

## Agenda

Planning & Economic Development Committee

**November 8, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Legislative Chambers**

**Livestreamed on YouTube**

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

- A. Call to Order
- B. Approval of Minutes (10/18/23)
- C. Privilege of the Floor
1. Tabled Resolution – Authorize Use of Chautauqua County 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve Funding for Merritt Winery’s America's Grape Country Craft Beverage Festival
2. Proposed Resolution – Amend 2023 Budget to Purchase Promotional Items for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse Using Funding from the 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve
3. Other -

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY  
RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**TITLE:** Authorize Use of Chautauqua County 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve Funding for Merritt Winery’s America’s Grape Country Craft Beverage Festival

**BY:** Planning and Economic Development and Audit & Control Committees:

**AT THE REQUEST OF:** County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.:

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County has established a 3% occupancy tax program for the purposes of promoting, developing, and protecting the area’s tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County is located in the Lake Erie Grape Belt, and growers in Chautauqua County produce approximately 65% of New York State’s total annual grape harvest, which is then used in products sold in more than 35 countries around the globe; and

WHEREAS, the Merritt Estate has been in the Merritt family since the late 1800’s and Merritt Estate Winery was organized in Chautauqua County in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Merritt Winery hosted their 16th annual America’s Grape Country Craft Beverage Festival on Saturday and Sunday, August 5 - 6, 2023 at the Chautauqua County Fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the America’s Grape Country Craft Beverage Festival featured over 30 New York wineries, breweries, distilleries, cideries, and other craft beverage producers as well as live music, cooking & wine demonstrations, craft artisans and much more; and

WHEREAS, Merritt Estate Winery has requested funding from Chautauqua County in the amount of \$5,000; and

WHEREAS, as of September 2023, the balance of the 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve Account was \$(~~XXXXXXXX~~); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That \$5,000 from the 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve is hereby allocated to the Merritt Estate Winery; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the County Executive is authorized and empowered to enter into all necessary agreements with the Merritt Estate Winery to implement this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Director of Finance is authorized and directed to make the following changes to the 2023 Adopted Budget:

INCREASE THE USE OF APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

A.----.----.883.0000 Fund Balance, Reserved Fund Bal – Reserve for Occupancy Tax \$5,000

INCREASE APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT:

A.6420.TOUR.4 Contractual – Promotion of Industry, Tourism \$5,000

**APPROVED**  
**VETOES (VETO MESSAGE ATTACHED)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**10/18/23 P.E.D. - Tabled**

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY  
RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**TITLE:** Amend 2023 Budget to Purchase Promotional Items for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse Using Funding from the 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve

**BY:** Planning and Economic Development and Audit & Control Committees:

**AT THE REQUEST OF:** County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.:

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County has established a 3% occupancy tax program for the purposes of promoting, developing, and protecting the area's tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse, which will occur on April 8, 2024, is a unique event that takes place approximately every one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County is in the path of totality for the 2024 Solar Eclipse and is expecting a significant influx of out-of-town visitors for this event; and

WHEREAS, in order to capitalize on this unique opportunity and offer residents and visitors with a safe experience, the County desires to purchase branded solar eclipse glasses in advance of this event; and

WHEREAS, as of October 18, 2023, the 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve has a balance of \$728,854; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into any contract or agreements to implement the purchase of specialized solar eclipse glasses; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the A Fund Balance is appropriated as follows:

INCREASE THE USE OF FUND BALANCE:

A.-----883.0000	Reserved Fund Bal – Reserve for Occupancy Tax	\$50,000
-----------------	---	----------

; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Director of Finance is authorized and directed to make the following changes to the 2023 Adopted Budget:

INCREASE APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT:

A.6420.TOUR.4	Contractual – Promotion of Industry, Tourism	\$50,000
---------------	--	----------

**APPROVED**

**VETOES (VETO MESSAGE ATTACHED)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**County Executive**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**