

Chautauqua County Legislature  
**Live Streamed on YouTube**  
Wednesday, June 25, 2025 6:30 p.m.  
Mayville, N.Y. 14757

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

Chairman Chagnon: Good evening. I will call to order the meeting of the Chautauqua County Legislature on June 25, 2025. Would the Clerk please call the roll?

Clerk Lee called the roll and announced a quorum present.

Legislator Vanstrom delivered the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Chagnon: I will now entertain a motion for approval of the minutes from the May 28, 2025 Legislative meeting. Do I have a motion to approve the minutes?

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Gustafson and duly carried the minutes were approved. (5/28/25)

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**1<sup>st</sup> Privilege of the Floor**

Chairman Chagnon: Next on the agenda, we will have the privilege of the floor. Members of the public may comment on any subject relating to any local law, resolution or motion appearing on tonight's agenda. Individual comments are limited to three minutes and comments representing a group shall be limited to five minutes. Is there anyone wishing to address 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. That brings us on our agenda to commendations.

**COMMENDATIONS:**

CERTIFICATE AWARDS  
To High School  
VALEDICTORIANS and SALUTATORIANS  
By  
Chairman Pierre E. Chagnon  
and  
County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.

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Richard Dixon  
Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency

By  
Chairman Pierre E. Chagnon  
and  
County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.

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Mike Zamborik  
Firefighter of the Year  
By  
Chairman Pierre E. Chagnon  
and  
County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.

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Chairman Chagnon: And that brings us on the agenda to a presentation by the Planning Board Review of 2026 Capital Projects by the Planning Board Chairman, Doug Bowen.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Planning Board's Review of  
2026 Capital Projects  
By Doug Bowen**

Doug Bowen: Good evening, County Executive Wendel, Mr. Chairman, Legislators and members of the public. My name is Douglas Bowen, and I serve as Chairman of the Chautauqua County Planning Board. I am here tonight to present a report that is more than just a list of numbers and projects. It's a plan that helps shape the future of our county. Every year the Planning Board is tasked with reviewing dozens of capital projects and proposals submitted by county departments. We evaluate each one and make recommendations on what should be prioritized in the upcoming year's Capital budget and what should be part of the five-year plan.

It's a big responsibility—and one we take seriously. Because every decision we make is ultimately about how to invest *your* tax dollars in ways that are smart, strategic, and forward-looking. The stakes are high. Let's face it: we don't have unlimited resources. We never have. We're constantly balancing competing needs for fixing roads, upgrading facilities, replacing outdated equipment all while keeping an eye on the bottom line. At the same time, people want more from their local government. They want better services, more safety, and more efficiency. We hear that. And we agree. But the reality is: not every project can be funded. So, our job is to make sure the ones that *do* get funded will deliver real, lasting value to the people of Chautauqua County. How we choose. We start with a structured scoring system. Each project is reviewed using objective criteria—public impact, legal mandates, funding sources, cost-benefit, and more.

But that's not enough. Once we have a draft ranking, the Board steps back and applies a "common sense test." We ask:

- Does this list reflect what matters most to the County right now?
- Are any projects tied together—by location, timing, or purpose?
- Are we missing a chance to reduce future costs by sequencing things better?

This year, that review led us to raise the priority of several Sheriff's Department projects, where the safety and liability concerns outweighed the dollar signs. We also adjusted two Planning and Economic Development projects based on departmental input. And we looked closely at how state or federal grants can unintentionally push some projects higher on the list—this is important to flag as we keep improving the process. What we reviewed. This year's scope was large:

- 45 County-funded projects for 2026
- 5 enterprise-funded projects
- 14 FAA or State-funded airport projects
- And 26 additional projects for the 2027–2031 capital plan

That's 90 projects across 13 departments and divisions. It's a testament to how active and forward-thinking our county departments are. The total request for County-funded 2026 projects: \$51.6 million, with a county share of roughly \$17.9 million. These are real investments with real impacts—from essential maintenance to long-overdue upgrades.

Why it matters. Some might see this as just another bureaucratic process. But we see it differently. This is planning with purpose. These decisions affect how we function as a government, how we serve our communities, and how we prepare for what's ahead. If we ignore this process, we fall behind—reacting instead of leading. But when we do it well—and we believe we have—this process becomes one of the most powerful tools we have for driving positive change.

A team effort. I want to sincerely thank the County Executive and Legislature for appointing a Planning Board with such diverse expertise. These are volunteers who have devoted many hours to reading proposals, debating priorities, and thinking critically about what's best for Chautauqua County—not just now, but five or ten years down the road.

And of course, we're grateful to the County departments who submitted thoughtful, well-documented proposals. This level of detail makes all the difference.

In closing, I ask that you take this report seriously—not just as a list of recommendations, but as a roadmap for progress. We believe these capital investments, if supported and funded as proposed, will help make our County safer, more efficient, and more future-ready.

Thank you for your time, your trust, and your continued support of this important work.

Thank you. I'm happy to take any questions.

Chairman Chagnon: Are there any questions for the chairman of the Planning Board?

Seeing none, Doug, they are going to go easy on you tonight. But I'm not going to be so easy on you. I want to thank you and the members of the Planning Board for providing this service to the entire county and most importantly you and your board worked diligently on this to produce a terrific report and you do it all as volunteers. So, thank you and thank you to the entire board.

Doug Bowen: You're welcome. Thank you.

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Chairman Chagnon: Okay, Olivia. Take us away.

Clerk Lee: There are no veto messages from County Executive Wendel from the May 28, 2025 legislature meeting.

**VETO MESSAGES FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE WENDEL**  
**NO VETOES FROM 05/28/2025**

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Clerk Lee: There are 10 communications listed on the agenda. Our office has also received an additional communication that was received after the agenda was finalized. This communication will be #11 - a letter from Pamela J. May, former director of Health Services at Cassadaga Job Corps. It was received by Legislator Larson for inclusion in the correspondence. In it she expresses her support for Job Corps. If you would like a copy of any of these items, please let our office know.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Letter – Memorandum Re: Chautauqua County Purchasing Policy – Kristen M. Wright, First Assistant County Attorney
2. Minutes – Conewango Watershed Commission – May 14, 2025 Meeting
3. Affidavit of Publication (2) – Legal Notice – Local Law Intro 2-25 Regulating the Use of Public and Private Sewers and Drains in  
Sewer Districts Established by the County of Chautauqua (Post Journal and Observer)
4. Affidavit of Publication (2) – Legal Notice – Local Law Intro 3-25 Continuing Additional Mortgage Tax (Post Journal and Observer)
5. Affidavit of Publication (2) – Legal Notice – Local Law Intro 4-25 Residency Requirements for Assistant Attorney Titles (Post  
Journal and Observer)
6. Letter – Memorandum Re: Land Bank Acquisition(s) – Gina C. Paradis
7. Letter – NYS Agricultural and Markets – Acknowledgement of Resolution 141-25
8. Report – Finance Director Kitty Crow, Re: April 2025 Investment Report
9. Letter – NYS Department of Taxation and Finance – 2025 State Equalization Rates
10. LETTER – NYS Department of State – Acknowledgement of Local Law 2-25, 3-25 & 4-25

11. Letter – Legislator Larson on behalf of Pamela May, Former Director of Health Services at Cassadaga Job Corps – Support for Job Corps

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Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. At this time on our agenda, we have a Public Hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

START TIME: 6:57 PM

**A Public Hearing on Ground Lease with  
The Aerie JHW LLC at  
Chautauqua County Airport Jamestown**

Chairman Chagnon: Is there anyone to present? Seeing no one, I will open the Public Hearing for anyone who would like to make comments on the proposed Ground Lease. Any comments or questions for the Public Hearing? Anyone to speak to the Public Hearing? Seeing no one, I will close the Public Hearing.

END TIME: 6:58 PM

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Legislator Bankoski: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make a MOTION to block 167-25 – 170-25. SECONDED by Legislator Gustafson. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED to block.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**167-25 Confirm Re-Appointment – Jamestown Community College Board of Trustees, by  
Administrative Services Committee**

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**168-25 Confirm Appointment – Traffic Safety Board, by Public Safety Committee**

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**169-25 Confirm Appointment to Chautauqua County Planning Board, by Planning &  
Economic Development Committee**

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**170-25 Confirm Appointments – Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority (STERA)  
Board of Directors, by Planning & Economic Development Committee**

## UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**171-25 Confirm Re-Appointments - Chautauqua County Land Bank Board of Directors, by Planning & Economic Development Committee**

Legislator Larson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. At the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting, this resolution contains as I recall, eleven individuals to be on our county Land Bank Board of Directors. The Land Bank's purpose is to deal with serious housing issues in the county. Unfortunately, the City of Jamestown which is over 20% of the county's population, has tremendous housing issues. I noticed out of the eleven members, there were none from the City of Jamestown. Confusing to those from the City of Jamestown. There was one appointee who has a Jamestown 14701 address. That is not unusual. While the city has about 28,000 people at the last census, I believe that 14701 zip code has about 40,000 people in it. Since the Land Bank is so relevant and important to the City of Jamestown, I raised the question, the issue to me that just randomly appointing good people to the board, would have at least two of eleven from Jamestown – if not three. The response was, we these people have treated Jamestown well. It could well be, but these boards should fairly represent the City of Jamestown. Especially on an issue of housing. So, I voted no in committee, one other member voted no. And that's the reason why. It has nothing to do with the qualifications or the dedication of these eleven people. Just by law of averages, the county should be able to find a couple people out of 28,000 in Jamestown, that would be good representatives on the Land Bank Board of Directors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Legislator Bankoski: Two questions: One being, the make-up of this committee, is there designation in there that three from Jamestown, two from Dunkirk, one north county, one south county? Is there any demographic make-up of the committee, or is it just ad hoc committee?

Chairman Chagnon: I'm not familiar with the Charter of the committee, so perhaps Legislator Scudder or Mr. Geise could answer that.

Legislator Scudder: I can answer that. As far as I know, there is none. It is a Chautauqua County Land Bank so. If you are a resident of the county, you are qualified, and if you are willing, that's a big word, willing to serve on the board. So, we tend to be happy when people volunteer or we ask them if they are willing to do it. We usually ask three or four and one person says yes. But there is no requirement as to how many are(*inaudible*).

Legislator Bankoski: So, just my other question was: was anybody, did we try to recruit anybody from the Jamestown area to represent that? I mean, if we did and no one wanted to then I don't have a problem. But if no one was asked. . .

Chairman Chagnon: These appointments are made by the County Executive, so perhaps the County Executive could give us some insight to answer that question?

County Executive Wendel: Names get presented to us of people that are eligible. If it's a requirement, please give us names from the City of Jamestown of the 28,000 and we would gladly appoint somebody. At this point, nobody's reached out said we would like to be part of this.

Legislator Scudder: We heard some concerns about the representation from the City of Jamestown. Let me just give you a few facts about the Land Bank. This is since the inception of the Land Bank. The Land Bank has touched 273 properties in Jamestown. That represents 54.5% of the inventory. So, the City, 54.5% of the properties we've been involved with came from the City of Jamestown. For comparison, 23.8% are from the City of Dunkirk. And 21.7% are scattered around the rest of the county. So, Jamestown has seen the bulk of the action from the Land Bank. Another, and this is a conservative estimate, we've done over 200 demos in the City of Jamestown. That's 58% of the demos, demolitions, for those of you at home, that have occurred in the county. So, 58% were in the City of Jamestown. The average cost for demo is \$30,000, so there has been over a 6-million-dollar investment just in demos in the City of Jamestown. So, while we feel there might be an imbalance in representation, the City of Jamestown is definitely part of the Chautauqua County Land Bank. Thank you.

Legislator Larson: Mr. Chairman, those figures come as no surprise. They really make the case. That sadly, the City of Jamestown's housing problems are immense. We wouldn't expect the Land Bank to be demolishing houses in Chautauqua Institution, we wouldn't expect a lot of demolition in the beautiful village of Lakewood or beautiful village of Fredonia. Fifty percent or so of houses being addressed or demolished in the City of Jamestown actually proves the problem that the City of Jamestown faces. I can't even unfortunately tell you that over 200 demolitions is a good start in the City of Jamestown. Before asbestos remediation, analysis, the late (*inaudible*) could have taken a bulldozer for about \$8,000 a house and cleared 500 houses in Jamestown (*inaudible*) a good start. There is no, in my comments, at the committee meeting and here, no question about the individuals being named. It just stuck out to me that a one community with 50% of the obvious housing needs to all these (*inaudible*) ought to have one or two directors from that sadly afflicted community. Thanks.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**172-25 Authorize the Renewal of Lease Agreement with the Town of Chautauqua, by Public Facilities, Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees**

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**173-25 Authorize Lease Agreement at the Chautauqua County-Jamestown Airport (JHW) for parking lot space with Federal Express Corporation, A Delaware Corporation, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees**

Legislator Larson: The news this week about Federal Express apparently closing an operation in Erie Pennsylvania area, consolidating at our airport facility, is a rare occasion where

the Jamestown area is a winner in a consolidation. Two economic development stories this week seem to have a common theme probably, and that is the importance of interstate 86. Maplevale Foods, they apparently wish to leave their current location in the Town of Ellicott. I think it's just outside the village line on Allen St. Extension. They wish to move their operation to the Findley Lake area. And so, Fed Ex wishes to move it's Erie part of its operation to Jamestown Airport (JHW) Chautauqua County Airport. It looks like the thing they have in common is both businesses have figured out that thanks to Interstate 86 they apparently can serve the southern Chautauqua County area and probably southern Catt County area and the Erie area from the facility locations that they have settled upon. So, again, good news for the Jamestown area with Fed Ex, maybe 100 employees or more, bad news in a way for the greater Jamestown, Falconer, Ellicott area that 200 and some jobs wish to move near the Pennsylvania line, still in Chautauqua County. For those that say well as long as they stay within the county, we should be happy, agreed, if the county is convinced that the business would have moved to another state, in this case Pennsylvania, if we didn't offer help to relocate within our county. But in general, over the decades, our County Industrial Development Agency has not, in general, offered up its benefits, pilots, low interest loans, grants, for a business in one Chautauqua County community to relocate to another. I think that's been a good general policy, but when a company makes a convincing threat that they are going to move unless they get what they want, I understand the difficult – between a rock and a hard place that the county itself and its IDA is placed. So, but in general, lets celebrate Fed Ex consolidating here instead of Erie. Thank you.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**174-25 Authorize Ground Lease with The Aerie JHW LLC at Chautauqua County Airport, Jamestown by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees**

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**175-25 Authorize Acceptance of 2025 Crimes Against Revenue Program (“CARP”) Funds, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees**

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**176-25 Authorize Acceptance of the Statewide Targeted Reductions to Intimate Partner, Violence (“STRIVE”) Grant funds for 2025-2026, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees**

Legislator Bankoski: Just a brief comment on this. When we were in Public Safety last Wednesday, Mr. Noel Guttman, when he was getting ready to speak about this, his radio went off and that was the incident that involved the shooting in Mina, where the deputy got shot at by the parent and the son who were having a domestic dispute at the time. Unfortunately, they had to discharge their weapons and unfortunately, the individual passed due to his actions. But what this grant is about, its about domestic violence and funding. So, this year with this grant it's what we've got into four parts where the District Attorney is going to get some money, and the Public



Defender, the Chautauqua County Deputy's are going to get some money, and the City of Jamestown. But we were in a discussion about this. This money is just not earmarked for those four entities, which here is a five-year grant where after this year we can move some of that money around to other municipalities to try to help out with that domestic violence issue. So, obviously its just not our little fiefdom here. Next year we can send some money to Mina to help some address issues there or whatever. Just a sad issue and its countywide its just not for those four departments. Thank you.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**177-25 Authorizing Agreement for the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees**

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**178-25 Authorizing Agreement for the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program Community Accessibility and Inclusion Component, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees**

Legislator Johnson: Just to be sure. I understand these are *(inaudible)* Do they bring along any spending from county funds with it, required or otherwise?

Chairman Chagnon: Is there anyone who can answer Legislator Johnson's questions in the back row?

Lacey Wilson: *(answer could not be reproduced)*

Legislator Johnson: *(inaudible)*

Legislator Johnson: I think at the County levels spending *(inaudible)*

Chairman Chagnon: That's what you said *(inaudible)*. Are you satisfied?

Legislator Johnson: Yes, sir.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**179-25 Transfer American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Plan Budgets from 2024 to 2025 (Interfund Transfers to Capital Projects), by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees**

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**180-25 Amend Department of Finance 2025 Budget for Equipment Purchases, by**

## Administrative Services and Audit &amp; Control Committees

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**181-25 Investment Policy for the County of Chautauqua**, by Audit & Control Committee

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**182-25 Financial Management Policy for the County of Chautauqua**, by Audit & Control Committee

Legislator Larson: The Investment Policy and the Financial Management Policy resolutions 181 and 182. The reason we are doing that tonight is section 2.05 of our Charter called Power and Duties of the Legislature and it says on at least an annual basis prior to the County Executive's preparation of the Tentative Budget, the County Legislature shall adopt by resolution a comprehensive Financial Management Policy and an Investment Policy and shall adopt by resolution goals and objectives as well as specific performance measures for those goals and objectives which shall be utilized in the formation of the budget and in measuring the success of its implementation. I have tried to get this point across for most of a year and a half now. Especially in the Planning and Economic Development Committee, I can't claim an overwhelming success. But these two resolutions tonight simply allow me to make the observation that, while in baseball going two for three is terrific – in complying with the Chautauqua County Charter – doing two of the three tasks each year is not what we're supposed to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

**183-25 Setting Transportation Stipend - Chautauqua County Coroners**, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees

Clerk Lee: Mr. Chairman, I believe that needed to be roll call.

Legislature Parliamentarian (*Steve Abdella via ZOOM*): Yes, Mr. Chairman that should have been roll call.

Chairman Chagnon: That's a voice from the ethernet who sounds an awful like Steve Abdella. (*laughter*) Thank you Mr. Abdella.

Legislature Parliamentarian: You're welcome.

Chairman Chagnon: Would the Clerk please call the roll on Resolution 183-25?

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED – *R/C Vote: 19 Yes; 0 No*

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**MOTION:****A. Supporting Job Corps**

Clerk Lee: The MOTION on the agenda has received the required amount of signatures to bring to the floor. **MOTION A Supporting Job Corps.**

Chairman Chagnon: Any comments, any questions, any discussion on the motion?

Legislator Larson: Mr. Chairman, a number of the legislators were aware that I was not a fan of motions coming back to this body last year, and I am not. Why this one? Well, because the Cassadaga Job Corps in Cassadaga means that getting rid of Job Corps is putting a direct almost unique impact within New York State and Chautauqua County. News reports are that there are about 100 jobs that the Job Corps in Cassadaga and only about 500 in the whole State of New York. So, the only reason that I took part in this motion is because its not something that effects the whole nation equally. It has a direct harmful almost unique impact on Chautauqua County. We need the jobs and our employers desperately need the trained workers. So, I doubt that I'll sponsor, be a sponsor of a motion this year. That's why I thought this one was darn near unique to our county. Thank you.

Legislator Scudder: Just a comment. I did not support this with my signature. I will support it with a vote. And, I remember the discussion a year ago about eliminating motions and I was all for it. Also, the good news is, I will never sponsor a motion. The problem with motions is your kind of as a legislator put on-the-spot. If you don't vote in favor – most of them aren't a negative impact motion – and honestly myself, I don't know a lot about Job Corps. I don't know if it's successful, I don't know if it's not – you hear different reports and different opinions. But what really concerned me is, here we go – we have a motion in front of us. And I know Legislator Larson justified why he did it, it's just that if we all – we can all justify why we bring a motion to the legislature. I promise you – everyone in this room– I will never bring a motion to the floor. That's not an attack on Mr. Larson, I'm just very disappointed to see a motion on the agenda. It's been very refreshing for almost the last year or two not having the discussion. And here we are spending another seven minutes of our meeting speaking about a motion and I am the one that's doing the yacking. But that's all I got for right now. Thank you.

Legislator Nelson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In my 39 years in education, I witnessed time and again the one size fits all approach doesn't work for every student. Far too often we try to force square pegs into round holes, and the Job Corps offers a meaningful alternative to give young people the opportunity to build both academic knowledge and vocational skills that can carry them toward self-sufficiency and long-term success. So, I fully support the motion and want to commend the County Executive for his ongoing commitment to the Job Corps program. Thank you.

Legislator Larson: I will take up Legislator Scudder's challenge. I will promise the 18 of you that this is a one-and-done for me. Thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Any other comments or questions on the motion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye.

*MOTION CARRIED*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Chagnon: And that ladies and gentlemen, brings us to announcements. Are there any announcements in this wonderful season of the year for the good of the order? Any announcements? I don't see any hands going up. Okay, I guess there are no announcements tonight.

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## 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.

Chairman Chagnon: Is there anyone wishing to address the 2<sup>nd</sup> Privilege of the Floor? Ma'am, please step to the microphone. Please give us your name and your address – just the microphone right there.

Rachel Brown: My name is Rachel Brown and I live in Greenhurst. This has to do with Job Corps. Chautauqua County stands to lose 17 million dollars annually if Job Corps closes. Donald Trump is trying to eliminate Job Corps, saying the move will save taxpayers money. He has instructed the Department of Labor to shutter all 99 centers across the county by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Here in Chautauqua County, this means 100 people will lose their jobs and 190 students currently enrolled will lose access to job training, housing and health care. Job Corps was established more than 60 years ago to help poor and disadvantaged youth between the ages of 16-24 learn a trade. It has provided a stable environment where basic necessities of food and shelter are met. It connects graduates with employers in a variety of fields, from construction to healthcare. The push to abolish the program came following a Department of Labor report by a DOGE staffer who used misleading information and arguably false analysis. The report-based findings on a year during the COVID 19 Pandemic when restrictions on enrollment limited the number of students, in order to assert that the cost per student was too high. In fact, the budget for Job Corps campus operations has not increased for 8 years, despite inflation. The report also claimed the average annual income of a Job Corps graduate is \$16,695. In actuality, the average starting wage is \$17.13/hour, closer to \$36,000 a year. The starting wage for our local Job Corps graduates is \$19.30 and hour. Another false claim was that the graduation rate was just 38.6%. It

has historically been greater than 60%. This is a program that contributes \$17 million annually to Chautauqua County. As the second poorest county in New York State, the loss of that revenue will be keenly felt. In the village of Cassadaga, where Job Corps is one of the biggest water customers, the shutdown will result in higher fees for residents. I attended the press conference and rally to save Cassadaga Job Corps earlier this month. The fire hall in Stockton was filled to capacity with supporters. I stood at the back because all the seats were taken to listen to testimonials from both students and staff. One graduate said he'd been homeless, "couch-surfing" at friends' houses because his mother was battling drug addiction. He said Job Corps saved his life. As he told his story I glanced at the Job Corps employee standing to my right, she was wiping tears from her face. There were many moving success stories about the pride people felt when they could finally take care of themselves. Letters were displayed from a variety of employers and organizations, as well as town and local officials and individuals. Most were addressed to Donald Trump directly, pleading with him to change course. These included Absolut Care of Westfield, Union Local 276, Chautauqua County Rural Ministry of Dunkirk, highway superintendents and others from the town of Portland, Silver Creek and Stockton, ASPIRE, the League of Women Voters, the IDA...

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you.

Legislator Larson: Mr. Chairman, a point of order. The lady speaking, if she has her extended remarks in writing, can that not be given to the Clerk?

Chairman Chagnon: Yes, please give those to the Clerk so they can be part of the record.

Rachel Brown: Can I read the rest of my remarks?

Chairman Chagnon: Please give them, and they will be part of the record in writing.  
*(Additional written document submitted by Rachel Brown after the 3-minute time limit)*

*... the Mayor of Jamestown, Kim Ecklund, employees of Job Corps, and others. Many pointed out that Chautauqua County voted overwhelmingly for Trump, believing he would take us in the direction we needed to go. Now, we face the prospect of diminishing returns on our tax dollars, as the cost of goods and services go up and benefits are reduced. Promises to crack down on criminals who were here illegally has turned into rounded up people at Home Depot who are just trying to work. People following all the rules, checking in at scheduled immigration hearings, are whisked away by men who don't identify themselves. There is a crisis brewing when it comes to filling all sorts of jobs. I don't think this is what people thought would happen when they voted for Trump. There are questions about whether Trump's DOL even has the authority to shut down a program that Congress already allocated funds for. But Nick Langworthy and the rest of the GOP seem only too willing to hand over the "power of the purse". Our congressman says he has to "study" the situation further before taking action. He has said he will talk to the administrators of Job Corps to clear up questions raised by the DOL report. I hope he does because time is running out. Mayor Ecklund's letter to the president concluded with this request, "We ask that your administration make a clear and lasting*

*commitment to the tradespeople of tomorrow by continuing to support the Job Corps program. There young people want to work. They want to contribute. They want to become taxpaying citizens who strengthen our economy and communities. Please let them."*

Stephanie Nick: Stephanie Nick, from the Village of Falconer. I guess, I just want to add to the Job Corps issue. My son was a member of Job Corps. He was not doing well in (*inaudible*) classes. Was picked up by Job Corps and was able to live there. Completely turned things around, was doing excellent and then within two weeks of him graduating from the program, he was told that it needed to be shut down and he was put on a bus, dropped off in Buffalo because he said he had a place to go. Which – he did. And left in Buffalo in the middle of the night. He is now staying with a friend but, I guess the point is, these kids they are young. They have no idea what they are doing. They think oh I'll find a place to stay and it's not easy. Losing this program with no real exit opportunities is really difficult as a parent, as a person who is part of Job Corps essentially. So, along with what the last person has said, I guess I just want to say that losing Job Corps is a real loss to Chautauqua County and while it might not have been the best program for every kid there, for a lot of kids it was a (*inaudible*)

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Anyone else for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Privilege of the Floor?

Jim Wehrfritz: Hello again, Jim Wehrfritz, from the Town of Ellery, president of the Chautauqua Lake Property Owners Association, the CLPOA. I'll speak to you tonight but I've also emailed my comments to the County Executive, in case he prefers reading them from his phone while I'm talking.

Chairman Chagnon: Jim, please be respectful.

Jim Wehrfritz: I am being respectful.

Chairman Chagnon: Please be respectful. You are addressing the legislature, not the County Executive.

Jim Wehrfritz: First, the CLPOA will hold wetlands public meeting #11, it's thirteenth, on Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 11:00 AM at the Bemus Point Golf Club and Tap House. We've invited the County Executive to come to the meeting to provide his perspective on the new wetland's regulations and their implications for the lake and the county. We are waiting for a response. You have all watched the DEC run rough shot over Chautauqua Lake, private property along the shoreline, and across the county with its new wetlands' regulations. The County of Chautauqua Lake cash cow is being devalued by New York State in front of our eyes. Only five months into the regulations over three thousand acres have been designated wetlands with common activities restricted. That's 70% of the lake shallow water, the (*inaudible*) zone, and over 20% of our entire lake. Additionally, hundreds of acres of private property, 100 feet up onto the shoreline and under hundreds of homes, is now restricted. County Executive Wendel, please use your relationship with DEC regional director O'Neal, to identify what in the regulations allows the in-lake action she has taken. We can't find it. Now changing gears. We recently heard the County Executive proclaim that he has decided to reevaluate the structure and bylaws of the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Association

– the alliance. This is an Ad Hoc group which has operated as a County agency with IRS 501c3 and New York State nonprofit corporation status for the last twelve years. Unfortunately, the alliance’s organizational design, its structure and its bylaws were flawed at the outset. Its structure was determined by political expediency instead of clear improvement objectives and without the necessary authority to manage the lake. Although its directed tens of millions of dollars of local foundation and taxpayer funds to lake and watershed projects it has been unsuccessful improving lake conditions. Now the county will attempt to operate the secretive organization that will not work. A completely new organization, a centralized lake authority as proposed by County Executive Borrello in 2019 is required. It must have the legal authority to manage the lake. Authority the alliance currently exercises but clearly lacks. Tentative plans heard thus far, fail this test. Although the County Executive and the county Legislature may believe they can handle the task – that has not been the case with similar efforts over the past several decades. And we are certain they will need help. The County with elected County and Municipality representatives not the alliance must contract an organizational design consultant with appropriate and specific organizational design skills and experience for the task. Such a consultant will take the county back to first principles. Defining clear and quantifiable lake improvement objectives and ensure lake area taxpayers are formally represented by a balanced group of municipal and county elected representatives answerable to taxpayers. No lake maintenance contractors, no ancillary organizations, no special interest groups and no foundations. As a distributor of County and State taxpayer funds, the new organization must be subject to New York State open meeting laws with public participation in all its meetings. It must be subject to the Freedom of Information Act with its documents available to the public upon request. After decades of failure let us not play amateur hour with lake management organization once again. Legislators please, be smart about this and insist on a centralized lake authority agreed by all in the memorandum of agreement in 2019, and contract professionals to design an organization for our lake. Thank you.

Legislator Nelson: I feel like if I go through this, people will be disappointed. Each year in my U.S. History classes I discuss the War Powers Act passed in 1973. And I did this in part because it was on the New York State curriculum and it could be a question on the students Regent’s exam. But more importantly, I wanted our students to know, to understand, that there are limits to the President’s power to fight undeclared wars. Article One, as you guys know, of the Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war. Article Two, says the President is the Commander-in-Chief of the Military. Most legal scholars agree that the founders intended to separate the power to initiate a war, or the power to run a war, once it began, leaving the President able only to repel sudden attacks without first going to Congress. In 1973, at the end of the Vietnam War, Congress tried to limit the power of the President to fight undeclared wars by passing the War Powers Act. The Act requires the President to notify Congress within 48 hours of deploying armed forces in any case where a war was not formally declared. Under the law of the military action, it must end within 60 days unless Congress declares or grants an extension. The resolution also says the President may only introduce forces into hostilities with congressional approval or if the United States has been attacked. President Nixon vetoed the Bill, but Congress overrode the veto with a two-thirds vote. While I would agree that the world is safer if Iran does not have nuclear weapons. And many presidents in the modern era, both democrats and republicans have carried out military strikes without congressional authorization, I believe, and many believe, that the President’s, Trumps decision, to bomb the three nuclear sites in Iran, was unconstitutional because we were not attacked. Also, this decision runs the risk of deeper

U.S. entanglements in the Middle East and do what President Trump promised he wouldn't do, which is to engage the U.S. in endless forever wars. Thank you.

Legislator Niebel: Yes, I'd just like to mention to my learned colleague to my left, that he didn't mention anything about Libya. Their President Obama authorized tomahawk strikes on Libya and we had a Secretary of State at the time said we came, we saw, he died. If that wasn't a violation of the War Powers Act, I don't know what was. Thank you.

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MOVED by Legislator Anthony SECONDED by Legislator Scudder to adjourn.

*Unanimously Carried (7:40 p.m.)*

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,  
Nancy Quattrone, Senior Stenographer & Olivia L. Lee, Clerk of the Legislature