

Chautauqua County Legislature
Live Streamed on YouTube
Wednesday, August 28, 2024 6:30 p.m.
Mayville, N.Y. 14757

Chairman Chagnon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Chagnon: I will call to order the meeting of the Chautauqua County Legislature on August 28, 2024. Would the Clerk please call the roll?

Clerk Lee called the roll and announced a quorum present.

Legislator Buchanan delivered the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Vanstrom and duly carried the minutes were approved. (07/24/2024)

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.

My name is Tara Warren and I am here on behalf of Callie's Crusade and the Proclamation tonight of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. In 2013, my daughter Cali was diagnosed with leukemia in which it ended up taking her life in 2015. We created a foundation in honor of her and as we have in past years, I just want to thank everyone here for taking time out of their day, out of their evening but also recognizing this month as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Good evening, my name is Mike LeBaron. My wife is Andrea she's not here she's at open house tonight and we live near Kennedy. Our son, Nolan, was diagnosed with leukemia on August 9th, 2022, he is still under the care of Roswell Park and he has received chemotherapy every single day for the past 24 and a half months. On behalf of all oncology parents, we are grateful for this Legislature and County Executive to make this Proclamation recognizing September as Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month. Gold is the color in September that is aimed to bring awareness that cancer strikes children. I welcome everyone tonight to visit sometime a Facebook page called shine gold it is an awesome organization that shares this chamber's goal of bringing awareness to this repugnant disease. So we all leave this meeting today and think okay we made the proclamation, I'm now more aware but is there anything I can do? I can give you two answers. First, the one thing with children in leukemia and their families crave is your blood. We want your blood. We want your platelets. These are the lifelines for the children and

oncology families know what a blood and platelet shortage looks like. The 12th floor at Oishei Children's Hospital and The Children's Clinic at Roswell Park need about 40 to 50 units of blood a month to meet the needs of these kids. My hope is everyone who leaves this chamber tonight, will consider donating blood and or platelets on a regular basis. I hope the legislators will encourage your constituents to do the same. Second, sometimes chemotherapy does not cure leukemia patients. Sometimes they relapse thus many times a bone marrow transplant is the only option. To get a bone marrow transplant, a patient needs to find a matching donor which is not easy. I encourage all to visit the website "Be the Match" and join the registry. It's easy, you'll be sent a kit in the mail, you swab your cheek and you send it back. In the months and years to come you may be the match the person that saves a child's life I know a western New York family whose child has recently received a transplant and the donor was a college student from California and thank God for her. So again, I want to thank this chamber for the opportunity to speak and its proclamation to raise awareness. If we are aware that when a child in their family gets this dreaded diagnosis, the only possible cure is to inject your child's body with multiple poisons on a daily basis for a long period of months and years that these toxins will make them physically suffer like you can't believe. They will crush your child mentally, rob them of their childhood, they can bankrupt you and bring your family to the brink of emotional collapse and it punishes every aspect of your life. Then we residents of Chautauqua County may be willing to donate blood periodically and join the bone marrow registry. Lastly, these are words that I live by, "you never know how strong you are, until strength is your only choice". Thank you.

I'm on behalf of Cali. My name is Lucas Gibbons. I was diagnosed with retinoblastoma at the age of 3 and I was in the hospital for a solid year and a couple months and it brought my mom and family through a lot of trouble. Tara helped my family out with money especially fundraising.

Chairman Chagnon: Is there anyone else wishing to address the first privilege of the floor? Seeing no one, I will close the first privilege of the floor.

Clerk Lee: There are no veto messages from County Executive Wendel from the July 24, 2024 meeting.

VETO MESSAGES FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE WENDEL
NO VETOES FROM 07/24/2024

Clerk Lee: Our office has received the 3 communication as listed on the agenda, if you would like a copy of any of these items, please let our office know.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **Letter – NYS Department of State – Acknowledgement of Local Law 14-24**
2. **Letter and Pamphlet – CCIDA – Relocation Guide**
3. **Affidavit of Publication (2) – Legal Notice – CDBG Public Hearing Notice – Re: Busti Tap House (Post Journal and Observer)**

PROCLAMATION:

Declaring the Month of September as
“Childhood Cancer Awareness Month”

As Requested by Legislator Proctor
&
County Executive Wendel

Opened

6:43 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A Public Hearing Regarding a Potential Application for 2024 Community Development Block Grant Funding through the New York State Office of Community Renewal and the Uses of Said Funding (Re: Busti Tap House)

Chairman Chagnon: Stephanie, please introduce yourself and take us away.

Hi, I'm Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development. So Chautauqua County is planning to assist the Busti Tap House and applying for a \$100,000 grant from the New York State Office of Community renewal NYS OCR and the Community Development Block Grant that is housed underneath the NYS OCR. So it's a CDBG grant. The county will be the applicant but there's no county money involved. CREDC will administer the grant and the proceeds would go - sorry not proceeds I don't know why I put that in there, the grant money would go towards fixtures, furniture and equipment and working capital for their parking lot and back property renovations which would increase parking and efficiency as well as increase capacity and seating and provide outdoor entertainment space. Any questions?

Legislator Larson: At the economic development committee meeting, under some questions from you know who, it turns out that this is kind of new ground for the county to be the applicant. The Town of Busti could be the applicant on behalf of their own business and taxpayer I realize Busti's a small impoverished Town even though it has Cummins Engines, it has Walmart, it has the Chautauqua County Mall and it has three new car dealers that used to be in the City of Jamestown. It wasn't clear why the county was getting in the business of being the applicant and it sounded like last year there might have only been 2 or so of these applications. I don't know how a business finds out about the County doing this and I never got a clear answer as to somebody, a consultant, whatever, somebody is getting a piece of the \$100,000 of it comes through who is that and how much?

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: Yes, that's a good question and the county does actually apply for CDBG grants on behalf of organizations or other municipalities. So I also oversee our micro enterprise grant which is a CDBG grant so for this grant it is my understanding that CREDC would be getting a consultant fee. I don't know how much it is, I don't know anything further than that but, there is administration fees that go along with the grant because there are a lot of administrative profits processes that CDBG requires. So that takes staff time, that takes resources from CREDC and the County essentially is the applicant because we're a government agency and we can be.

Legislator Larson: But Busti could have done it as well.

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: Busti could have but, more than likely they do not have someone who can write a grant of this size.

Legislator Larson: And I think we also learned that under law, this service by the County is not available to the City of Jamestown or the City of Dunkirk is that right?

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: No, so they are entitlement communities and the reason that they are excluded from certain CDBG funding is because there is other specific funding designated for entitlement communities.

Legislator Larson: Thank you.

Anthony Toda, 144 Clifton Avenue in Jamestown. I'd just like to say that maybe the Legislature consider the absent - the question mark as far as who gets what, how the money is divided into the various people that run the program etc. before you make a vote on this so I think it'd be a good idea for the Legislature to know the bottom line where the money's going to before you make a vote, thanks.

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: Sure, as stated presently the money would be going to – previously I apologize, the money would be going to the Busti Tap House. It would be their grant but, it would be administered through CREDC who would have administration fees taken out of that grant. I can't tell you what those fees would be but, I can give you information on who you can contact if anybody is interested to know further.

Legislator Wilfong: So today we're actually just ok-ing the public hearing? Will you have those figures for us when the public hearing is here, you'll have the administrative cost for us?

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: Yes, when we –

Legislator Wilfong: Beforehand?

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: Yes before we come in front of you to do an amendment or a sorry -

Legislator Wilfong: Presentation.

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: A presentation, whatever it is to apply for the grant to actually apply for it which has not been done yet we need approval for that and then during that time period we would have all of the financial numbers for you.

Legislator Wilfong: Thank you.

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: You're welcome.

Chairman Chagnon: Just to clarify, Dave, this is the public hearing we're doing right now.

Legislator Wilfong: Oh okay. So if that's the case, when will we be getting those figures?

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: So this is just the public hearing. We still have to submit a - why can't I think of what it's called? A resolution, thank you. We still have to submit a resolution to apply to actually like apply for the grant to submit the application so at that point, we will have figures for you.

Legislator Niebel: Just one, yeah. Thank you, Stephanie. The fact that the County is applying for this grant, does that give more weight to the grant than say if the - well if the Town of Busti or the Tap House applied for the grant? Do you think?

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: It is hard to say. I don't- so because the County has received CDBG funding in the past and has done things with it that have been successful, more than likely it would weigh a little more for the County to do this grant instead of the Village of Busti.

Legislator Niebel: The Town of Busti or the Busti Tap House.

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: The Town of Busti or the Busti Tap House, yes. I don't think the

Busti Tap House actually can apply on their own, they would need a municipality to apply for them.

Legislator Niebel: Okay, but you think that because it's the County, it should carry somewhat more weight?

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: I do think so. As I said, because we have been successful with CDBG grants in the past and their projects that we've used the funding for.

Legislator Niebel: Okay, Thank you.

Mr. Toda: Sorry, to bother you again but I'm just wondering, has there been any other applicants within the County for this grant? Who they are I'm sure there's should have been more or have they been made aware of the grant.

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: So we currently have a CDBG grant through the County that is administered through CODI and that has been publicized there. This is a public meeting now so anybody can find out about it there. It's a New York State grant, it's not something that the County is like keeping secret and sending secret messages to. It's public knowledge.

Legislator Penhollow: Is it common practice that any grants administered either through the IDA the CBG or CREDC, there's always administrative fees that are paid to for example, the IDA, so this is not uncommon this is normal?

Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development: Yes, this is a normal practice that we do for lots of different kinds of organizations and CREDC does outreach for other organizations for funding assistance and that's essentially what the IDA is for, is to boost our economic development here in the County.

Legislator Penhollow: I can't imagine anyone who wouldn't want to go forward with this and support this. Appreciate your time.

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, anyone else wishing to speak to the public hearing? Seeing no one, thank you, Stephanie, and I will close the public hearing.

Closed

6:53 p.m.

Chairman Chagnon: Olivia, take us away.

RENEW & AMEND RES. NO. 129-24 – North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District Plant Capacity Study Grant Authorization and Appropriation of Local Match

Chairman Chagnon: So I would entertain a motion to renew resolution 129-24.

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, Seconded by Legislator Scudder to Renew Resolution 181-24.

Chairman Chagnon: Is there any discussion on the motion to renew resolution 129-24? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye, opposed? It is renewed.

Unanimously Carried to Renew Resolution 129-24

Chairman Chagnon: And now we will need a motion to amend resolution 129-24 to the document that was placed on the desks.

MOVED by Legislator Parker, SECONDED by Vanstrom to Amend Resolution 129-24 by Substitution – Unanimously Carried to Amend

Chairman Chagnon: Now, discussion on resolution 129-24 as amended. Are there any questions or comments on the resolution? Hearing none, all those in favor please say “aye”, opposed? Carried

Resolution 129-24 – Unanimously Adopted as Amended

RESOLUTIONS:

215-24 Authorize Agreements with Municipalities for Landfill Use, by Public Facilities Committee and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

216-24 Amend 2024 Capital Project Account (Parks), by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

217-24 Adjust Budget for Mayville Parking Lot Reconstruction, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

218-24 Amend 2024 Budget for North County Industrial Water District No. 1, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

219-24 Authorize Amendment to the Agreement between the NCLSD and the Town of Chautauqua for Sewage Treatment Services (19-28-03), by Public Facilities Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

220-24 Acceptance of FAA Funds to purchase ARFF Testing Equipment at the Chautauqua County/Jamestown Airport, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – Carried with Legislator Scudder voting “No”

- 221-24 Accept FAA and NYSDOT Funds to Rehabilitate Runway 13/31 Pavement and Reconstruct Runway 13/31 Lighting and Signage – Design**, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – Carried with Legislator Scudder voting “No”
- 222-24 Authorize Public Hearing on Office 46 Lease Agreement at the Chautauqua County Jamestown Airport**, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 223-24 Accept FAA and NYSDOT Funds to Reconstruct Terminal Building – Design**, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – Carried with Legislator Scudder voting “No”
- 224-24 Transfer American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Spending Plan Budget from 2023-2024 County Clerk’s Office**, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 225-24 Amend 2024 Budget for Probation Department for DCJS Pre-Trial Service Award**, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 226-24 Amend 2024 Budget for Office of the Sheriff**, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 227-24 Authorize Agreement with Clymer Central School District for School Resource Officer**, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 228-24 Amend 2024 Budget to Implement the Outward Mindset Project, Using Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 229-24 Amend Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene and Social Services 2024 Budget to Include New York State Rental Supplement (RSP) Program Allocations**, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 230-24 Authorizing 2025 Levy of Participant's Share of Chautauqua County Self Insurance Plan (Workers’ Compensation) Costs**, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

231-24 Financial Management Policy for the County of Chautauqua, by Audit and Control Committee

Legislator Larson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Long ago and far away as a high school debater and a college debater, I learned the general principle that the one who advocates for a change has the burden of proof. It appears that the financial management policy for our County has worked rather well for a long time with bipartisan agreement that the fund balance, the unallocated fund balance, should be no less than 5% nor more than 15%. The range has been I think a bipartisan agreement for quite a long time. Looking at this resolution and I guess so far this month, if I understand that Audit and Control the only committee this came in front of. I guess there were only 2 committee members and the Chairman made a quorum maybe. So 3 out of 19 in person had something to do with at least looking at this. A major change in this policy is to say, introduce the concept of a target fund balance a 12.5%. Now, I'm not going to get into the weeds on this resolution also changes for some reason the definition of what the size of the County budget or County revenues is. Let's just say that our County budget's approaching 300 million dollars. Every 1% of that toward fund balance is a 3 million dollar decision. So to introduce the concept of a target and to pick an unusual number like 12.5 %, the burden of proof is on whoever wants to make this change. Who wants to go from a range of 5% to 15% and have this Legislature agree that a target is 12.5%? Each percent again being roughly 3 million extra of taxpayer's money. I don't see the need for this and it's not up to me to defend the status quo, it's up to whoever wants this change to explain why we need a target, what problem has there been if the system isn't broken why would we be fixing it and how you say the range is 5 to 15 but your target is 12.5 is an interesting decision. Obviously I've heard nothing, I assume that the other 16 at least who weren't at the meeting don't know where the 12.5 came from so there's a tendency in government to view our fund balance or slush fund, whatever you want to call it, there's a tendency to view it as our money, the County's money, it isn't, it's the taxpayers money. We make a sober judgment, hopefully, of how much of the taxpayer's money we're going to hold in reserve. Some of you may know just from life experience and reading the newspapers that once in a while the State Comptrollers come in and slapped a school district that a school district has built up such huge reserves so that they can go to their residents and say we can build a new gym and a new track and a new auditorium and it's not going to cost you a nickel between the State aid and the reserves we build up. Even school districts get the Comptrollers attention when their reserves are too big. So this resolution, the change in the resolution, has not been justified and the burden of proof is on those that want to change it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Legislator Bankoski: Just thinking back to last year, we were in this discussion about lowering the tax levy by 1 million dollars so we could lower our slush fund so to speak and give the taxpayers some of their money back. I think now would be a good time instead of having a target rate of 12.5 make it 11.5 and now we're doing some good work for our taxpayers.

Legislator Parker: I'd like to make a motion to table this for pending a more thorough explanation to all the Legislators, thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, we have a motion to table, do we have a second?

MOVED by Legislator Parker, SECONDED by Legislator Bankoski to Table Resolution 231-24

Chairman Chagnon: There is no discussion on a motion to table so would the Clerk please call the roll on the motion to table resolution 231-24?

MOTION TO TABLE RES. NO. 231-24 – R/C Vote: 6 YES; 13 NO (Anthony, Gustafson, Harmon, Heiser, Landy, Niebel, Pavlock, Penhollow, Proctor, Scudder, Vanstrom, Wilfong Chagnon); 0 Absent – Motion to Table Fails

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, then on with discussion and questions regarding 231-24. Other questions or comments on the resolution?

Legislator Pavlock: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do get a budget book every year and I guess I don't ever see a slush fund account in there but, we do have a general fund and a general fund is very important for a County to have and maintain. In uncertain times, different things may come up or arise that are unexpected and you need the funds to be able to cover those. We try to do a conservative budget as far as our sales tax projections and other revenues that the County is going to expect. Sometimes we have some shortfalls and we have to utilize the general fund to help cover those. There's possibilities that come up in an emergent situation that they need to be utilized. I think that setting a target is okay – agreed, what target can you pick? I think the point of this target is to try to keep it to a fair amount that we're not at the top of the spectrum. We don't want to have a large general fund and we don't want to have a small general fund. What is correct? Well, that will be debated for as long as that we have a general fund, I think. But, I think that a fair amount of 12.5% is okay in consensus with some of our unexpected expenditures that come up throughout the year so, I'm okay with it.

Legislator Larson: Mr. Chairman, there are lots of obscure titles of things in the County budget that no taxpayer should be called upon to understand. Why do I use the term slush fund? Because it is. It means what it is. A few weeks ago, the County informed me that our current unobligated fund balance is around 45 or 46 million. That money can be used for anything that this legislature votes. It's not a reserve fund for roads or bridges, it's not a reserve fund for our buildings, it's not a reserve fund for building a new jail someday, it's a slush fund because we can use it for anything. We could use it to, not that anybody in this Legislature would ever do that but, we could raise our pay by 67% and pay for it out of the fund balance, unallocated fund balance, there's not a citizen out there that would understand what we're talking about. You tell them we got 37 or 45 million dollars in a slush fund, they get the idea that that's money we can use any way we see fit. That's why I use the term slush fund along with unobligated fund balance or unallocated fund balance or whatever. Secondly, with all due respect to the other 17 Legislators here tonight I guess, do we have one absent, Madam Clerk?

Clerk Lee: Not anymore, Mr. Johnson is here.

Legislator Larson: With all due respect to the other 18 Legislators here tonight, I don't think any of them know where this 12.5% figure came from. Now my good colleague seatmate here said that he thought that 12.5 might be okay. Well, that's okay but that's not where the number came from, out of his thoughts. Still haven't had an answer from anybody on what has been wrong with our policy for many years of a fund balance of between 5% and 15%. What has been the problem as we approach a 300 million dollar budget, the 5% minimum is 15 million bucks of unallocated fund balance or slush fund. I've been involved in County Government, I was County Attorney when 9/11 happened in New York State. New York State lost billions of dollars of revenue as a result of the terrorist attack on our financial center in Manhattan. If there ever was a time when this County was going to have to depend on fund balance to make good on its obligations, it was then. I don't remember the fund balance being significantly depleted even in the horrible aftermath of 9/11. So how much money should the fund balance be? The current policy allows for difference of opinion from one Executive to the next, one Legislature to the next of somewhere between 5 and 15. Somebody's trying to tell us to pass a 12.5% target. None of us came up with that figure. You didn't have a committee of 5 or even the republican caucus presumably get together and say you know what, we think policy ought to be this. This number came from somewhere else. It's not been justified and I would move to delete from the policy the reference to a target.

Chairman Chagnon: So you're making a motion to amend the resolution, the policy in the resolution to remove any reference to a target?

Legislator Larson: Correct.

Chairman Chagnon: Is there a second to the motion?

MOVED by Legislator Larson, SECONDED by Legislator Parker to Amend the Policy in the Resolution to Remove any Reference to a Target

Chairman Chagnon: Discussion on the motion to amend resolution 231-24?

Legislator Johnson: First my apologies for being late, I had a little bit of a personnel scrape at the closing at the winery so my apologies. Also for violation of dress code. But, I am trapped to agree with my friend, the other Fred, but partly in seriously and partly humorously, it chaps me to find a Democrat more fiscally conservative than I. My experience as private sector, I am a total neophyte on public sector but I've done a lot of big budgets on private sector and my experience there was, each department tends to have its own little cushion and the accumulation of those cushions can add up to a whole bunch of money and so one of my jobs was to try and squeeze all those cushions out and get them in one place and then we would pack it on the balance sheet but anyway, my other thought is when we get in a pinch for funds, the first place we ought to look is tightening our belt across the board expense by expense. The next place we ought to look is having to go back to the taxpayer for money and the very last place we should look is from an exigency fund, I won't call it a slush fund because that's pejorative but, in terms

of just in the interest of fiscal discipline, cushions are good to have but their last resort is I guess my comment.

Legislator Nelson: As a U.S. history and government teacher and I think Legislator Larson already said this, that in only the things I taught was that there's no such thing as government money, it's our money, it's the people's money and I think the fund balance is too high and I really don't understand if the range is 5 to 15, the number that should be targeted is 10. And again, the 12.5%, it seems random and I just wonder where that came from? And that's why I think it would have been a good idea to table this and to find out more about it, thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: I'm informed that the Director of Finance would like to speak.

Kitty Crow, Director of Finance: I normally don't speak but I would like to provide some clarification on the proposed changes and where they may have come from. Every year the financial management policy per the policy is to be reviewed and in this year's review I had copies of fund balance policies from at least 11 other counties. I read through them and most of them had very similar language to ours. There were some additional items that other counties had that I thought would be an improvement to our financial management policy because with all things we can make improvements from time to time. So at the last month's meeting of Audit and Control, I reviewed some of the additional items that I had gathered from these other counties and walked through those changes to language and was asked to prefile a resolution, which I did. So I know that was in the prefile packet that went out to all the Legislators for this month's meeting. There was 1 County that did happen to have language regarding a target and so that was one of the suggestions from based on language from another County. So it wasn't particularly arbitrary it was because I just happen to think that was a good idea. It's subject to of course the Legislature's consideration and so if that needs to be amended it's fine. It was merely a recommendation and that's all it was. So many of the other counties had anywhere from a 5% to 25% range. At least half of them or more had greater than 15% as the range and all of these other ones were based on a percentage of appropriations rather than revenues. That doesn't really change the total dollar of undesignated fund balance much but, it makes us more consistent with at least 11 other counties statewide and that was also kind of a comparison that our auditors when presenting our financial statements last month, they did some comps and those comps are generally done as a percentage of appropriation. So it was for that reason it was to be more consistent with how many other counties track their undesignated fund balance.

Legislator Larson: So that all 19 of us are on the same wavelength, or at least the same page, 11 Counties, 10 of the 11 do not reference a target, only 1 had a target?

Kitty Crow, Director of Finance: I think of the ones that I saw, there was at least 1. Yeah, I think it was just - there was 1 and it happened to be language I thought that was unique and I thought that was something worthwhile. So it was on my recommendation. I am only in a position of giving recommendations so that's what was in there for your consideration.

Legislator Larson: Well hope springs eternal. So I'm hoping on a bipartisan conservative fiscal approach to our taxpayers, that hearing that out of 11 Counties surveyed on their financial policy, only 1 had the concept of a target, the other 10 use a range like we've used for a long time. I hope we can get a majority vote anyway, in favor of deleting this target notion. No offense to anyone but, it just doesn't seem needed and it didn't seem needed to 10 out of 11 other counties. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Any other comments or questions on the motion to amend resolution 231-24? Hearing none, would the clerk please call the roll on the motion to amend?

MOTION TO AMEND RES. NO. 231-24 – R/C Vote: 8 YES; 11 NO (Anthony, Harmon, Heiser, Landy, Niebel, Pavlock, Penhollow, Scudder, Vanstrom, Wilfong, Chagnon); 0 Absent – Motion to Amend Fails

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, then we're back to discussing resolution 231-24. Any other questions, comments or discussion on the resolution?

Legislator Niebel: Yes, Mr. Chairman. When I was first elected to the legislature many years ago, the fund balance at that time was below 4%. We've come a long way since then and I think that's due to fiscally conservative republican and democratic legislators. The State recommends and that's all it is, is a recommendation, a 5% to 15% reserve or fund balance but, if this this body wants to set a target amount, I don't care, it's nothing that's written in stone. It's just an objective but look, having said that, when it comes to the actual 2025 budget, I may vote to decrease the fund balance below the 12.5%. But, as I mentioned earlier, this is just a target figure, it's nothing that we absolutely have to abide by, thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you, Mr. Niebel.

Legislator Larson: The range of 5 to 15 would in normal law business, law practice, arbitration, mediation would probably often wind up at a figure of 10, split the difference. I'll get to that in a minute. I don't have the printed resolution in front of me, I'm sorry, but, my recollection is it puts restrictions on this Legislature if we adopt that. Do you have the full resolution?

Legislator Pavlock: I think so.

Legislator Larson: As I recall it said, if you want to go beyond that, reduce that target, that there were restrictions on doing that, qualifications, conditions, anybody remember reading that?

Legislator Pavlock: This is where we're adjusting but –

Legislator Larson: A draw down of more than 10% of the fund balance in any given year may be considered - oh that's the whole thing, all right. Let's go back to if we made it to 8 votes for rationality, I don't know that we're going to get to 10 but, we can try. I make a motion that if you're going to, you all, the republican majority, although it's weakening, if the republican majority wants to stand by a target, I move that we amend it to 10% which is halfway between the 5 and 15, so I make that motion, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Chagnon: So we have a motion to amend the resolution 231 to change the proposed target to 10%. Is there a second to the motion?

MOVED by Legislator Larson, SECONDED by Legislator Bankoski to Amend Resolution 231-24 to change the proposed target to 10%

Chairman Chagnon: Discussion on the motion to amend?

Legislator Larson: Put some flesh on the bones. Again, each 1% that we set as policy is roughly a \$3 million decision. So the difference between 10% and 12.5% target is roughly 2.5 times 3, \$7.5 million? We have a banker here who is helping support this analysis. We've got \$7.5 million, is what we're talking about. Are we going to tell our taxpayers that in good times we're going to hold on to \$7.5 million dollars more of their money under the 12.5% target or are we going to give the taxpayers the benefit of the doubt and say our target is 10% of a \$300 million operation \$30 million in the unobligated fund balance should satisfy most of us that are fiscally conservative. And I was reluctant to add this to the discussion tonight but you're forcing my hand, Mr. Chairman, as I wrestled the last couple of months of coming to grips with the amount of money our County general fund has advanced to the North Chautauqua County Water District. If our slush fund, if our unobligated fund had been in the neighborhood of \$15 million dollars instead of \$37 million dollars, do you think it would be a little less likely that the bank of Mayville would have extended over \$5 million dollars to that water district? I think that would have been a caution light. At \$37 million, \$5 million doesn't seem like such a big deal. So, let's compromise let's adopt the notion of a target but let's put it where most mediators, most arbitrators would come down on a decision. Where do you land between 5 and 15? Usually you land at 10, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Legislator Nelson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we're losing sight of the big picture here too. A fund balance of that size to me means that our residents are over taxed and I think that's something we really need to think about, thank you.

Legislator Johnson: Yes sir, thank you. It seems to me that now that I learned this came from a review of multiple counties and there was one county who had a target, unless there's something I'm missing, it seems like a small issue and it's staying with 12.5% is a tilt towards more government spending of one kind or another and I'm kind of allergic to that. So if there's not something I'm missing, I would rather signal smaller government budgets rather than big ones, lower temptations to spend rather than higher. The 11th commandment in business in business control is thou shalt not tempt and if put temptation out there sooner or later human

nature will bite at it so I would ask my fellow republicans if this is really an important issue then stick with your vote but if it's just something that came down from 1 other county, I would rather signal fiscal conservatism small signal rather than fiscal generosity, thank you.

Legislator Harmon: So that figure of 12.5% is just, it's just a target and I really believe you're wasting a whole lot of time on this is what I believe. So I'm in favor of the 12.5% and I hope most of my colleagues will just agree with that, thank you.

Legislator Parker: I just wanted a point of information from Ms. Crow that last September, am I correct in saying that the fund balance was \$37 million last September when we were doing the budget? October?

Kitty Crow, Budget Director: *(Inaudible due to distance from microphone)*

Legislator Parker: Yeah and so now we 46 according to Mr. Larson getting information from you, we have \$9 million more in this fund balance and so the percentages of I'm assuming that a percentage of \$46 million versus a percentage of \$37 million is going to be greater so every time you talk about a percent, you're talking about a larger amount of money than you were even talking about last October.

Kitty Crow, Budget Director: But, in this case, it's talking about appropriations so it's a percent of appropriations which are what essentially the adopted budget is.

Legislator Parker: Can you clarify then what the difference is than what we used to measure last year?

Kitty Crow, Budget Director: The current language looks at fund balance as a percentage of revenues and then suggests that we should be in the range of 5% to 15%. What's proposed now is that instead of revenues it's a percentage of appropriations. Generally speaking, there's not a lot of difference because when we adopt a budget, our revenues and our expenditures at the end of the day are roughly the same. When we adopt the budget, our goal generally is to adopt a balanced budget which means expenses and revenues are close so when we have our actual results, we can say well what actually happened, what were the actual appropriations and the actual undesignated fund balance at the end of the year. So looking at a prior year, it's looking at what the actual results were. But when we adopt the budget or we have a - it's always a point in time figure.

Legislator Parker: *(Inaudible)* but what accounts for that \$9 million difference?

Kitty Crow, Budget Director: I don't have with me the year end variances but they have been reported. But yeah, at the end of the year if we have a surplus from any number of things we can have surplus revenue so I believe like part of that surplus was our sales tax came in about \$3 million more than we had budgeted but the adjustment to fund balance every year is simply

what revenues we collected, what expenses we incurred, the difference between those 2 numbers is what goes to fund balance. It either adds or subtracts from the fund balance.

Legislator Parker: Ultimately the fund balance may not be as lopsided in when you look at it in October. I guess my question is why is it \$46 million now? Why did you give Mr. –

Kitty Crow, Budget Director: Because we had a surplus at the end of 2023 and so that added to the fund balance.

Legislator Parker: Okay so I guess my point that a percentage of a larger number is actually representing a larger amount of money. Does that still hold true?

Kitty Crow, Budget Director: Yes.

Legislator Parker: Okay. That was just my point that we're actually talking about a completely different amount of money.

Kitty Crow, Budget Director: We are but the revenue and the expense numbers are generally pretty close so the resulting percentage – whether we compare it to revenues or appropriations, that percentage figure is going to be pretty close. Yeah, the fund balance can go up and down and so what that range is will change but it has nothing to do with whether we do it as a percentage of revenue or percentage of appropriation.

Legislator Parker: Okay, that wasn't my point. My point was, we're talking about a larger pool of money than last year –

Kitty Crow, Budget Director: Yes, so that range will change as the undesignated fund balance figure changes.

Legislator Parker: Okay, that was my only point. We're talking about more money and the percentage represents more money. Thank you very much.

Legislator Niebel: Mr. Chairman, just to follow up on Mrs. Parker's question. Kitty, our sales tax this year, do you anticipate a less sales tax this year than last year? Sales taxes are down this year thus far or not? I'm not sure.

Kitty Crow, Budget Director: Yes, I'll just say this in general terms. It does say even in the policy reasons why you would want to have a healthy fund balance so there's any number of things that mid-year could create a deficit situation. Our sales tax figures could be coming in less than what we budgeted. Right now, it's looking like we should meet our budget but I'm not projecting a surplus at this point. There was other discussions this month on safety net that is trending up of what we budgeted. There's a lot of big things that can change throughout the year that can create a deficit or a surplus situation and the point is for us to be prepared.

Legislator Vanstrom: (*Inaudible*) these revelations and all these ideas and all these hatchings, that's what committee meetings are for. And Kitty's at all of those committee meetings available to get the numbers that we're looking for ahead of time and I don't think this is the appropriate time to be doing that.

Legislator Larson: Mr. Chairman, a couple of interesting comments alleging we're wasting time. I think we've been here an hour tonight so far and that the County Legislature meeting is not the appropriate time to discuss the financial management policy for the County of Chautauqua. There was a time about 20 some years ago when the charter was changed. It was an idealistic change that saw the County Legislature as setting policy that never worked out but, that was the dream we had. An Economic Development Committee cancelled this month because there were no resolutions at the request of the Executive. Well if we were in serious about setting policy, we'd still have a meeting and we discuss policy we'd discuss performance of our departments and our IDA in that case. Being lectured on Kitty goes to committee meetings and we should have resolved this matter then. The Audit and Control Committee as I understand it, had 2 members there. The Chair was there to make a quorum as I understand it, what about the other 16 of us? When do we get a chance to ask questions and express our views? So I don't understand any of our fellow legislators that they measure their participation in this Legislature and committees or in the meetings by how quick they get in their car and go home. This is not a ceremonial post.

Chairman Chagnon: Let's stay to the question on the floor which is a motion.

Legislator Larson: Well we are. Wasting time, the difference I think we're still on the amendment to 10%?

Chairman Chagnon: The motion to amend, yes sir.

Legislator Larson: Well wasting time, the difference between a target of 10% and 12.5% is \$7.5 million. Now if 15 or 20 minutes of this body's time on difference of opinion or policy or philosophy about \$7.5 million of taxpayers money is too much time. I'm sorry, I don't think it is. I think this is very serious business and we're supposed to be setting policy not just voting on resolutions that come at the request of the County Executive. We're gaining on the vote, I hope we get at least 10 that say all right if it's just a target, why argue about it? Let's set it at 10 and go home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Legislator Gustafson: (*Inaudible*) a lot of money but what's happening that no one is really talking about is the fact that number 1, the County is earning interest on this money that is lessening the tax burden and number 2, if we were to have to go and borrow money for the mid-year perhaps situations that Mrs. Crow mentioned, the interest rate environment that we're in right now would be detrimental to our taxpayers so whether we have a fund balance target of 10 or 12.5, we have to have a healthy fund balance in cases of emergency. It's a target, it's an erroneous number. If it's that erroneous, who cares what it is, 12.5%, thank you.

MOTION TO AMEND RES. NO. 231-24 – R/C Vote: 6 YES; 13 NO (Anthony, Gustafson, Harmon, Heiser, Landy, Niebel, Pavlock, Penhollow, Proctor, Scudder, Vanstrom, Wilfong Chagnon); 0 Absent – Motion to Amend Fails

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, now we're back to 231-24 as presented. Are there any other questions or comments on resolution 231-24 as presented? Hearing none, would the clerk please call the roll?

RES. NO. 231-24 – R/C Vote: 13 YES; 6 NO (Bankoski, Buchanan, Landy, Larson, Nelson, Parker); 0 Absent – ADOPTED

Legislator Landy: I'd like to reverse my vote to "Yes".

RES. NO. 231-24 – R/C Vote: 14 YES; 5 NO (Bankoski, Buchanan, Larson, Nelson, Parker); 0 Absent – ADOPTED

232-24 Amend Chautauqua County Purchasing Policy, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

233-24 Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution, by Administrative Services Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

234-24 Setting the Salary for Land Surveyor, by Public Facilities, Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees

Legislator Bankoski: At the beginning of the day, I did have some questions regarding this because I thought it was going to be a complete new hire and that's not the case. This job duties is going to be assigned to an existing employee with a stipend for doing the land surveying which he's qualified to do and the amount of the stipend pretty much equals the amount of money that the County spent last year, subcontracting this work out so I just wanted to let all of my fellow peers know what that situation is.

Legislator Nelson: I'll be voting for this but anytime we get a resolution that adds a position to the County payroll, it's a red flag and so I asked some questions of our Director of Human Resources, Debbie Makowski, and I wanted to thank her and her staff for getting back to me quickly with a response and as Legislator Bankoski said, it will have a minimal impact, if any on our budget. There's no change to the benefits since it's an existing employee so I'll be supporting it, thank you.

RES. NO. 234-24 – R/C Vote: 19 YES; 0 NO; 0 Absent – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, and that now brings us to a proposed emergency resolution that was laid on the desks and this would require a motion to bring it to the floor and a second and it would require 2/3rds votes to bring it to the floor for discussion.

MOVED by Legislator Larson, SECONDED by Legislator Bankoski to bring an Emergency Resolution to the floor – Unanimously Carried to bring to the floor

Emergency Resolution 235-24 - Continuing and Increasing Interim Financing for North Chautauqua County Water District

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, the proposed resolution is on the floor for discussion. Are there any comments or questions on the proposed resolution?

Legislator Larson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For our fellow Legislators, in the paragraph that says “whereas due to the delay and receipt of Grant funds, the amount advanced as of August 6, 2024 is the \$5,200,000, just a point of information for all of you. That's the same figure as December 31, 2023 as reported by the State Comptroller. Mr. Chairman, \$5,257,000 is a lot of money. For some months, I have been trying to get to the bottom of how much of our County's cash is tied up in the North Chautauqua County Water District. The County's use of our fund balance to finance this district was the subject of a blistering December 22, 2023 State Comptrollers audit. The Comptroller's bottom line was in order for the County to legally provide interim financing to this district, State law requires a Legislature resolution for each year that the district gets or retains County money and that each Legislature resolution only authorize the interim financing for the fiscal year the money was advanced. The Comptroller pointed to 2017 and 2022 when millions of County general fund dollars were advanced to this district without this Legislature's authorization. I reviewed the last Legislature resolution, resolution number 205-23 dealing with interim financing for this district. The resolution gave the County Executive authority to advance a maximum of \$4 million to the district and erroneously set December 31, 2024 as the repayment date instead of December 31, 2023. How much County tax dollars has the County Executive advance to this district? As of December 31, 2023 and continuing to this month as the resolution correctly states, this County has advanced over \$5.2 million. Once I found that out, as a County Legislator who was in a 14/5 minority and we saw in the last series of votes what it means to be in the minority here, I had at least 3 options in front of me. First, I could have sat silently by to see if the Executive or the Legislature minority were going to figure out that there was a big problem here. Second, I could have issued a press release calling this an illegal use of taxpayer money by the County Executive and clear violation of State law. I could have asked nasty questions such as “Is the County Executive trying to hide something here? Or is the County Executive defying the State Comptroller for some reason?” I could have suggested all kinds of bad motives to the County Executive. Third, I could assume that the County Executive and his administration simply made a mistake. Even an elected republican official can make a mistake. I could bring this big mistake to the attention of our Chairman and work with him in a bipartisan manner to fix the mistake and make the \$5.2 million advanced to this district comply with the States general municipal law section 9a. I chose the third option. No smearing the County Executive in the press, accusing him of doing something illegal. No, I chose to trust the County Executive’s failure to comply with the State’s general municipal law and the comptrollers audit is an unfortunate mistake. Tonight, this Legislature can easily fix a multimillion dollar mistake. No muss, no fuss, no partisan attacks. The resolution rounds up to \$5,400,000, that was acceptable to me as a cosponsor. The principal amount that’s been

advanced, the Chairman and I were told might need a slight upward room to get us to December 31 and that was acceptable to me. I hope that this is a 19 to nothing vote. The money advanced will then be authorized by this Legislature in the next State Comptrollers audit will have no reason to be critical. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Other questions or comments on the proposed resolution. Hearing none, would the clerk please call the roll?

EMERGENCY RES. NO. 235-24 – R/C Vote: 18 YES; 1 NO (Vanstrom); 0 Absent – ADOPTED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Chagnon: That brings us to announcements on our agenda. Are there any announcements from any Legislators? Any Legislator like to share an announcement?

Legislator Wilfong: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Affective tomorrow, 8/29/24, I will be stepping down as County Legislator, District 11, from the City of Jamestown. I will also be resigning from the Airport Commission, Audit and Control Committee and Planning and Economic Development. I'd like to thank all the citizens of my district for their continued support of my many years of service. I'd like to thank Pierre Chagnon, Chuck Nazzaro and the late Jay Gould for supporting me when I was a new Legislator and giving me the hard work and the guidance to actually get through 10 years of this stuff. I was a new Legislator and I was just green behind the ears and those gentlemen helped me and believe it or not, back in the day it was a big deal when a republican called a democrat for some advice and like I said, my good friend Chuck Nazzaro never disappointed me and I appreciate that. I want to talk about the people in the City of Jamestown who have been behind me for many, many years. I ran for Mayor and was not successful but I still got a lot of votes and I think I could have done a great job on that so I just want to thank all of you past and present Legislators as myself and my wife head to Florida. So I just want you to know when you read the statistics again, people leaving the State are leaving the State and they're going other places and the Wilfong's are one of them. I want to thank all of you, past and present Legislators, thank you very much.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you, Dave. Any other announcements for the good of the order?

Legislator Penhollow: 100 year anniversary of the Cassadaga volunteer Fire Department. Many festivities going on Saturday and Sunday and they will be printed in the Post Journal and the Observer as well. So if you have some extra time this Labor Day weekend, 100 year anniversary of the Cassadaga volunteer Fire Department.

Legislator Harmon: The Village of Silver Creek will be hosting I think it's the 52nd year of the Grape Festival. Second weekend in February or September. I am way ahead of myself, I'm sorry. September, next month.

Legislator Larson: I think this qualifies as an announcement. Probably every one of us got this CHQ Choose Your Own Adventure New York relocation guide. Mark Geise, our Economic Development Director signed this letter today, August 28th. I don't want you to be misled, I read this publication last week and on August 25, I notified Mr. Geise and our Chair that this guide says our closest international airports, in nearby Pennsylvania, the Erie International Airport is served by 3 major Airline carriers; United, Delta and US Airways with non-stop flights to Philadelphia, Chicago and Detroit. The only thing wrong with this new publication is US Airways disappeared in 2015, United stopped serving Erie a year ago and Delta stopped serving Erie in 2020. In addition, the only thing wrong is there are no flights to Philadelphia, there are no flights to Chicago, and there are no flights to Detroit. So any of you trying to recruit people to come the other way that Dave Wilfong's going, if you invite them to come to us through the Erie Airport, please don't believe this, there are 2 flights a day, they're American they're to Charlotte that's it. So the Chairman thanked me for catching this. Mr. Geise didn't thank me but he said that they changed it online but, I was a little surprised to see a cover letter dated today that didn't alert you Legislators that there was a slight error in telling our would-be relocation people how they could get here. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Legislator Scudder: On behalf of Legislator Parker and myself, if you weren't in Fredonia last weekend, you missed the farm festival and it was a good time. Well attended and this is an opportunity next year, last weekend, next year last weekend, you're invited to come to the Fredonia farm festival in 2025, thank you.

Legislator Johnson: Well since we're bringing up farm festivals, I wasn't going to get commercial but as Chamber of Commerce guy and a fellow down in Westfield, that same weekend, weekend after this coming weekend, we have our second Grape and Wine festival in Westfield both at (*inaudible*) Park and out of the Grape Discovery Center. So its going to be a great happening. I'm bringing lots of grapes to stomp and the fire department is bringing their 1967 jeep to hose you off, plus all sorts of other good things, a pie eating contest, you name it. And I did go to the Fredonia festival and it was a happening and quite a thing so I enjoyed it and I recommend that for next year, thank you.

Legislator Wilfong: Hey don't forget the Labor Day festival at Bergman Park, City of Jamestown, they have the best fireworks at dusk. Plan to see you then.

Chairman Chagnon: At dusk, what day?

Legislator Wilfong: Sunday.

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.

Hi, I'm Roxy Jakowski. I have property on Broadway Road Bemus Point, district 8. I am in the flood zone, major flood zone. So, in the past, there have been a lot of flooding and erosion to not only my property but to the creek that goes into the lake. The years 2017, 2019 and 2021, Broadway Road saw a considerable amount of flooding. The year 2021 was the worst that I had ever seen. I ended up with wood debris, a baseball bat, a football, a soccer ball and a lawn chair. After the water receded, my lawn had a lot of mud and gravel. John Jablonski, passed Executive Director of the Chautauqua County Watershed conservancy talked to me in the summer of 2022. Then David Span was brought forward to me from The Soil and Water Division. He looked at the property, we talked, he told me that if the project was going to go through, it wouldn't be for two years, 2024. An appointment was set up with the Soil and Water Division in the winter of 2023. We went through many questions. I asked a lot and they gave me a lot of valuable information. I signed the paperwork, got pictures, got photos from like a drone that showed major flooding and my house would be included even though it sits back. I looked at the forms, never really given it a thought that my small pieces of property would even be considered but it was discussed by many committees and the final decision was brought to the table. On June 5th, of this year, 2024, David span called to let me know that the Broadway Road Project was approved. I received approximately \$25,000 from the Chautauqua County bed and breakfast tax and I'll tell you what, it took me a while to realize that this was really happening. The project has been completed and knowing that this will help the ecosystem in Chautauqua Lake is awesome. There were 30 applicants for this project for 2024, 10 were approved and I was number 3. I was number 3. Thank you very much.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you Roxy. It's nice to hear a good story.

Legislator Pavlock: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a Legislator, sometimes you have decisions in front of you and sometimes wonder if you make the right one or the wrong one. Last month, we had a resolution, a couple months ago that had to do with some SEQR review for some solar panels at the Airport in Dunkirk and after voting "No" to that, one of my concerns was safety and hazards around an airport. It wasn't shortly after I voted "No" to that, that we did have an accident at our Jamestown facility. And I thought, those pilots made it to the airport and unfortunately they didn't make it to the runway and was short and I thought why add an extra layer of hazard around an airport. If an airplane can make it there and have another chance and if these pilots had landed in a solar array, right now they were able to get out of their airplane that

crash landed at the airport. If they crash landed into a solar array, now they landed into an electric field and what other hazards? So, it was just something that caught my eye that I was thankful that I did vote “No” of adding another potential hazard. We have plenty of other places that something like that could be installed at instead of creating another hazard so, that’s all.

My name is Anthony Toda and my address is 144 Clifton Avenue, Jamestown New York. I’m making my opinions and (*inaudible*) based on media reports. Recently a (*inaudible*) citizen who murdered 23 people in Peru was arrested in Endicott, New York, 211 miles from Jamestown, New York. Is Governor Kathy Hochul, along with human trafficking, going to allow mass murderers to roam around in Chautauqua County? Is Governor Hochul going to allow smash and grab crimes in Chautauqua County as Governor Newsom has allowed in California? Governor Hochul is giving job priorities to illegals while neglecting the rights of New Yorkers on public assistance to obtain jobs and live the American dream. Kathy Hochul weaponized the New York State Department of Health to use authoritative oppressive removal of New Yorkers from their homes in direct violation of the fourth amendment after our own Chautauqua County Health Department reportedly was so overwhelmed during the Omicron virus that the department asked people of Chautauqua County not to call them to report Omicron issues. Democrats are labeling Trump as a tyrant after Nancy Pelosi tore up the State of the Union Address and openly tolerated the destruction of statues of our forefathers. The Biden Administration has supported illegal immigration in direct violation of federal statutory law and constitutional sovereignty and created a fentanyl crisis white slavery inflation and mass murder. The Biden Administration has tolerated 2 wars in which hundreds of thousands of people have died while the military industrial complexes of both sides, Russia and our side are getting rich. Who is the tyrant now, Biden or Trump? Kamala Harris says prices are too high when her administration created inflation simply by increasing oil prices. Kamala Harris is now calling for peace in the Middle East to pick up the Muslim American vote after watching tens of thousands of people being slaughtered in Gaza. Why didn't the Biden Administration broker a piece before such slaughter of lives? Other debacles of the Biden Administration include the alliance of North Korea with Russia killing Ukrainians. The weaponization of the Department of Justice has falsely accused Trump of Russian collusion, something the media publicly prosecuted him of, literally for years. Trump continues to be politically persecuted and maliciously prosecuted by criminals in the Department of Justice who are bent on destroying the multi-party system in the US. These repeated crimes by the Department of Justice are exactly what Adolf Hitler and the German SS practiced to get a one-party Nazi system in Germany, Thank you.

MOVED by Legislator Anthony, SECONDED by Legislator Penhollow to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (8:09 p.m.)

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