

Regular Meeting
Chautauqua County Legislature
Live Streamed on YouTube
Wednesday, July 26, 2023 6:30 p.m.
Mayville, N.Y. 14757

Chairman Chagnon called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Chairman Chagnon: I will call to order the meeting of the Chautauqua County Legislature on July 26, 2023. Would the clerk please call the roll?

Clerk Zink called the roll and announced a quorum present (Absent: Hemmer, Wilfong)

Legislator Harmon delivered the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Harmon and duly carried the minutes were approved. (6/28/2023)

1st Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Chagnon: That brings us to our first privilege of the floor. Members of the public may comment on any subject relating to any local law, resolution or motion appearing on the agenda. Individual comments are limited to three minutes and comments representing a group shall be limited to five minutes.

No one chose to speak.

**VETO MESSAGES FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE WENDEL
NO VETOES FROM 6/28/23**

Clerk Zink: There are 2 communications listed on the agenda. Are there any items you wish you have read aloud? Please contact our office if you would like a copy of any of these items.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. Minutes – Conewango Watershed Commission – July 12, 2023 Meeting**
 - 2. Letter – Chairman Chagnon – Re: Cornell Cooperative Extension Board of Directors Appointment**
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LOCAL LAW INTRO. 7-23 – A Local Law Amending Local Law 13-22 Providing for a Management Salary Plan for County Officers and Employees (re: Employee/Labor Relations Administrator for the Department of Human Resources)

LOCAL LAW INTRO 7-23 - R/C Vote: 17 Yes – 0 No – 2 Absent (Hemmer, Wilfong) – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS:

203-23 Confirm Appointments - Chautauqua County Land Bank Board of Directors, by Planning & Economic Development Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

204-23 Amend 2023 Budget for Portland-Pomfret-Dunkirk Sewer District Design Phase of I & I Study, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

205-23 Continuation of Interim Funding for North Chautauqua County Water District, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

Legislator Niebel: Mr. Chairman, this is to extend the interim funding to the end of 2024. It is not for an increase in any funding. Basically, it's a book keeping measure.

206-23 Authorizing Contract with Chautauqua Lake Central School District for Fueling of County Motor Vehicles, by Public Safety, Human Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

207-23 Authorize Agreement with Panama Central School District for School Resource Officer Services 2023-2024, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

208-23 Authorize Acceptance of the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (“GIVE”) Grant funds for 2023-2024, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

209-23 Authorize Acceptance of 2023 Crimes Against Revenue Program (“CARP”) Funds, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

210-23 Authorize Use of Lake Erie Management Commission Capital Project H.8020.37011 Funds for Additional Dredging in Barcelona Harbor, by Planning and Economic Development and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

Legislator Bankoski: On behalf of myself and Legislator Muldowney, we sit on the Lake Erie Management Commission and kind of an understanding of what this about is that the Barcelona Harbor is a harbor of refuge and the gateway into the harbor between the two break walls is pretty much filled in with silt so unfortunately there's only about a 6 foot channel that's available right now. You can only get a small boat through there. This money here will be used to dredge and it will open that channel to allow larger boats to have access in case of a storm or some type of an emergency.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you for the explanation.

Legislator Vanstrom: To echo the comments from my esteemed colleague, Mr. Bankoski, it is almost getting to be too difficult for any boat of size to get through so I support this as well.

211-23 Authorize Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau as the Local Tourist Promotion Agency for Matching Funds Program Sponsored by the New York State Division of Tourism, by Planning and Economic Development and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

212-23 Calling for a Public Hearing Regarding the Implementation of a Community Development Block Grant-Funded Microenterprise Assistance Program, by Planning and Economic Development Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

213-23 Authorizing 2024 Levy of Participant's Share of Chautauqua County Self Insurance Plan (Workers' Compensation) Costs, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

214-23 Distribution of Mortgage Taxes, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

215-23 Transfer of Foreclosed Properties to Chautauqua County Land Bank Corporation, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – R/C Vote: 17 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent (Hemmer, Wilfong) – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

216-23 Quit Claim Deeds, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – R/C Vote: 17 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent (Hemmer, Wilfong) – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

217-23 Approving Labor Contract with CSEA Unit 6300, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees

Legislator Bankoski: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I just want to commend the County negotiating team and the CSEA 6300 unit for actually sitting down and bartering in good faith. I think it was a win/win for both the County and the Union. It's been a struggle, I know, as far as recruiting

people to work for the County and retaining the good workers that we have and I think this contract addresses some fair pay raises and so on and so forth to keep our good workers coming back to Chautauqua County and not leaving to go to a private sector.

Legislator Rankin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a lot of questions today about this but I was really satisfied in hearing about what this is doing as Mr. Bankoski said to not only recruit but to retain good employees and how important that is and that as we discussed as a group, it's a lot less expensive for the County to keep good people than to bring in new people and train them. So if we have good employees, we want to keep them here and we are trying to encourage that especially given the market and so many people who are not working. Let's keep the good ones that we have so I'll be supporting this contract, thank you.

Legislator Niebel: I agree with a lot of the things that Bob and Elisabeth have just said but this will result in an increase in our local share of about 1.7 million dollars in our 2024 budget. What I'm hearing is that some people say that this is okay, we can cover this increase and still come in under the State property tax cap. The State property tax cap does allow us to increase property taxes by a certain percent. Its set by the State, it might be 1.7%, 2%, whatever they say it is but this is not the mindset that I'm in and I hope none of my colleagues are either. If we are increasing wages salaries by \$1.7 million in local share, we should be looking for ways to save money in our equipment or contractual accounts or perhaps efficiencies within the departments. And look, we're not going to offset the entire \$1.7 million increase but maybe we could save \$300,000-\$500,000 toward that \$1.7 million increase. I would apply the same logic to the next resolution as well.

RES 217-23 - R/C Vote: 17 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent (Hemmer, Wilfong) – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

218-23 Approving Labor Contract with CCSEA, by Audit & Control Committee – R/C Vote: 17 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent (Hemmer, Wilfong) – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legislator Vanstrom: I just want to give kudos to the 4-H and the livestock auction that happened last week at the County Fair. They did an outstanding job. The kids really showed many skills and tasks that they've preformed and stayed consistent to come to that point and it was really endearing and I'm really proud of that group, thank you.

Legislator Pavlock: I'd like to keep Legislator Hemmer in our thoughts and prayers as he's just taking a little time to himself. I just want to say that I was a little dissatisfied with the publication around the incident. Instead of capitalizing on a low point for a person, we really should in fact be thanking him for the years of service that he's provided for the County and his local community. So I just want to keep John in our thoughts and prayers for the next little bit. He could use our support.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Members of the public may comment on any subject.

A member of the legislature may speak on any subject.

Individual comments are limited to 3 minutes and comments representing a group shall be limited to 5 minutes.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm Jim Jaroszynski and I am the Mayor of the Village of Falconer. I would like to thank Legislator Proctor for inviting me here tonight. Again my name is Jim Jaroszynski and I am the Mayor of Falconer. We have a problem in the Village of Falconer. Emergency housing from the Department of Social Services is placing those with differing substance abuse, housing issues, those in crisis and others in a motel in the middle of the Village. It is becoming a crisis for Falconer. We are a population of 2,263. We are a Village on the move in the middle of a revitalization. We have private investment and hopefully soon, public investment. We do not have access to services or different resources to help the individuals and families being placed in the Village. It has become overwhelmingly to our local police and fire departments as well as disrupting many of the lives of our residents and the quality of life they expect in our Village. Since January 1st, 2023, there have been 146 police calls by the Town of Ellicott to this location. The Falconer Fire Department has been called 35 times. Think about that, 1 location. I'm not saying that I do not understand the need for housing for these individuals and families but it seems as though they've reduced to 1 choice by the County and they are all being placed in Falconer and honestly we have safety concerns for any family with differing levels of needs being placed there. Therefore, it has not only been a safety issue for those who reside in the Village, but for others who are being placed there by the County leaning to a potential liability. I have met with Village residents and sent out surveys. This is a top priority showing on all platforms. I will respectfully ask that the County Director of Department of Social Services seek an alternative immediately other than the motel in Falconer and different resources to help these individuals. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Hi, thank you, my name is Nikki Pierce. I also am a resident of the Village of Falconer. I am a new business owner in the Village. I own PersNikkity Pies. We just opened in May and I also just wanted to address the situation happening in the Village and our request to the County to stop placing people with severe mental health and drug issues in 1 location in the Village. It's taxing on everyone and to be quite honest, it's unnerving especially to young people in the community who are just trying to walk through the village, walk dogs, my own children are trying to walk our dogs and they're afraid of people who quite clearly have major drug habits and are out of control in the Village. So we would ask that the County please look into this at least. Maybe look into alternative places to place these people where they are closer to resources such as DSS, maybe employment opportunities but right now the Village is really feeling the pain of these people so thank you very much I appreciate it.

Hello, I am Danielle Marra. I guess I'll piggy back off of these two. We recently just purchased a location down in Falconer, right in the Village, the old service plumbing building.

We've been putting all of our hard work, money and energy into that building and the whole goal is to provide an outlet for other small businesses to come to our Village. However, as they have previously stated, it is a very big deterrent for me, myself to go and recruit local businesses to start to develop our economy that has been shattered since probably before 2017 but in addition to 2017 with the fires and then again in 2018. So once again, I will ask for some help in relocation of these individuals. I have videos and pictures and everything and it's really disturbing as you can see. People are walking down with sword machetes and they cut themselves and I have to call the cops and I'm trying to work on building Falconer. Being a single woman in the middle of the Village at 2 a.m., tiling, is kind of terrifying for myself, thank you.

Good evening, my name is Bonnie Peters and I live at 8237 Glasgow Road, Cassadaga. I am a proud member of CSEA and I wanted to thank you guys for doing what was right. I want to thank all of the CSEA members for everything they did and I want to remind everyone that we work in this County and we spend our money in this County and that is very important to all of Chautauqua County, thank you.

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Proctor to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (6:58 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia Lee, Clerk of the Legislature & Kristi Zink, Deputy Clerk