

Minutes  
Planning & Economic Development Committee  
**June 18, 2025, 6:00 pm, Legislative Chambers**  
**Livestreamed on YouTube**  
**Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY**

Members Present: Harmon, Gustafson, Penhollow, Dickey, Larson, Johnson

Others: Chagnon, Lee, Swan, Zafuto, Geise, Aldrich, Wurster, McCoy, DeJoy, Proctor, Jablonski, Nicks

**Complete video of meeting can be viewed on YouTube**

Chairman Harmon called the meeting to order at (6:00 p.m.)

Approval of Minutes (05/21/25)

MOVED by Legislator Gustafson, SECONDED by Legislator Penhollow.

*Unanimously Carried*

Privilege of the Floor

Legislator Larson: Mr. Chairman. The- as we've gone over a number of times, the Charter, the Code and our own rules call upon this committee to set goals, objectives and measurements for the coming year for our county government when it comes to economic development. I supplied a draft to this committee a month or so ago. There was a critique of it, which I would expect on a draft. The question I have is, can we work on this as a group this evening, try to come up with language that the committee is comfortable with submitting to the legislature? Did anybody draft an alternative to Legislator Larson's economic development goals, objectives, and measurements? It's not on the agenda and I know that the procedure we've used is that if you want to bring up something that is not on the agenda to bring it up under Privilege of the Floor or forever hold your peace, or at least until the next month. So, my question Mr. Chairman is sometime during the meeting are you willing to entertain a discussion of the people's ideas of goals, objectives, and measurements that we probably are not going to get this on the June legislature agenda, but maybe we could if we talked about it tonight. It's uncommon ground here. We could have something for July?

Chairman Harmon: Right, let's discuss this at the very end of the meeting.

Legislator Larson: Great.

Chairman Harmon: Under "other" if we can do that. Has everyone had a chance to take a look at what Fred sent?

Legislator Johnson: Yes, if I may (*inaudible*) to that suggestion. Is, time limited, but if at the end of the meeting, we have a real short agenda otherwise. Let's just dedicate an open and close half hour to discuss this.

Chairman Harmon: Twenty-five minutes?

Legislator Johnson: Okay. I won't argue with you.

Legislator Larson: Mr. Chairman. By virtue of being in the room for the prior committee meeting. I think the record would show there was about a twenty-five-minute discussion of one bus. So, if we held ourselves to twenty-five minutes on ...

Chairman Harmon: I was just being facetious sir.

Legislator Larson: Fred wasn't.

Legislator Johnson: Not only that but it's a start.

(*Cross talk*)

Legislator Larson: I was just interested Mr. Chairman, trying as I might to encourage the legislature to be a policy-making body, the contrast between what we can discuss tonight – goals, objectives and measurement for economic development for all of next year by county government, compared to a committee spending twenty, twenty-five minutes on one bus. I think that's not policy-making. And, so here is a chance that we can do what the charter, code and our own rules asks us to do, and do it at the close of the meeting – it would be wonderful. Thank you for that.

Chairman Harmon: Thank you. Anyone else for privilege? See none. We will be on to the first resolution.

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Proposed Resolution – Confirm Appointment to Chautauqua County Planning Board – *Presented by Rebecca Wurster, Planning Coordinator for the Department of Planning and Development*

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Appointments – Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority (STERA) Board of Directors – *Presented by Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development*

*MOVED by Legislator Gustafson, SECONDED by Legislator Johnson to Amend by Substitution in bold (as shown below) - Unanimously Carried to Amend*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY</b>  <b>RESOLUTION NO. _____</b></p> <p><b>TITLE:</b> Confirm Appointments – Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority (STERA)  Board of Directors</p> <p><b>BY:</b> Planning &amp; Economic Development Committee:</p> <p><b>AT THE REQUEST OF:</b> County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.:</p> <p>WHEREAS, County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr. has submitted the following appointments for action by the Chautauqua County Legislature; therefore be it</p> <p>RESOLVED, That the Chautauqua County Legislature does hereby confirm the following appointments to the Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority (STERA) Board of Directors.</p> <p><b>Rosie Strandburg</b>  <b>320 Maplecrest Ave.</b>  <b>Lakewood, NY 14750</b>  <b>Term Expires: 12/31/26</b>  <b>(Replacing Richard Dixon)</b></p> <p>Thomas Harmon  72 Lake Ave Ext,  Silver Creek, New York 14136  Term Expires: 12/31/27  (New Appointment)</p>
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*Unanimously Carried as Amended*

Other –

Late Resolution – Confirm Re-Appointments - Chautauqua County Land Bank Board of Directors – *Presented by Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development*

*Carried with Legislator Johnson and Legislator Larson voting “No”*

Discussion – Evaluation and Prioritization of 2% Occupancy Tax Grant Program Applications – *Presented by Dave McCoy, Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator, Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development*

Discussion – Benchmarks, Goals & Objectives for Planning Department – *Presented by Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development*

Motion – Support Job Corps – *Legislator Fred Larson*

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MOVED by Legislator Larson, SECONDED by Legislator Dickey to adjourn.

*Unanimously Carried (7:06 p.m.)*

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