

Chautauqua County Legislature
Live Streamed on YouTube
Wednesday, April 22, 2026 6:30 p.m.
Mayville, N.Y. 14757

Chairman Chagnon called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Chairman Chagnon: I will call to order the meeting of the Chautauqua County Legislature on April 22, 2026. Would the Clerk please call the roll?

Clerk Lee called the roll and announced a quorum present. (1 Absent; Pavlock)

Legislator Merritt delivered the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Gustafson and duly carried the minutes were approved. (03/25/26)

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. Seeing no one, I will close the first privilege of the floor.

**STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS
BY**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE PAUL M. WENDEL, JR.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGcSyLHUzJc>

Opened
7:07 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

*A Public Hearing Regarding a Supplemental Agreement with the
Federal Aviation Administration to Construct, Operate, and Maintain Navigational
Aids at the Chautauqua County Jamestown Airport*

Chairman Chagnon: Is there anyone to speak to the first public hearing? Anyone to speak to the first public hearing? Hearing none, we will close the first public hearing.

Closed
7:08 P.M.

Opened
7:08 P.M.

A Public Hearing Regarding 2026 Agricultural District Inclusions

Good evening, my name is Lauren Sharp. I'm a Senior Planner with the Counties Department of Planning and Development. I help facilitate the Chautauqua County Agricultural District Program. The Chautauqua County Legislature is responsible for the Chautauqua County Ag Districts numbers 1, 7, 8 and 10 and accordance with New York State Department of Agricultural and Markets, the yearly inclusion period was held from January 2nd to January 31st. Land owners submitted requests for land to be added to the Ag District during the month of January. The Chautauqua County Agricultural and farmland protection board reviewed the requests and recommended for the 4 requested parcels to be added to the existing Ag Districts, thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Is there anyone else wishing to address the public hearing regarding the 2026 Agricultural District Inclusions? Anyone else for the public hearing? Seeing no one, I will close the public hearing.

Closed
7:10 P.M

Opened
7:10 P.M.

A Second Public Hearing for Chautauqua County Microenterprise Assistance Program Community Development Block Grant

Good evening, my name is Stephanie Nick and I am the Special Projects Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development. This public hearing is being held pursuant to the requirements of the Community Development Block Grant Program. We are required to complete a list of people attending the hearing so we ask members of the public to please sign the attendance sheet. Chautauqua County was awarded \$200,000 in funding by the New York State Office of Community Renewal. Through the Community Development Block Grant program to implement a microenterprise assistance program that provided entrepreneurial training and grants to eligible microenterprise businesses in Chautauqua County, but outside of the entitlement communities of the City of Jamestown and the City of Dunkirk. Municipalities awarded CDBG Funding are required to hold a second public hearing during the implementation phase of the program. The hearing is for the purpose of one, providing a general update on the status of the program and two, soliciting public comment. Chautauqua County was awarded a \$200,000 grant from OCR. \$170,000 of the grant was available to provide grants to microenterprise businesses and the rest of the funds were used to pay administrative and program delivery costs. The program is being implemented by Chautauqua Opportunities for

Development and the full \$170,000 has been awarded to the last four microenterprises who are now awaiting disbursement. Grant have been awarded to eight total microenterprise businesses throughout the County. Awards ranged in size from \$11,000 to \$25,000 and were used for furnishings, fixtures and equipment. Inventory and other working capital expenses. Two full time equivalent employment positions have been created through the first 4 awards. Any person wishing to make comments regarding the program's implementation is now invited to do so.

Chairman Chagnon: Is there anyone wishing to address the public hearing? Anyone wishing to address the public hearing? Seeing no one, I will close the public hearing.

Closed
7:13 P.M

Clerk Lee: There are no veto messages from County Executive Wendel from the March 25, 2026 Legislature meeting.

VETO MESSAGES FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE WENDEL
NO VETOES FROM 03/25/26

Clerk Lee: There are 9 communications on the agenda, if you would like a copy of any of these items, please let our office know.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter – NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets – Re: Chautauqua County Agricultural District No. 10 Eight-Year Review
2. Letter – County Executive, Paul M. Wendel, Jr. – Re: Amendment to Chautauqua County Administrative Code
3. Letter – NYS Department of State – Acknowledgement of Local Law 1-26
4. Minutes – Conewango Watershed Commission – March 11, 2026
5. Invitation – Fluvanna Free Library Grand Re-Opening Celebration
6. Invitation – Clymer Tulip Festival
7. Affidavit of Publication (2) – Notice of Public Hearing Re: Supplemental Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration to Construct, Operate, and Maintain Navigational Aide at the Chautauqua County Jamestown Airport (Post Journal and Observer)
8. Affidavit of Publication (2) – Notice of Public Hearing Re: 2026 Inclusion Requests for Chautauqua County's Agricultural Districts (Post Journal and Observer)
9. Affidavit of Publication (2) – Notice of Public Hearing Re: Office of Community Renewal Grant Program Application (Post Journal and Observer)

RENEW & AMEND RES. NO. 13-26 – Authorize Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with NYSDOT for PIN 5764.60

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Gustafson to Renew Resolution 13-26 – Unanimously Carried to Renew

MOVED by Legislator Nelson, SECONDED by Legislator Vanstrom to Amend Resolution 13-26 to the version laid on the desks – Unanimously Carried to Amend (Amendments shown below)

RENEW AND AMEND
CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 13-26

TITLE: Authorize Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with NYSDOT for PIN 5764.60

BY: Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees:

AT THE REQUEST OF: County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.:

WHEREAS, Resolution 221-23 approved a project for the replacement of the Kortwright Road Bridge over Brokenstraw Creek, in the Town of Harmony, Chautauqua County, PIN 5764.60 (the "Project") and committed 100% of the Project's total cost; and

WHEREAS, the total cost is now estimated at ~~\$2,000,000~~; **\$2,400,000** to be borne at the ratio of 80% Federal funds and 20% non-federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the County of Chautauqua desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the additional Non-Federal Share for the Project's cost; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that New York State will provide reimbursement to the County equal to 75% of the Non-Federal share; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature of the County of Chautauqua hereby approves the advancement of the above-subject Project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the event the amount required to pay the full Federal and Non-Federal shares of the cost of the Project's phases exceeds the amount appropriated above, the County of Chautauqua shall convene its Legislature as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the New York State Department of Transportation thereof; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive of the County of Chautauqua be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary agreements, certifications and/or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid on behalf of the County of Chautauqua with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the County's first instance funding of Project costs and permanent funding of the local share of Federal-Aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefore that are not so eligible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary agreement in connection with the Project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the A Fund Balance is appropriated as follows:

INCREASE THE USE OF FUND BALANCE:

A.,878.0000	Reserved Fund Balance--Reserve for Capital	\$83,500
		\$103,500

; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately and that the Director of Finance is directed to make the following changes to the Capital budget:

INCREASE CAPITAL APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT:

A.9950.,9	Interfund Transfers - Transfer to Capital	\$83,500
		\$103,500

INCREASE CAPITAL APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT:

D.5112.389.4	Contractual - Funded Bridge Program	\$1,670,000
		\$2,070,000

INCREASE CAPITAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS:

D.5112.389.R358.9003	New York State Aid-Marchiselli Funds	-\$250,500
		\$310,500
D.5112.389.R458.9002	Federal Aid-Surface Transp Program	\$1,336,000
		\$1,656,000
D.5112.389.R503.1000	Interfund Transfers-Interfund Transfer	\$83,500
		\$103,500
	Total	\$1,670,000
		\$2,070,000

Unanimously Carried as Amended

**RES. NO. 100-26 – Annual Public Disclosure of Elected Officials’ Salaries, by
Administrative Services – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

RESOLUTIONS:

**101-26 Confirm Appointment– Chautauqua County Emergency Medical Services
Council, by Public Safety Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

**102-26 Confirm Appointment – Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board, by Public Safety
Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

**103-26 Confirm Re-Appointments and Appointment- Youth Board, by Human Services
Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

*MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Gustafson to block
resolutions 104-26 through 114-26 – Unanimously Carried to block*

**104-26 Amend 2025 Budget for Year End Reconciliations-North Chautauqua County
Water District, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees –
UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

**105-26 Amend 2025 Budget for DPF Capital Improvements – Funded Bridge Program, by
Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

**106-26 Amend 2025 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Department of Finance, by
Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY
ADOPTED**

**107-26 Amend 2025 Budget for Year End Reconciliations –Miscellaneous Department, by
Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY
ADOPTED**

**108-26 Amend 2025 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Capital and Inter-Fund
Accounts, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees –
UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

**109-26 Amend 2026 Budget for the Departments of County Clerk and Motor Vehicles, by
Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY
ADOPTED**

- 110-26 Amend Board of Elections 2026 Budget for Equipment Purchase**, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 111-26 Amend 2026 Budget for the Department of Probation**, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 112-26 Amend 2026 Budget for the Jail – Office of the Sheriff**, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 113-26 Amend Spending Plan and 2025 Budget for Chautauqua County Projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 114-26 Amend Spending Plan and 2026 Budget for Chautauqua County Projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

Chairman Chagnon: Now, are there any questions or comments on the blocked resolutions 104-114? Any comments or questions on any of the blocked resolutions?

Legislator Scudder: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to 107-26, just for public information, this amended resolution is to distribute an additional \$738,000 to municipalities in Chautauqua County and that's from sales tax revenue, thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Any other comments or questions on any of the blocked resolutions? Hearing none, all those in favor of resolutions 104-26 through 114-26, please say "aye", "opposed"? They are carried.

RES. NO. 104-26 through RES. NO. 114-26 – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

- 115-26 Transfer American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Plan Budgets from 2025 to 2026**, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees

Legislator Nelson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In just a few years, we will likely won't be discussing resolutions related to the American Rescue Plan Fund or ARPA, however, the lasting impact of this funding across Chautauqua County will remain. ARPA has supported a wide range of investments, programs, equipment, vehicles, training and more that have strengthened our communities and local government operations. These are tangible benefits that will continue to serve residents well into the future. The County received over 24 million dollars in ARPA funding so it is appropriate to take a moment and recognize this impact and express our appreciation. Credit should be given where credit is due and I believe it is fitting that we recognize former President Biden and his administration for making these investments possible in our community, thank you.

Legislator Johnson: Just in response, my grandson is very grateful to be lending President Biden and these expenses the funds to do this.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Any other comments or questions on the resolution? Hearing none, all those in favor please say “aye”, “opposed”?

RES. NO. 115-26 – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

116-26 Authorize Amendment to the Agreement between the NCLSD and the Town of Chautauqua for Sewage Treatment Services (19-28-03), by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

117-26 Authorize Lease of Office Space Between the Chautauqua County DPF and NYS Health Department Bureau of Communicable Diseases, by Public Facilities and Human Services Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

118-26 Authorize Granting of Utility Easements on Airport Property, by Public Facilities Committee

RES. NO. 118-26 R/C Vote: 18 YES; 0 NO; 1 Absent (Pavlock) – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

119-26 Apply for and Accept FAA and NYSDOT Funds to Rehabilitate Runway 13-31 at Chautauqua County Jamestown Airport (CONSTRUCTION), by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – Carried with Legislator Scudder Voting “No”

120-26 Apply for and Accept FAA and NYSDOT Funds for Purchase of SRE Equipment at Chautauqua County Jamestown Airport, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – Carried with Legislator Scudder Voting “No”

121-26 Authorize Public Hearing for Agreement between Chautauqua County and Schultz Airshows, LLC for Air Boss Services for the 2027 Chautauqua County Airshow at Chautauqua County Jamestown Airport, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

122-26 Authorize Public Hearing for Ground and Taxiway Lease with Baron North G58, LLC at Chautauqua County Dunkirk Airport, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

123-26 Prospective Cancellation of Uncollectible Tax Liens, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

124-26 Authorize Execution of New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Grant Community Outreach and Risk Reduction Program “COT” FY 2026, by

Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

- 125-26 Authorize Standardization of Axon-brand Camera and Software Products at the Chautauqua County Office of the Sheriff**, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 126-26 Authorize Agreement with Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Erie II BOCES for Culinary Arts Instruction 2026-2027**, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 127-26 Authorizing and Approving a Settlement Agreement in an Action Relation to the Opioid Crisis (Associated Pharmacies, Inc (and American Associated Pharmacies); J M Smith Corporation; Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.; Morris and Dickson Co.; North Carolina Mutual Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.; and United Natural Foods, Inc. (Including its Subsidiaries SuperValu and Advantage Logistics))**, by Human Services Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 128-26 Authorize Use of Lake Fund for Cassadaga Lakes Weed Survey**, by Planning and Economic Development and Audit & Control Committees – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 129-26 Accept State Environmental Quality Review Determinations for the New York State Snowmobile Trail Grant-in-Aid Program for 2026-2027 Snowmobile Season**, by Planning and Economic Development Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 130-26 Accept State Environment Quality Review of Proposed 2026 Agricultural District Inclusions**, by Planning and Economic Development Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 131-26 Determination of Chautauqua County Legislature on Proposed 2026 Agricultural District Inclusions**, by Planning and Economic Development Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
- 132-26 Appropriating Funding from the 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve for the National Comedy Center for Promotional Activities**, by Planning and Economic Development and Audit & Control Committees

Legislator Vanstrom: Chairman, colleagues, I strongly support resolution 132-26. The National Comedy Center has provided world class entertainment not just for our local communities, but it casts a wide net drawing a large number of visitors to the south county where visitors utilize lodging, dining, touring around our other local attractions and bringing in a very large amount of tourism money to our vendors and other retailers alike. So, I strongly support the spending of this 3% Occupancy Tax for this purpose.

Legislator Nelson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also support this. As a representative of the City of Jamestown, I fully support the appropriation of this funding for the Comedy Center but this investment benefits not only the city, but the County as a whole. I think using the bed tax funds in this way is both appropriate and strategic. It is a worthwhile investment that continues to strengthen tourism and economic activity throughout our County, thank you.

Legislator Larson: The other Nelson?

Chairman Chagnon: Larson, sorry. I'm stuck on Nelson tonight, sorry.

Legislator Nelson: Well, he's a nice fellow I can appreciate that. County Occupancy Tax dollars spent on promotion campaigns only make sense when there is a product worth promoting. There's an old story about a dog food company that spent millions on advertising campaign for their new dog food brand. But the new dog food did not sell. The company's President demanded to know why millions spent on an advertising campaign, did not sell the new dog food. The answer was, the dogs don't like it. Everyone likes the National Comedy Center. USA Today this year proclaims the National Comedy Center "best pop culture museum". Time Magazine a few years ago named it one of the "world's greatest places". US News and World Report named it one of the "25 top weekend getaways in the US". The total investment to create the National Comedy Center was in the neighborhood of 35 million dollars. The Congress of the United States passed a law designating this investment in Lucille Ball's hometown, the National Comedy Center. The challenge facing the National Comedy Center is getting a lot more visitors to come here. In the planning for the National Comedy Center, consultants predicted about 110,000 visitors a year, an average of 2,000 a week. While I have no inside information about the National Comedy Center, apparently about half that number or about 50,000 visit the National Comedy Center each year. How does the National Comedy Center reach its predicted potential? It appears the only way to achieve something like 110,000 visitors a year, would require lots of bus tours with 40 or 50 senior citizens on each bus from places like Pittsburg and Cleveland, 2 or 3 hours from Jamestown. This \$200,000 request is not from County Property Tax dollars or sales tax dollars. This \$200,000 is from Occupancy Tax dollars. The National Comedy Center's visitors already fill hotel rooms, there by paying our 5% Occupancy Tax as well as our 4% County sales tax on hotel rooms, meals and souvenirs. Promotion of this Chautauqua County treasure known as the National Comedy Center, is worth every penny of this \$200,000 request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Legislator Johnson: Well, I'm following on onto the dog food story. M&M- Mars, we all know that company and Forest Mars, one of the owners, had a saying that said "I know half my advertising works, I'm just not sure which one". So, when I saw this and I saw this was for advertising, I wanted more information and went back and forth and one of the things we learned in committee was that this \$200,000 brings in another \$500,000 from the State of New York for \$700,000 expenditures. Well, if you could spend \$200,000 and bring in \$500,000m I'm all for it. So, my reservations on the advertising expense went away. I support this.

Legislator DeJoy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to lend my full support for this expenditure of \$200,000 from the Occupancy Tax. As somebody that was involved from the very conceptual stage of the National Comedy Center to personally advocating to Governor Andrew Cuomo in my role as Director of Development for the City of Jamestown, the Comedy Center has lived up to its expectations in the presentation of what they provide in terms of an experiential visit to the Comedy Center and it does attract a great deal of people from outside. I personally, I open my home up to an Airbnb and that week I have guests from Canada, Pittsburgh and also from the Cleveland area so it just seems appropriate that this advertising should continue to attract more visitors into Jamestown and create more opportunities for Occupancy Tax revenue and greater investment in other projects that could have some positive collateral effects so, thank you very much.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Other comments or questions on the resolution? Hearing none, all those in favor please say “aye”, “opposed”? Carried.

RES. NO. 132-26 – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

133-26 Close Capital Projects - 2025 Year End Reconciliation, by Audit & Control Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

134-26 Authorizing Application to the NYS Office of the State Comptroller in Relation to the Extension of the Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer District Bounds From Midway State Park Through Point Chautauqua on the East Side of Chautauqua Lake, by Audit & Control Committee – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

135-26 Home Rule Legislation Request to Discontinue the Use of Reforestation Lands in the Towns of Ellery and Ripley; and the Designation of Lands for Parks Use in the Town of Arkwright, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees

Legislator Johnson: Yes, sir. I would like to propose a small clarifying amendment. I got a call earlier today from a very sharp-eyed constituent from Ripley and he was concerned about the 60-acre parcel mentioned in the resolution. At the end of the resolution, it is “RESOLVED that Chautauqua County Legislature will find and determine the above-described reforestation lands of Ellery and Ripley.” What we all thought it says it refers to two small parcels in Ripley, and so I would like to add a little bit in here to make sure that is what it says as well as what it means. And that would be in that 3 resolves up, right after Towns of Ellery and, so it would say “Towns of Ellery and specifically the .321 and the .413-acre parcels in Ripley” and that would clarify that the above described only deals with the immediately above described and not the whole thing. The fear of my constituent was that driving the 60-acre parcel in, would have something to do with that big solar project up there and I wanted to make it clear, it didn’t.

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, thank you. So, you’re making a motion to amend the resolution as you indicated?

Legislator Johnson: Yes, sir.

Chairman Chagnon: And is there a second?

MOVED by Legislator Johnson, SECONDED by Legislator Gustafson to Amend

Chairman Chagnon: Discussion on the motion to amend?

Legislator Scudder: Yeah, before I discuss this, I'm going to vote for this resolution whether its amended or it's not amended. But, speaking to the author of the resolution, the 6th whereas, if a may, if I can read it? I can read, it's that I don't have my readers on so if anybody's concerned there. "Whereas Chautauqua County wishes" – there we go. "Whereas Chautauqua County wishes to discontinue and sell the 40-acre reforestation parcel in the Town of Ellery and .321 acres and .413-acre parcels being part of the reforestation lands in the Town of Ripley". So, I think it does clearly state that its only talking those 2 sections out of those bigger parcels in Ripley. So, I'm discussing that I will not vote for this to be amended but I'm going to vote for it, whether it gets amended or not because it's a necessary resolution.

Chairman Chagnon: So, just to clarify, your opinion is that the amendment is not necessary?

Legislator Scudder: That is correct.

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, you're not opposed to the amendment, you just don't believe its necessary.

Legislator Scudder: I'm just making a comment.

Legislator Johnson: And certainly, I think that was the intent of what was written here, but when we discussed this, when it says "above described" the above described covers the whereas, the legislator just mentioned and way back at the first paragraph, the 60 acres, we wanted to make sure the 60 acres are out of there.

Chairman Chagnon: Right, so that's the intent of the amendment proposal?

Legislator Johnson: Amendment, to just be clear.

Legislator Scudder: And that whereas is located where it says the above, if you look on your paper, that is above, again, I'm willing to go either way but I think its already stated in here, thank you.

Legislator Bankoski: Would it be better if we just send this back for review?

Legislator Johnson: It's pretty simple.

Chairman Chagnon: Just a simple amendment. You would like to make another proposal?

Legislator Bankoski: I'm just saying if we need to discuss this some more to review, I'm asking our attorney if that would be better?

Nathan Harp, Legislature Parliamentarian: Not necessarily, but I think we should just have for the record - just if Legislator Johnson could repeat the exact language that's being proposed to be amended?

Legislator Johnson: Thank you and then you can see if I've done this right. So, right after the 2 words, "Ellery and" that followed from the line that begins above described, (*inaudible*).

Nathan Harp, Legislature Parliamentarian: This is in the first resolved clause?

Legislator Johnson: First resolved. So, it says "above described reforestation lands in the Towns of Ellery and" and now insert "specifically the .321 and .413 acre parcels in Ripley in" and that focusses this above described right where Legislator Scudder wants it which is 2 whereas' above and not way back at the beginning of the thing.

Chairman Chagnon: So, your opinion for Legislator Bankoski?

Nathan Harp, Legislature Parliamentarian: I don't see an issue with amending it. It's perhaps more of a clarification but if that's what the body wants to do.

Legislator Larson: I'll second it if it hasn't been seconded.

Chairman Chagnon: It has been seconded, thank you. Okay, other questions or comments on the motion to amend? Hearing none, all those in favor of amending resolution 135-26, please say "aye", "opposed"?

MOVED by Legislator Johnson, SECONDED by Legislator Gustafson to Amend by adding "specifically the .321 and .413 acre parcels in Ripley in" to the First Resolved Clause – Carried to Amend with Legislators Bankoski and Scudder Voting "No" on Amendment

Chairman Chagnon: Now, that resolution is amended and further discussion on the resolution 135-26 as amended? Any other questions or comments? Hearing none, would the clerk please call the roll?

RES. NO. 135-26 R/C Vote: 17 YES; 1 NO (Bankoski); 1 Absent (Pavlock) – ADOPTED

RESOLVED, that the Chautauqua County Legislature hereby finds and determines, the above-described reforestation lands in the Towns of Ellery and **specifically the 0.321 and 0.413 acre parcels in** Ripley are no longer needed for parks and reforestation purposes; and be it further

Carried as Amended with Legislator Bankoski Voting "No"

136-26 Government Reduction Initiative Assistance for Town of Ripley for Development of Multi Municipality Dog Shelter Facility, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees

Legislator Nelson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am voting against this resolution not because I believe the government reduction initiative is a bad idea in fact, I think it has merit. And to be clear, my opposition has nothing to do with purpose of supporting a dog shelter. My concern is with the amount being proposed. Funding roughly 80% or \$67,000 places too large a burden on the County and I believe a more balanced approach could have been reached. One that still supports a dog shelter serving Clymer, Ripley and Mina while distributing the cost more equitably, thank you.

Legislator Whitney: Everyone of us has to go back to our constituents to explain why we voted as we did. Its tough selling a bridge out in Sherman but I understand this infrastructure or new roof of the building here in Mayville, I understand its infrastructure but people in Jamestown, they look and want to know why I spent money out in Ripley. Well then, I said well we have a dog shelter too so I called the Chautauqua County Humane Society and talked to the Director and Chautauqua County is just a name brand, we don't give them any money at all. I don't understand – they find a way to fund themselves and they're a dog shelter also and we have many homeless people that we could spend the money on, we have people who don't have food we could spend the money on and to end this, even a homeless person buys something that generates sales tax. I've never seen a dog generate any sales tax to give money back so I will be voting against this.

Legislator Vanstrom: Being the daughter of a retired veterinarian, I am going to support this. Animals need help. A lot of times, there are abandoned animals or animals that get loose and a lot of fur babies play a big role in American households, Chautauqua County households, Town of Ellicott households so, I'm not going to ever compare homeless people to our fur babies and pets in our homes and believe me, if you do own a pet, you spend a lot of money taking care of them, housing them, caring for them and I'm not going to compare pets to people. Pets can't have a job unless you enslave them, I don't even know where we're going with this one but able body people should try their best to do their best in any community so I'm not going to go with that analogy and I am going to support this resolution, thank you.

Legislator Scudder: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this government reduction initiative is fantastic idea. We have \$500,000 in there and if we spend the \$500,000, I hope we can add another \$500,000 so that municipalities can step up and participate and hopefully save some money in the long term so I'll be supporting this, thank you.

Legislator Larson: My main concern with this resolution is that we do not have \$500,000 in there. The County Executive announcing this government reduction initiative last fall during his re election campaign did not put a dollar in the '26 county budget for this purpose. We've already spent \$150,000 on 2 applications. It came out of the county slush fund otherwise called unappropriated fund balance or unallocated fund balance. So, there is no money in there. Every one of these grants is coming out of the roughly \$35 million dollar slush fund and by my – by the

way, in running three times in three years since the state of New York changed our terms to this year—even year, running three times in three years, I can tell you in my district, in Jamestown, there are two things that my constituents love, The Buffalo Bills and dogs. And I join with my constituents. I love dogs. As a city court judge, I sometimes came home and said, the longer I'm a city court judge the more that I love my dog. The problem with this resolution is the problem with this alleged program. The program is a public relations announcement. There is no money behind it. Not a dollar. Now, my understanding is that we still have 27 towns in this county. This application is on behalf of three of them. At the committee level that I was on, I started by congratulating the Ripley Town Supervisor for asking for \$67,000. That, if I were elected as a councilman or supervisor in Ripley, I hope I would have been there asking for as much money as the county would give me. I did ask a question because it's not in the resolution. What's the total amount of the project? Eighty-two thousand cash. Sixty-seven from the County, five thousand from each of these three towns. Then, it was presented at the committee, that the State of New York has new requirements for dog control officers when they pick up a dog from unhappy circumstances or whatever, there are new requirements by state law for the temporary placement of these dogs to have an appropriate place with heating and air conditioning and the town folks said they could put this together for eighty-two thousand. Of course, it's a great idea that they're not doing it on their own. They're sharing with two other small towns. \$67,000 going to three of our 27 towns. That means there could be eight other groupings of three towns. And that could be eight times sixty-seven thousand more. That would eat up more than the alleged \$500,000 program. I find it interesting, Mr. Chairman, that one of your members is suggesting publicly tonight that if there were applications this year that sounded good, that totaled a million dollars, we ought to just go ahead and fund those out of the slush fund, the unappropriated fund balance. At the committee—and sometimes I've been asked why don't I submit things to a committee. I had an illustration for you of why not at the committee after asking the questions that elicited the total project was only 82 grand and we would—we the county taxpayers from Silver Creek to Falconer to Celeron to Jamestown to Lakewood, Busti, we would be paying over 80% of this project that they said they'd have to do whether we gave them any money or not, by the way. I didn't say that we shouldn't give them money. I suggested that a lot of grant programs require matching funds 50/50. I suggested an amendment that we go ahead and give them 41,000 of county taxpayer dollars toward an \$82,000 project. I didn't get a second in that committee to even discuss the concept. So, what's the point of my submitting something to a committee? Now, if there's one out of 12 Republicans tonight that would move to amend this resolution to 41,000 of your constituents' money going to the effort by these three towns. I would vote for that amendment. I'd vote for \$41,00 out of the hypothetical \$500,000 program for the year. But I'm not going to vote for \$67,000 for this rather small project that the towns have an obligation to do and will do, whether we give them \$41,000...\$67,000, or nothing. I won't make the motion because it won't get a second. But if a Republican member wanted to make this a matching grant program for Ripley, Clymer, Mina, I would be happy to second that or just vote for it. Thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Any other comments on the resolution?

Legislator Proctor: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I know that the New York State Division of Local Government Services, through the grant program, the planning grants require a 50% cash match. The implementation grants require a 10% cash match, which this is shovel ready. They

aren't planning anything. They are going to build. So, it does fall in the guidelines of what New York State basically says we—they should match. They did apply for a grant through New York State Ag and Markets and they were required to do an architectural plan and engineering plan which would have cost so much more because those things aren't cheap. I will support this. Any town in this county can apply for any one of these grants. These three towns, one of which I represent, chose to apply for. It doesn't mean others can't. The way I understand it, we don't have anything else in the pipeline for the GRI committee to consider at this point. Doesn't mean it won't happen, but I will be supporting it because this program was mandated by New York State after most—after the town budgets were submitted and finding extra cash at this point in time for those towns—for any town—is very difficult. So, especially when they're faced with escalating health insurance costs which are stretching their budgets to begin with already. So, I will be voting for it. Thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Other comments on the resolution?

Legislator Scudder: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we gave every town in the county \$75,000, that would add up to 2 million, 25 thousand dollars. Whether it's real money or I guess not real money, as long as there was qualifications for the ask, I would be willing to give every town the \$75,000. We hear about the slush fund and all's I think about is in the winter, I've talked to Tim Card, the less slush, the better. And that's what we've heard in here that we don't want as much slush. And I find it very unfortunate when we have, like, teams in here. Like, Mr. Chairman, one of your team. I see everybody here as a legislator. I don't see anybody here as a Democrat or a Republican. And to me, I think we can get a whole lot more done by just acting as a body and not being divided by the letter after our names. Thank you very much.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Legislator Larson.

Legislator Larson: Mr. Chairman, I have two questions for you. As the chair of the whole body, this thing that's been called government reduction initiative so far. There have been three requests and we're on the verge of approving all of them. Is the criteria for this program first come, first served? The next question is to you as Chairman, is it your understanding, as well as intent, as our leader of this body, that what was built as a \$500,000 initiative for 2026, when the 500,000 is gone, that's the completion of the intention of this program for our 2026 budget. Thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: You're asking for my interpretation?

Legislator Larson: Yes

Chairman Chagnon: As far as the—what happens to this program after the \$500,000 may be expended, that was never discussed in my presence. And so, I don't have an opinion about what would happen at that point. So, I was the one who was very staunch in my opinion that the \$500,000, every piece of that should be allocated by the Legislature, that we weren't going to allocate it in the budget to some projects that we couldn't define. So, the reason that the \$500,000 was not in the budget was because we didn't have \$500,000 worth of projects to define

in this budget. I was staunch on that and we were successful on that not being included in the budget and with the understanding that any projects that were seeking funding would have to be approved by this Legislature. That's my perspective that I would share with you on the question, unless I misunderstood the question? Okay. Any other questions on the resolution?

Legislator Bankoski: Well, my little point of interest on this thing, and I'm going to support this. This whole dog thing is—has been a pretty hot button topic in the City of Dunkirk because I'm sure my cohort Mr. Buchanan can speak also with me. And I—our opinion is we just thought that was a little bit more far of a reach. I understand the explanation that my colleague Mr. Proctor explained. I understand that. But just one thing that I want to be clear that you know as this program moves in forward in Mina, Clymer, and Ripley that in two years from now, three years from now, that they're not coming back here, asking for funds to help run their program. This is a one-shot deal. They're getting the money to build their facility and that—this is where it ends. Not coming back. They ask for help to buy dog food or pay to have someone come and clean or pay the electric bill, the water bill. This is it.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Legislator Anthony.

Legislator Anthony: Mr. Chairman, I agree with Mr. Bankoski, this is an issue and I did ask them in committee that we would not come back and discuss operating costs. That's up to them at that point. But going to my town board meetings, this has been a struggle for two years at the absolute minimum, I would say. You know, I know, the Town of Poland is taking dogs to a dog kennel in Gerry, which is costing them \$35 to \$45 a day, and I believe the state law says they have to hold them for 5 days before the Humane Society will consider taking them. So, I guess, I look at that a little bit as "skin in the game," if you will, on top of their \$5,000, you know, from each municipality because it is a huge cost and a burden to those small towns budgets that weren't necessarily planning to spend hundreds and hundreds of dollars a month to board a dog that's not their dog and, you know, pick up that liability. So, I am in favor of this. I'm—I was told the Supervisor of Ripley at the committee meeting that I'm happy to see this finally come. She did say that she was open to other municipalities joining in on them. At this time, it was just three of them that were in agreeance. So, I was happy to know that if there's other issues in the north county, that there is a possibility for more towns to come on. Thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you.

Legislator Johnson: So just two points. I'll be voting for this. My eponymous friend from Jamestown, though, does bring up a good, broader point. Much broader than this and that is, in my words, what is the difference when we talk about the fund balance between a rainy-day fund or an investment fund and a slush fund. If the \$35 million gets dipped into hither and you to make it to cover a budget gap, which we did this past budget gap to the tune of \$3 or \$4 million dollars, or to do an unfunded unbudgeted 500,000, it starts to look like a slush fund. If we're covering rainy days, unexpected surprises, or really key investments that we want to take, then that's an appropriate use of the fund balance. So, I'll leave that for future discussion, but I support this project in specifics. I'll put it down to an investment that the town needed—the towns needed help making because the state came down on them.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Other comments on the resolution?

Legislator Merritt: So, there was discussion of whether or not this would or would not impact their daily services. When this was brought up in committee, I did ask the question and they felt that between the three townships getting together, that they were actually going to be able to consolidate some of their staffing, which in turn would save them cost, which would obviously go through, you know, to help with their operational things. Again, more than likely, keeping it from becoming something that they're going to come back to the Legislature again and hit us up year after year for operational costs because they're looking at being self-sustained. So, just the point.

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, thank you. Any other comments, questions on the resolution? Hearing none, would the clerk please call the roll?

RES. NO. 136-26 R/C Vote: 16 YES; 2 NO (Nelson, Whitney); 1 Absent (Pavlock) - ADOPTED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Chagnon: And that brings us to announcements. Are there any announcements for the good of the body?

Legislator Heiser: Yes, I have an announcement. Thank you for that, Mr. Chairman. As was delivered to all of us in our legislative emails, I believe, and also one of the communications is just letting everybody know the public is invited Friday, May 15th, the evening, and all-day Saturday or any combination thereof, of May 16th to the Clymer Tulip Festival. The fireworks, the evening of Friday the 15th and then games, vendors, parades, all that type of thing going on, on the 16th. So, it's always a good time. Looking forward to it. And anybody here or the public is invited to attend. Thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Other announcements? No more announcements.

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: Okay, that brings us to the second 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 three minutes and comments representing a group shall be

limited to five minutes. I see we have someone ready to address the second privilege of the floor. Please introduce yourself.

Good evening, my name is Cindie Hart. I relocated to Ripley last summer, thinking I was going to be a full-time caregiver to my octogenarian parents. I've since been firmly assured that not only are they not old, they have no plans to ever get old or need a caregiver. So, I find myself with some unexpected capacity. I've spent the last several years earning my master of public administration with the help of the various veterans' readiness and employment program. My background ranges from working with every branch of the military and secure, window-less facilities to many years with the Girl Scouts while raising a couple of kids along the way. Most recently, a part-time stint with Starbucks, so I can even make an overpriced latte. What I really love to do is find creative ways to support people, solve problems, and build community. I'd like to know if there are any opportunities to contribute to current or upcoming projects, particularly on the western edge of our county. I've been following the conversations around the shovel-ready development on Shortman Road, and that is important to my community's future. If there are areas where someone with my background could be useful, whether in planning, community engagement, or product—project support, I would welcome the opportunity to contribute. Thank you for your time and I will leave contact information with the clerk.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. And you indicated you would leave with the clerk your what?

Ms. Hart: My contact information.

Chairman Chagnon: Okay. Do you have a resume that you could leave with us, as well?

Ms. Hart: I didn't bring one, but I could forward it.

Chairman Chagnon: Sure, that would be excellent. Thank you. Thank you for your interest. Is there anyone else wishing to address the privilege of the floor? Anyone else for the second privilege? Seeing no one, I'm looking for a motion to adjourn.

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

Unanimously Carried (8:06 p.m.)

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