

Minutes
Public Facilities Committee
May 18, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Legislative Chambers
Livestreamed on YouTube
Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Heiser, Anthony, Nelson, Scudder, Whitney

Others: Chagnon, Lee, Swan, Card, Zafuto, Machemer, Vanstrom, Marx, Vento, Walsh, Aldrich, Engstrom

Complete video of meeting can be viewed on YouTube

Chairman Heiser called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (04/13/26)

MOVED by Legislator Anthony, SECONDED by Legislator Nelson to approve the minutes.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Heiser: It is our privilege of the floor time. Anyone here to address the Public Facilities Committee, now would be the time to do so. Not hearing, seeing; oh, here we go. Hi Karen.

Karen Engstrom: Karen Engstrom. I'm representing Chautauqua Energy Watch. I live in the Town of Chautauqua. Time is running out for the wind turbine laws. The moratoria are expiring and our townships are faced with the difficult task of solving the problem of the many proposals that have come before our region. We know that land is being leased in Westfield, Sherman, Harmony, Ripley, Ellery, I mean, North Harmony, Stockton, and also in Clymer, Mina, Findley Lake, and the Town of Chautauqua. Adequate wind turbine setbacks established by law can protect our residents. We have provided for you the testimony of the people who spoke to the health board last month or last cycle. And they are suffering from wind turbine sickness. Now, we know that the World Health Organization cites the same thing. We're providing you with Steuben County where turbines there have been operating for three months and there are many cases of wind turbine sickness. Experts express the fact that setbacks are the only protection, the only protection for human health effects, adverse human health effects happen because of the proximity of turbines to human beings. There are many towns, this is the new information, in this state, that do provide adequate setbacks and I list them here. Parishville, five times the height of wind turbines. The Town of Pomfret, six times the height of wind turbines. Wind turbines heights do change so when you put in a setback such as in Richland at 5,280 feet, Cortland at 3,280 feet, Cape Vincent at 3,000 feet, Hammond and Hopkinton setbacks at 2,500 feet. These towns have had proposals. Those wind developers have withdrawn those proposals. It can be done. These towns have not been challenged. We're seeing our towns put in wind laws that have a 1,500-foot setback. The people in Arkwright, Cassadaga, and Villanova,

Forestville, are suffering because they sit there with 1,500-foot setbacks. We are hoping that in the future, we can get enough information to our towns that they can take advantage of what's already been done. Laws that have provided protection throughout the state, these aggressive, irresponsible wind developers are providing model laws and our small-town attorneys are unable to do anything but copy them and hand them to the towns. There's got to be some way to protect the towns by providing the information that they need to do what is necessary. Losses have occurred. Arkwright has 150 people filing a law suit because these symptoms of wind turbine sickness and I've provided this before the New York State Department of Health indicates that based on NY Health Department review of information, recognized adverse health-related effects of industrial wind are sleep disturbance, annoyance, cognitive performance reduction, effects on social behavior, cardiovascular effects, and psychophysiological effects. Our own health board, along with six other health boards in Western NY are considering again, I hope putting forward a new version of what they did before which was because of wind turbine sickness a 1.5-mile setback from property lines. I'm providing in email the testimony of two audiologists who spoke at the NY Senator Ortt conference on human health impacts from industrial wind. A moratorium county-wide would be very helpful to little towns that are trying very hard to figure out a way to adequately deal with this. A moratorium county-wide, or even a requirement that PFAS and PFOS in components of industrial wind battery energy storage and solar be a requirement. It is a contaminate that's very well recognized and it shouldn't be possible to have it enter into our water systems, our drinking water systems. That's it. Thank you. Any questions? Clymer. Who's Clymer? One of you. They're leasing land in Clymer.

Chairman Heiser: Well aware, yes.

Karen Engstrom: Yes, the town needs a law.

Chairman Heiser: Karen, thank you very much. We appreciate that. Thank you for presenting to us. Alright, anyone else for the privilege of the floor? We will close the privilege of the floor.

Local Law Intro 5-26 – A Local Law Amending Local Law 4-09 Providing for Written Notice of Defects and Obstructions on County of Chautauqua Property as a Condition Precedent to Maintenance of a Civil Action

Discussion item only

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Appointment – Chautauqua County Landfill Commission
— *Presented by Tim Card, DPF Director*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Standardization of Cummins 20kW Standby, Natural Gas/Propane Genset Generators for the Portland-Pomfret-Dunkirk Sewer District
— *Presented by Allison Vento, Administrative Director for NCW&SD*

MOVED by Legislator Scudder, SECONDED by Legislator Whitney to Amend by strikethrough and new text in bold (Amendments shown below) – *Unanimously Carried to Amend*

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. _____

TITLE: Standardization of Cummins ~~20kW~~ Standby, Natural Gas/Propane Genset Generators for the Portland-Pomfret-Dunkirk Sewer District

BY: Public Facilities Committee:

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law Section 103(5) the County Legislature may determine, for reasons of efficiency or economy, that there is a need for standardization for purchase of a particular type of kind of equipment, materials, supplies or services, enabling the County to draw its specifications so that only a particular specified kind or make of equipment or apparatus will be purchased; and

WHEREAS, a standardization resolution must be adopted by an affirmative vote of at least three-fifths of all members of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Portland-Pomfret-Dunkirk Sewer District currently has five Cummins Genset Generators located in their pump stations within the District; and

WHEREAS, the District is budgeting to replace each generator as the current equipment is forty years old; and

WHEREAS, the District Board recommends that the District standardize to Cummins ~~20kW~~ **Natural Gas/Propane Genset Generators** because standardization will result in efficiencies and economies in terms of ease of equipment use, ability to use current generator parts as spare parts for the new generators, and the ability to maintain a single contract for preventative maintenance and repair; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the County of Chautauqua finds that, for reasons of efficiency and economy, standardization of Cummins ~~20kW~~ **Natural Gas/Propane Genset Generators**, as described herein, for the Portland-Pomfret-Dunkirk Sewer District, is in the best interest of the District and Chautauqua County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Cummins ~~20kW~~ **Natural Gas/Propane Genset Standby**, Natural Gas/Propane Genset Generators are hereby the standardized generators for the District.

APPROVED

VETOES (VETO MESSAGE ATTACHED)

County Executive

Date

5/18/26 P.F. – Amended by strikethrough and new text in bold

Unanimously Carried as Amended

Proposed Resolution – Authorizing Extension of Lease Agreement for Department of Planning & Development at the BWB Center in Jamestown—*Presented by Nate Aldrich, Economic Development Coordinator, Department of Planning & Development*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2026 Capital Budget South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer Districts—*Presented by Tom Walsh, Director of South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer Districts*

Typo correction shown below:

ESTABLISH AND INCREASE APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT:

ESS.8130.27009.4 Contractual - Lkwd Pump Station Bar Scrm(2026) \$192,000

ESTABLISH AND INCREASE REVENUE ACCOUNT:

ESS.8130.27009.R503.1000 ~~Interfund Transfer~~ ~~Interfund Transfer~~ ~~\$192,000~~

APPROVED

VETOES (VETO MESSAGE ATTACHED)

County Executive

Date

5/18/26 PF – Typo Correction

Unanimously Carried

Late Proposed Resolution – Authorizing a Utility Work Agreement with NYS DOT—*Presented by Tom Walsh, Director of South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer Districts*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Supplemental Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration to Construct, Operate, and Maintain Navigational Aids at the Chautauqua County Jamestown Airport—*Presented by John Machemer, Deputy Director of Public Facilities: Airports*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Agreement Between Chautauqua County and Schultz Airshows, LLC for Air Boss Services for the 2027 Chautauqua County Airshow at Chautauqua County Jamestown Airport—*Presented by John Machemer, Deputy Director of Public Facilities: Airports*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Ground and Taxiway Lease with Baron North G58 LLC, a Subsidiary of Accent Stripe at Chautauqua County Dunkirk Airport —*Presented by John Machemer, Deputy Director of Public Facilities: Airports*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2026 Capital Budget for the Replacement of Fire-Destroyed Equipment DPF – Road Machinery—*Presented by Tim Card, DPF Director*

Unanimously Carried

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

Unanimously Carried (4:27 p.m.)

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