - Chautauqua County Annual Report**
 - 6. Report – NYS Small Business Development Center - Chautauqua County Business Permit Center Annual Report**
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COMMENDATION:

**JOHN GRIFFITH
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**By
Chairman Pierre E. Chagnon
County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.**

STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

**By
COUNTY EXECUTIVE WENDEL**

County Executive Wendel: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. County legislators, department heads, and fellow Chautauqua County residents, thank you for tuning in to tonight's meeting in what is my first State of the County address, which is also Chautauqua County's first virtual State of the County Address. Shortly after I transitioned into the role of County Executive, Chautauqua County and the world faced one of the most unique challenges of our lifetime; the COVID-19 pandemic. Tonight, I will discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Chautauqua County and how we have met its challenges head on. I will touch on efforts made and successes we had during the past year, and conclude with plans that I feel will take Chautauqua County to the next level.

The first two months of my administration began like many before me. I became acquainted with my department heads, my cabinet and leaders throughout Chautauqua County. I worked closely with our leadership in county government and began to form what would be my vision of what 2020 would look like under my leadership and under my new administration. Many projects had already begun, and I quickly began working on seeing them to fruition. As the month of February unfolded things were changing in the eastern part of the state that would impact every county from Suffolk to Chautauqua. As I began meeting with our health department it quickly became apparent that events were unfolding that would lead our county and our economy to an abrupt shutdown. On Sunday, March 15, 2020, we called an urgent meeting of county staff and other stakeholders to evaluate the rapidly developing COVID-19 situation. That afternoon I declared a state of emergency and immediately formed a COVID-19 Response team that began work on what would become a yearlong commitment. This initial team helped set the course for our local response and communications and includes the following people: Sheriff Jim Quattrone, Public Health Director Christine Schuyler, Emergency Services Director John Griffith, and our three County Physicians, Dr. Robert Berke, Dr. Michael Faulk, and Dr. Brian Walters. Ultimately, as the situation moved toward a longer-term FEMA event, we moved the team to a FEMA Incident Command System

As our COVID-19 situation evolved, communication became a key priority. We were able to quickly develop communication plans and multiple modes of relaying important information. One of the things I am most proud of is our focus to ensure information was accessible to everyone. Early on, a request was made to provide a sign language interpreter so

the deaf and hard of hearing would be able to understand our press conferences. As a result of that request Western New York Deaf Access Services recognized Chautauqua County's efforts with a 2020 Community Partner Award.

Early in the pandemic, our focus was on the physical health of our residents and what quickly emerged was a need to transition to their fiscal health of our ever-changing county government and county budget. The unknowns around the impact of economic shutdowns, sales tax reductions, and increased expenses of the pandemic, caused me to create my COVID-19 Finance Team. This included our finance director, budget director along with legislative leadership. While many counties and municipalities in the state were facing budget deficits, we worked with diligence and engaged all department heads in the process, as we recognized opportunities for what became over \$4 million in reductions to our 2020 adopted budget. To further assist in our budget reductions, we offered our county workforce voluntary furloughs. Those furloughs helped our county with an additional \$1 million in savings. We are currently operating with fewer employees than we had 10 years ago, and are now perhaps the busiest that county government has ever been. I would like to personally thank each and every one of our county employees for the terrific work they have done and continue to do throughout these unprecedented times. Despite all of these unknowns, I was able to produce a 2021 budget that was structurally balanced and protected the fiscal health of the county. Thanks to better-than-anticipated sales tax revenues and departments holding to the budget reductions, our proactive approach paid off with preliminary budget figures showing 2020 coming in \$4.5 Million better than budget.

While COVID-19 surged down state, Chautauqua County was eluding the massive hospital surge and the high rates of COVID positive residents. New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo put all of New York State on "PAUSE" in order to slow and stop the spread of the virus. During this time, it became obvious that the closing of our economy would have a significant impact on our economic health here in the Chautauqua County. Our economic development team jumped into action to help local businesses. Working with local foundations, we launched a personal protective equipment (PPE) grant program that helped 30 local businesses comply with state requirements. Also, we implemented an Emergency Working Capital loan program which assisted 24 companies with low interest loans. This loan program later served as a model for several counties throughout New York State. I would personally like to thank Mark Geise and Rich Dixon for their efforts in establishing that loan program. A special thanks go out to my staff, the health department staff, the Economic Development/County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA), the Sheriff's Department and the Emergency Services staff who were all instrumental in assisting residents and businesses. I also thank the many Chautauqua County businesses who helped serve others. Early in the pandemic when PPE and sanitizer supplies became scarce, Jay Baker and his team at Jamestown Plastics developed an innovative, reusable face shield to help protect frontline workers. Southern Tier Distilling and Five & 20 Distillery shifted production to make hand sanitizer. Pace's Pizza wanted to make sure frontline workers were appreciated and well-fed. They rose to the challenge by instituting a pizza donation program in which they matched every pizza purchased for essential workers. We are fortunate in our county to have many businesses who came forward to help in this time of need.

Chautauqua County emerged as a leader in reopening concepts and continued building regional relationships that in turn would help facilitate a safe reopening of our county and our economy. The Western New York Regional Control Room built valuable relationships with

Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and county leaders across Western New York. As the Control rooms became a source of collaboration my office began to spearheaded other regional collaborations. As the Governor focused on growing concerns of the infection rate increases in Pennsylvania, I formed the Border Counties Coalition. This group consisted of all counties that bordered Pennsylvania from Rockland all the way to Chautauqua County. These efforts proved to be vital in understanding the need to work with our bordering state and not to shut them out. In efforts to work collaboratively with not only state and regional leaders, I felt it imperative to work with mayors, supervisors, and highway supervisors to apprise them of the ever changing world we were living in and how to help them assist their constituents during this difficult time. Last, we were able to expand testing availability when appointments were scarce, by requesting rapid testing machines through our control room. By working together, we were able to get things done and help shape the reopening process used across the state.

As we look ahead, compared to a year ago, we have optimism as vaccine rolls out and we shift our focus from mitigation to vaccination. I continue to lobby for resources for Chautauqua County in the regional control room and Regional Vaccine HUB. We have had preliminary talks and agreed to work quickly with the state to establish mass vaccination sites in Jamestown and Fredonia. These plans are ready to implement as soon as the state provides vaccine and I am confident this will help springboard our vaccination efforts. We recently launched a COVID-19 Heroes program to recognize local individuals working on the front lines of the pandemic for doing an exemplary job.

The Chautauqua Lake Memorandum of Agreement is set to expire this year, and we have already begun developing a new Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU will build on the original MOA to incorporate the lessons learned. We will continue facing our Chautauqua Lake challenges head on with scientific analysis. Our lake initiatives have brought world-class researchers to Chautauqua Lake including The Jefferson Project, Bowling Green and North Carolina State Universities. We will continue to establish Chautauqua Lake as a scientific research center.

The key to lessening the tax burden continues to be growing our local economy. This is more crucial now than ever as our local businesses and industries adapt to the post-COVID-19 economy. Chautauqua County businesses are creative and resilient. We have already seen many great examples of businesses adapting to safety regulations needed to re-open their doors. For example, The National Comedy Center developed its “Laugh Safe” program to protect visitors, creating a model which can be used at museums and attractions across the country. We have also seen local businesses working to develop their online presence through the “ShopLocalCHQ” online marketplace. This concept originated from my office but quickly became a collaboration with our economic development team, and the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce.

While other counties in the state looked to establish business and economic resiliency teams, we were ahead of the curve with the Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG). Our CCIDA and Economic Development Team continue their focus on business retention and development efforts. They have successfully obtained a \$10.5 million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to establish a revolving loan fund. Business developments that were in the works continue to move forward in Chautauqua County. Some projects of note include Arktura, a ceiling tile manufacturer moving into vacant space at our Mason Industrial Park, and Petri Baking Products is moving forward in its previous facility in Silver Creek. In addition, the announcement of a new Love’s Travel Stop and Country Stores, Inc. brings long overdue development to the I-90 Exit in Ripley, N.Y. We are also pursuing

reinstatement in the Essential Air Service programs to bring commercial flights back to the Chautauqua County Jamestown Airport. We have welcomed Luscombe aircraft manufacturing to the Jamestown Airport, as well as a unique and exciting opportunity with Beta industries, an aircraft manufacturing company that has produced Electric Aircraft. Chautauqua County will be serial number two of a charging station that will provide needed support to this company's efforts with expansion and contracts with the United States Air Force.

The path to a thriving county demands economic growth, workforce readiness, a quality of life environment, an effective and efficient county government, and a growth of our agricultural opportunities. Most recently I began discussions to integrate the County's Food Policy Council in opening doors with our local farmers markets. What this will do is bring agricultural stakeholders together to discuss ways we can increase local growers to a wholesale marketplace and work to improve our food security. I am working to promote an environment within Chautauqua County for both small and large businesses to grow and prosper. Collaborative efforts have begun with JCC, private businesses and local leaders throughout our community to address our workforce readiness cultural. I will continue to aggressively support initiatives such as the Partnership for Economic Growth to promote tourism with the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, as tourism is one of the leading industries in our county. We will work to further explore government efficiencies and regional concepts which include countywide code enforcement and a county housing court. We will continue improving our communication within County Government as well. I have established a number of topic-focused cabinet groups such as the Human Services Cabinet, Finance Cabinet, and Department of Public Facilities Cabinet. Each will meet on a monthly basis to help ensure our departments are working efficiently and collaboratively. I will continue to be a dedicated champion for the residents of Chautauqua County, to work tirelessly to bring Chautauqua County to the next level. This pandemic is merely an obstacle to our path to success. My goal is for efficiency, cost reduction and economic development. Together these efforts will become models for other counties throughout our Empire State. Thank you for your time. Stay healthy, stay safe and continue to be CHQstrong. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS:

Legislator Bankoski: I would like to motion that we block resolutions 21-21 through 26-21.

Chairman Chagnon: O.K., and we have a second on the motion from Legislator Vanstrom. Is there discussion on the motion? Hearing none, all those in favor of blocking resolutions 21-21 through 26-21 please say aye. Opposed?

Unanimously Carried to Block Resolutions 21-21 through 26-21

RES. NO. 21-21 Confirm Appointment and Re-Appointments – Parks Commission, by Public Facilities Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 22-21 Confirm Appointments and Re-Appointments – Emergency Medical Services Council, by Public Safety Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 23-21 Confirm Appointment – Chautauqua County Planning Board, by Planning & Economic Development Committee – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 24-21 Confirm Appointment and Re-Appointments– Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority Board of Directors, by Planning & Economic Development Committee – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 25-21 Confirm Re-Appointments – Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board, by Planning & Economic Development Committee – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 26-21 Confirm Re-Appointments – Conewango Watershed Commission, by Planning & Economic Development Committee – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

Legislator Nazzaro: I would like to make a motion to block resolutions 27-21 through 49-21 since they all deal with budget reconciliations.

Legislator Whitney: I'll second.

Chairman Chagnon: Is there any discussion, questions or comments on the proposal to block resolutions 27-21 through 49-21? Hearing none and seeing none, all those in favor of the motion to block the resolutions please say aye. Opposed?

Unanimously Carried to Block Resolutions 27-21 through 49-21

RES. NO. 27-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer Districts (SCCLSD), by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 28-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Portland, Pomfret, Dunkirk Sewer District, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 29-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 30-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Public Facilities Road Machinery and Debt Service, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 31-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Public Facilities Admin and Snow Removal: Co Roads (D Fund), by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 32-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Public Facilities (A Fund) , by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 33-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Landfill – Environment, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 34-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – County Executive, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 35-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Law Department, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 36-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Information Technology Services, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 37-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Human Resources, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 38-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Board of Elections, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 39-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – County Clerk, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 40-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Health Insurance Fund (M Fund) , by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 41-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Debt Service, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 42-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Finance, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 43-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Community College Tuition, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 44-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Office of the Sheriff, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 45-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – District Attorney’s Office, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 46-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Emergency Services, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 47-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Veterans Service Agency, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 48-21 Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Health and Human Services, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 49-21 Close Capital Projects – 2020 Year End Reconciliation, by Audit & Control Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 50-21 Amend 2020 & 2021 Budgets for Year End Reconciliations and Grant Equipment Revenue Mental Hygiene, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 51-21 Amend 2020 & 2021 Budgets for Grant Equipment Revenue – Office of the Sheriff, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 52-21 Amend 2021 Capital Project Account (DPF Large Equipment), by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 53-21 Amend 2021 Budget for State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant Award, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 54-21 Amend 2021 Budget for State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant Award, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 55-21 Amend Emergency Services 2021 Budget for Vehicle Accident Claim, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 56-21 2020 and 2021 County Sponsorship Contributions for JCC, by Audit & Control Committee

Legislator Nazzaro: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do encourage all my colleagues to support this resolution. I believe this is a win-win not only for the college, but also for the County. A lot of work went into this to develop a floor-ceiling model. What this does, it helps the college financially plan better by having a floor with the minimum contribution from the County and a ceiling with the maximum contribution would be. It will also help the County with its budget planning. As you know, there's a lot of fluctuations in enrollment in community colleges, especially now that we have the COVID here. So, this again establishes a floor and a ceiling. There's only a difference of 35 FTE's between the two. Therefore, the- actually the ceiling this year and the floor this year is actually below what we had budgeted in 2020. Also, we

have eliminated the 2% increase that we give annually. So, this was supported by the college and it was also supported by Audit & Control. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Is there any other discussion, questions, comments?

RES. NO. 56-21 – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RES. NO. 57-21 Fiscal Year 2019 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Program, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 58-21 Authorize Acceptance of WIIA Grant with EFC Financing for North Chautauqua County Water District, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 59-21 Amend Capital Project Budget for Landfill Phase IV Construction, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 60-21 Authorize Continuation of Natural Gas Lease at Chautauqua County Landfill, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 61-21 Authorizing Public Hearing regarding the implementation of Chautauqua County’s 2019 Community Development Block Grant program, “Chautauqua Septics and Wells”, funded by the New York State Homes and Community Renewal Housing Trust Fund Corporation’s Office of Community Renewal, by Human Services Committee – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 62-21 Authorizing Public Hearing Regarding a Potential Application for 2021 Community Development Block Grant Funding through the New York State Homes and Community Renewal Housing Trust Fund Corporation’s Office of Community Renewal and the Uses of Said Funding, by Human Services Committee – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 63-21 Approve Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for Submission to Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) , by Administrative Services Committee – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 64-21 Application for Credit of Real Property Taxes for 2021, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RES. NO. 65-21 Application for Credit of Real Property Taxes for 2021, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees

Chairman Chagnon: Legislator Muldowney?

Legislator Vanstrom: He is muted.

Legislator Niebel: Mr. Chairman? I'll address this resolution.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you, Legislator Niebel.

Legislator Niebel: This does seem to me, at least at this point, to be just a clerical error. I understand people have some questions, so I will vote to table it this evening, but look, in fairness to the City of Dunkirk I would like to see this issue resolved at the next legislative meeting.

Chairman Chagnon: O.K., thank you. Legislator Muldowney is still muted, so I will move to Legislator Bankoski.

Legislator Bankoski: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion that we table this resolution until next month so we can get some more information on this and make an educated decision.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. We have a motion to table, do I have a second?
Legislator Muldowney is seconding.

Legislator Muldowney: Yes, I think I'm unmuted now.

Chairman Chagnon: Do you have a comment you would like to make?

Legislator Muldowney: Yes, thank you. My technology skills are somewhat limited (*inaudible*) but I understand both the City and the County Attorney's want to speak a little bit more about this issue and there isn't really an urgency to pass it this evening, so I think the best solution is to lay it aside for the next meeting. Thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you for your comment. There is no debate on the motion to table, so all those in favor of the motion to table resolution 65-21 please say aye. Opposed?

Unanimously Carried to table resolution 65-21

Chairman Chagnon: The resolution is tabled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Chagnon: That brings us to announcements. Are there any announcements to be made tonight?

Legislator Nazzaro: I'm not sure if this would come under announcements or under other. I just wanted to speak briefly on 2021 financial projections.

Chairman Chagnon: Please do.

Legislator Nazzaro: First of all, I would like to thank our County Executive for his State of the County address. Very much appreciated. A lot of good points in there. A lot of moving parts and yes, it was a very difficult year and we got through it with a great amount of teamwork. So, I would like to thank the County Executive for his comments.

I just want to speak a moment on the financial health of the county. As the Executive pointed out, we did see over \$4.5 million in savings that was implemented back in the early part of the year in response to COVID- the furloughs, putting different projects on hold, and other cost saving initiatives that we put in and it was certainly a team effort and I want to recognize all the county managers, employees, and unions for their dedication. I just want to point out as we head into 2021 there are some things we have to keep a very watchful eye on, such as our property tax collections. The sales tax revenue was within a half a million dollars of the original budget, but that was due to internet sales. So, I have concern about that flattening. I'm concerned about the (*inaudible*) inmate revenue that the county receives for housing federal prisoners. Also, I'm concerned about our Medicaid cost. We did have an increase in our weekly Medicaid payment by the State of \$2.2 million. There's no guarantee that will continue. I'm concerned about the deficits that the fly car is seeing and also concerned about some other health services accounts and also the cost to the county for employee health insurance. So, I'm only mentioning those, Mr. Chairman- that yes, the County Executive's report was good news and I agree with the good news, but I just want to be cautiously optimistic as we move into 2021 to keep a pulse on these items that can quickly change. Also, we will have a state budget that will be voted on here by the end of March and we're unsure of the effect on that. So, I just want to make those comments as we move into 2021 and I'm confident we'll all work together and end up on a positive note at the end of 2021 as well. Thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Well said, my friend. Cautiously optimistic are the great watch words. Are there any other announcements?

Legislator Ward: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate the County Executive's tremendous State of the County and I also just want to applaud his effort and his lead in making the information as clear as it possibly can be with the moving goal posts that we've had. As a matter of fact, because of that information a lot of these businesses were able to move forward. We were able to create the Chautauqua County Business Recognition Program, delivering certificates of commendation to county businesses who excelled in providing a safe environment for their customers and employees and that was because of that team that he's mentioned and that kind of information dissemination, so we really appreciate that.

Chairman Chagnon: Well said. Thank you, Bill. Any other announcements? Hearing none, that will bring us to the second privilege of the floor.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Chairman Chagnon: Kathy, are there any communications received for the second privilege of the floor?

Clerk Tampio: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I've received five letters by email on the 22nd of February. All the letters are identical except for the people who signed them and I'll read off the names and then I'll read the letter itself. These are individual letters submitted by John Proctor, Chuck Restivo, Brian Thompson, Jerry McMaster, and William Lawson and they're all from members of Laborers' Local #621.

"To whom it may concern,

I am a member of Laborers' Local #621 and a resident of Chautauqua County. I'm writing to you today to show my support for the South Ripley Solar Project. Our area needs higher paying, higher skilled jobs like the South Ripley Solar Project would bring, not to mention the significant impact it would have on the community. As the need for alternative energy and clean standards increases, organizations like LiUNA are on the forefront and are prepared to tackle the job. We practice the safest and best work practices out there, assuring that the projects we work on together get done safely and on time. Myself, future generations, and families who have people who work construction need this project. Thank you for your time."

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you Kathy. Anyone else?

MOVED by Legislator Vanstrom, SECONDED by Legislator Gould and duly carried the meeting was adjourned. (7:23 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Kathy K. Tampio, Clerk of the Legislature/ Olivia L. Ames, Deputy Clerk/Secretary to the Legislature