

Chautauqua County Legislature
Organizational Meeting
Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
“Live streamed on YouTube”
Legislative Chambers, Mayville, New York

Clerk Lee called the Organizational Meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and announced a quorum.

Legislator Parker delivered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Clerk Lee: Judge Cass, will you please come forward and swear in the 2024 Legislators?

Swearing in New Legislators
By
The Honorable Judge Cass

Nominations, Second and Roll Call Vote for Chairman of the Legislature

Clerk Lee: We will now accept nomination for Chairman of the Legislature.

Legislator Bankoski: I would like nominate Pierre E. Chagnon.

Legislator Harmon: I would like to second that.

Clerk Lee: Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I will entertain a motion to close the nominations.

Legislator Wilfong: Motion.

Clerk Lee: Do I have a second?

Legislator Bankoski: Second.

Clerk Lee: All those in favor say “aye”. All those opposed? Carried.

Unanimously Carried to Close Nominations

Clerk Lee: The nominee is Pierre E. Chagnon. We will now have a roll call vote. Please indicate your choice by stating the name of the nominee.

19 – Pierre Chagnon

Clerk Lee: Having received a required majority of the votes, I declare Pierre Chagnon to be the newly elected Chairman of the Chautauqua County Legislature for 2024.

Applause

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN

Chairman Chagnon: I am honored to continue in the position of Chairman of the Chautauqua County Legislature. In this role, I will continue to adhere to high moral standards and do my very best to demonstrate servant leadership and I fully embrace the parable St. Luke shared with us “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.” As we begin a new year, we welcome Dalton Anthony, Marcus Buchanan, Fred Johnson and Phil Landy to the Chautauqua County Legislature. And we welcome Fred Larson back to the Chautauqua County Legislature. We welcome Dave Wilfong to the leadership team and we welcome 2 new committee chairs, Tom Harmon and Travis Heiser. We will certainly miss the excellent contributions of the 5 Legislators who have now left us. Our good friends John Davis, John Hemmer, Kevin Muldowney, Elisabeth Rankin and Billy Torres. All the people of Chautauqua County have been very well represented by these diligent public servants and my goal is for us to continue to carry on good governance and a constructive bipartisan manner, thank you.

Applause

1st Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, that brings us to the 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 3 minutes and comments representing a group shall be limited to 5 minutes. Is there anyone wishing to address the first privilege of the floor? Anyone for the first privilege of the floor? Hearing none, I will close the first privilege of the floor.

(REPUBLICAN) DESIGNATE NEWSPAPER

We, the undersigned members of the Chautauqua County Legislature, and representing the Republican party, one of the two principal parties into which the people of Chautauqua County are divided, do hereby designate for the year 2024 the POST JOURNAL as the Republican newspaper to publish the concurrent resolutions, election notices and official canvas, all pursuant to Section 214, paragraph 1, of the County Law.

Signed: Chagnon, Vanstrom, Wilfong, Scudder, Penhollow, Proctor, Harmon, Heiser, Gustafson

(DEMOCRATIC) DESIGNATE NEWSPAPER

We, the undersigned members of the Chautauqua County Legislature, and representing the Democratic party, one of the two principal parties into which the people of Chautauqua County are divided, do hereby designate for the year 2024 the OBSERVER as the Democratic

newspaper to publish the concurrent resolutions, election notices and official canvas, all pursuant to Section 214, paragraph 1, of the County Law.

Signed: Bankoski, Parker, Nelson

APPOINTMENT OF MAJORITY LEADER AND ASSISTANT

We, the undersigned being a Majority of the Republican members of the Chautauqua County Legislature hereby designate Legislator David Wilfong as Majority Leader of the Chautauqua County Legislature for the year 2024 in accordance with Local Law No. 6-1969 adopted on the 2nd day of January 1970. And appoint, as Assistant Majority Leader, Legislator Lisa Vanstrom.

Signed: Chagnon, Vanstrom, Wilfong, Scudder, Penhollow, Proctor, Pavlock, Harmon, Heiser, Gustafson

APPOINTMENT OF MINORITY LEADER AND ASSISTANT

We, the undersigned being a Minority of the Democrat members of the Chautauqua County Legislature do hereby designate Legislator Robert Bankoski as the Minority Leader of the Chautauqua County Legislature for the year 2024 in accordance with Local Law No. 6-1969 adopted on the 2nd day of January 1970. And appoint as Assistant Minority Leader, Legislator Susan Parker.

Signed: Bankoski, Parker, Nelson

RESOLUTIONS:

1-24 Appointing Clerk of the Legislature – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

2-24 Appointing Secretary to the Legislature – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

3-24 Confirm Appointment – Public Defender

Legislator Wilfong: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'd like to just commend Ned Barone for the hard work that him and his group have done. I appreciate Ned because believe it or not Ned's just a little bit older than I am. I know he's sitting back there. But he's done great work and I think we need to continue with this fine gentlemen and keep him here as long as we possibly can, thank you.

Legislator Larson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I told you before the meeting I wasn't going to say anything but I find it hard to keep those resolutions. As a City Court Judge for 8 years, I have to second what my friend, Dave Wilfong just said. The professionalism, the dedication of the Public Defender's office under the leadership of Ned Barone, is first rate and everybody in County government, all elected officials here today should be very proud of the

work they do so I just want to second what Dave Wilfong says as a retired City Court Judge, thank you.

RES. NO. 3-24 – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

4-24 Designation of Official Newspapers – 2024 – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

5-24 Delegate Authority to Chairman of Legislature to Correct Errors on Tax Rolls and to Provide Refunds and Credits of Taxes Pursuant to Section 554 and 556 of the Real Property Tax Law – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legislator Wilfong: I just want to welcome everybody to the City of Jamestown on February 3rd. Its Doors Open Jamestown, where a lot of those places will be open for free, the Comedy Center, the Fenton Historical Society will be there, the Lucy Desi stuff will all be free so have people come down and enjoy that opportunity. That's February 3rd.

2nd Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Chagnon: I will open 2nd privilege of the floor where 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.

Good Afternoon. Congratulations to each of you for winning seats to the 2024 Legislature. I am John (*inaudible*) of 213 Spruce Street, Lakewood New York representing myself today. I am here today to speak about the need for each of us in this room to take action to reduce the pollution causing global warming and ocean acidification. The 2023 year was the hottest year on record across the globe. Chautauqua Lake didn't completely freeze last year. We suffered from days of climate change, driven heavy smoke from Canadian wild fires that impacted our health and our outdoor activities in Chautauqua County. Our businesses are being harmed by ever shorter snowmobiling, skiing, cross country skiing, snow shoeing and ice fishing seasons. Our farmer's livelihoods are endangered as our fruit (*inaudible*) our vineyards and orchards are threatened by erratic early season excess warm followed by later frost. Greenhouse gas pollution in the form of carbon dioxide methane is drastically changing our climate and weather. We can't escape these impacts in Western New York. As we humans have until 2030 to cut our consumption of fossil fuels, and our production of methane by at least 50%, we must take action now. I ask each of you in this room to accept the reality that we need to take effective actions now to substantially conserve energy to reduce energy usage. The development and consumption of all forms of energy have (*inaudible*) impacts on our environment. I ask you to strongly support programs and make opportunities available in Chautauqua County for cutting use of fossil fuels in our homes, vehicles, businesses and industries. You may feel it is inconvenient and not necessary to make these changes but a little inconvenience now in the next

5 to 10 years to better conserve energy and switch away from fossil fuels is sure better than the deadly consequences of letting the fossil fuel consumption status (*inaudible*) continue. I ask you to get on board with effective actions to reduce carbon dioxide and methane pollution now for the sake of your children and grandchildren and all of us to follow. Our generations must act now. We can't put it off any long. We've got to do this by 2030, we've got to get this done. Thank you for your time and for your service on the Legislature.

MOVED by Legislator Gustafson, SECONDED by Legislator Niebel and duly carried the meeting was adjourned. (4:21 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia L. Lee, Clerk of the Legislature/Kristi R. Zink, Deputy Clerk/Secretary to the Legislature