

Chautauqua County Legislature  
Organizational Meeting  
Thursday, January 2, 2025, 4:00 p.m.  
“Live streamed on YouTube”  
Legislative Chambers, Mayville, New York

Clerk Lee called the Organizational Meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and announced a quorum. (Absent: Johnson, Larson, Pavlock, Scudder)

Legislator Nelson delivered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Clerk Lee: I see that Legislator Larson is present. There are 16 members present and 3 members absent. (Absent: Johnson, Pavlock, Scudder)

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

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

Legislator Gustafson: 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.

*MOVED by Legislator Bankoski/SECONDED by Legislator Niebel to Close Nominations – 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 for Chairman by stating the name of the nominee.

16 – Pierre Chagnon  
(Absent: Johnson, Pavlock, Scudder)

Clerk Lee: Having received a required majority of the votes, I declare Pierre Chagnon to be the elected Chairman of the Chautauqua County Legislature for 2025.

*Applause*

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**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you Olivia for your work and thank you all for your kind nomination and election. I'm 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: “For 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 the New Year we welcome

Jamie Gustafson and Tom Nelson to the leadership team. Happy to have you aboard. And in this New Year I am committed to refocus discussions centering on what is wrong to discussions on what can be done to improve policies, programs and procedures than need improvement. As Theodore Roosevelt said: “It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly – who errs, who comes short again and again. But because there is no effort without error and shortcoming but who does actually strive to do the deeds. Who knows great enthusiasms? The great devotions? Who spends himself in a worthy cause? Who had the best nose in the end – the triumph of high achievement? And who at the worst if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who never know victory or defeat.” So, I encourage all legislators to strive mightily in 2025. Thank you.

*Applause*

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### 1<sup>st</sup> 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 speak to the first privilege of the floor? Anyone for the first privilege of the floor? Seeing no one, I will close the first privilege of the floor.

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### **(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 2025 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, Scudder, Proctor, Johnson, Penhollow, Dickey, Gustafson, Harmon, Anthony

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### **(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 2025 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, Nelson, Buchanan, Carle, Larson

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### **APPOINTMENT OF MAJORITY LEADER AND ASSISTANT**

We, the undersigned being a Majority of the Republican members of the Chautauqua County Legislature hereby designate Legislator Jamie Gustafson as Majority Leader of the Chautauqua County Legislature for the year 2025 in accordance with Local Law No. 6-1969 adopted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 1970. And appoint, as Assistant Majority Leader, Legislator Lisa Vanstrom.

Signed: Scudder, Landy, Proctor, Johnson, Penhollow, Pavlock, Chagnon, Dickey, Gustafson, Harmon, Vanstrom, Anthony

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### **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 2025 in accordance with Local Law No. 6-1969 adopted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 1970. And appoint as Assistant Minority Leader, Legislator Thomas Nelson.

Signed: Bankoski, Nelson, Buchanan, Carle, Larson

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### **RESOLUTIONS:**

#### **1-25 Appointing Clerk of the Legislature**

*RES. NO. 1-25 – R/C Vote: 16 YES; 0 NO; 3 Absent (Johnson, Pavlock, Scudder) – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

#### **2-25 Appointing Secretary to the Legislature**

*RES. NO. 2-25 – R/C Vote: 16 YES; 0 NO; 3 Absent (Johnson, Pavlock, Scudder) – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

#### **3-25 Confirm Appointment – Public Defender**

*RES. NO. 3-25 – R/C Vote: 16 YES; 0 NO; 3 Absent (Johnson, Pavlock, Scudder) – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

#### **4-25 Designation of Official Newspapers – 2025**

*RES. NO. 4-25 UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED (Absent: Johnson, Pavlock, Scudder)*

#### **5-25 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**

*RES. NO. 5-25 - UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED (Absent: Johnson, Pavlock, Scudder)*

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Legislator Proctor: Drive safe home.

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**2<sup>nd</sup> PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Chairman Chagnon: I will open 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

County Executive: Thank you. P.J. Wendel, Chautauqua County Executive, 3 North Erie Street. First of all, I would like to congratulate everybody on returning for what I believe is going to be a stellar 2025. I would like to congratulate Jamie Gustafson and Tom Nelson for joining our leadership team and for Pierre Chagnon to being reelected once again unanimously as our leader. I would also like to extend the warmest welcome to Tamara Dickey and Tom Carle, as newly appointed legislators of this body and look forward to working with you in the future. There's no doubt that we will not agree on everything we do in this legislature. But I know without a doubt, that you will represent your constituents for the best of your ability. And what we will do in this legislature will bring Chautauqua County to levels of greatest we haven't seen in quite some time – is my belief. But it'll be done with hard work, with compromise, and with that hard spirit that Pierre mentioned. Nothing is beyond our grasp and I know working together we will achieve greatness. Thank you for all you do. Thank you for all the time you give us and I look forward to working with each and every one of you. My door is always open, my phone is always on. Please reach out and I look forward to working with everybody for 2025. Thank you.

Legislator Larson: Thank you Mr. Chairman on this first workday of the New Year. It's appropriate to focus on a New Year's resolution. Our legislature's New Year's resolution for 2025 should be to get essential air service back at the Chautauqua County Airport at Jamestown. After last month's air service study presentation in this chamber, I did some more research on our country's essential service program. It appears that excluding Alaska, 112 communities have essential air service. 112 communities. Over the first 40 years of the essential air service program (1978 through 2018). It appears only 5 cities in our great country were stripped of their essential air service by the United States Department of Transportation. Tragically, the Chautauqua County Airport at Jamestown is one of those 5 cities on that list of losers. We should not have lost essential air service in January 2018. And we deserve to get essential air service back before the end of 2025. Let this legislature resolve to get this done this year in the name of promoting economic development and putting our county back on the national air map. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Chagnon: Is there anyone else wishing to address the 2<sup>nd</sup> privilege of the floor? Anyone else for the 2<sup>nd</sup> privilege of the floor? Then I will close the 2<sup>nd</sup> privilege of the floor. And I am now looking for a motion.

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MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Larson and duly carried the meeting was adjourned. (4:22 p.m.)

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