

Minutes
Administrative Services Committee
August 17, 2026, 5:00 p.m., Legislative Chambers
Livestreamed on YouTube
Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Heiser, Anthony, Vanstrom, Buchanan

Members Absent: Scudder

Others: Chagnon, Lee, Swan, Zafuto, Lyon, Meleen, Eric Mecca

Complete video of meeting can be viewed on YouTube

Legislator Heiser called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (07/13/26)

MOVED by Legislator Vanstrom, SECONDED by Legislator Anthony to approve the minutes

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Legislator Heiser: Is there anybody here that is desirous to speak to the committee on any event for the Admin Services Committee whatsoever? I believe there is at least one. All right, come on down. Thank you, sir. Have a seat and once you're settled, just give us your name and address to identify yourself and feel free to pull that microphone towards you closer if need be. Perfect. Oh, okay. That's fine, as well.

Eric Mecca: Hi. My name is Eric Mecca and I have a home at 10532 Newell Road in Sheridan, New York.

Legislator Heiser: All right, great. Thank you for that. Thank you for being here. All right. We, the Admin Services Committee is all ears.

Eric Mecca: Okay, on Sunday, August 2nd, I went to my property at 10532 Newell Road and in front of my property, I saw a tax auction sign face down in the grass in front of my property. I had initially thought it was a joke played by one of my co-workers. I had actually heard years ago that one of the employees had done that to somebody else. So, I thought this was a sick joke. On Monday morning, I went to work and I looked up the number that was on the sign to find out where the sign came from and I found out that it was my house. I immediately called the county tax department and the county tax department said that my house had been sold for \$9,000 in taxes. I said there's no way that's possible. My home was worth much, much more than that and they said the county took ownership of it. It sold. There's nothing you can do about it. I asked again, there's got to be something. This doesn't make any sense. And they referred me to their attorney. I called their attorney, and to date, that attorney has still not called me back yet. I called the county tax office back. I asked again, I pleaded, what could I do? And I was told,

nothing. I have until September 22nd to get my stuff out of my house. All this time in the back of my head, bells were ringing. How could this possibly happen? There's no way. I didn't get any notice. Nobody sent anybody to my house to tell me. The tax department said there was a return receipt letter that was sent and that was the only requirement and that it had not been returned. After I got off that phone call, I elevated my outreach to somebody else who could help me and I found out that there were legal and legislative solutions that were possible. I engaged an attorney and I called the Sheriff, due to those bells that were ringing in my head. When the Sheriff didn't call me back that day, I left a message and they said somebody would get back with me. Well, nobody got back to me that day. I waited at the Sheriff's office for three hours the next day until somebody would take a statement. That has been ongoing, the investigation is still open. But in the meantime, I found out that the attorney that I had contacted, I had misunderstood. That attorney was working on a legislative solution but not a legal solution. So that started a frantic round of phone calls to try and find an attorney to represent me legally and I called twenty-six attorneys. I think I exhausted every attorney that has anything to do with real estate in Chautauqua County and I was not able to find anybody. On last Thursday afternoon, I did find an attorney out of Buffalo and thankfully I did file, I don't know the legal term, but basically an appeal last Friday morning but it was prepared in less than twenty-four hours. Some background on why or contributing factors. My parents became terminally ill about 2020. I was caring for them until they passed in late 2022 and I had only been living in that residence part-time while I was also living in their residence. At some point after they passed, I moved into their residence and started to clean out the residence and make repairs to their residence so I've only been occasionally in my 10532 Newell Road residence in that timeframe but it has remained my primary residence. I did not forward any of my mail. It's still where my driver license is and you know, I intend to go back there at some point. The other thing to consider, the question is how did you know, you know, that you just did no taxes and the reason is that I've lived well below my means for a very long time. I grew up in a house that was always worried about were the bills going to be paid and I never wanted to live that way so everything I have gets paid in full every month. All my taxes have always been paid and I pay bills as they come but I don't wait for bills. I don't expect bills, I just, as they come, they get paid and I never noticed that this bill wasn't coming. I'm sure there's more. Obviously, it's been a stressful two weeks. I'd be open to any questions. There's some things regarding the value of my house and the investigation that I'd rather not get into publicly but I'd be more than happy to stick around after and answer any questions people have.

Legislator Heiser: Yeah, Eric, thank you for that. Yeah, I wanted to mention to the committee members here that you offered that to me, as well, at the beginning that there's some things that you're not able to disclose with the investigation so we certainly understand that. But, you are going to stay if needed for anything else. So, yeah, that's quite a two-week journey there. Questions, comments? I don't know, I mean I did let Eric know that being a committee of the legislature, we are here to hear things out. We're glad to hear that. As far as point of action, he knows that there's nothing that we can do as a committee here tonight or at all as a committee, but it was a good place to sound that out and get that out in the open. Questions, comments to Eric at all?

Legislator Vanstrom: Thank you for coming. Thank you for taking the time to come and explain your circumstances and the experiences that you've had during this time for your family. We appreciate your integrity and honesty. Thank you.

Eric Mecca: The other thing I forgot to say is, you know, my tax paying record is public. You can go right on the GIS website and see that I was not late on my taxes before whatever's happened here.

Legislator Heiser: I did take some notes here. You said that you, an appeal is filed?

Eric Mecca: The legal appeal, I don't know what the name of it is. I did get filed Friday morning.

Legislator Heiser: That was after the attorney search?

Eric Mecca: Yeah

Legislator Heiser: Not knowing the inner works of the office or, yeah. Dalton, do you have anything?

Legislator Anthony: Just obviously, I echo, thank you for obviously saying what you did. You know, as you know, it's a public meeting so I appreciate you coming and sharing that information with us.

Eric Mecca: Thanks for the opportunity.

Legislator Anthony: Absolutely.

Legislator Heiser: Does anybody have anything else at all? Seeing nor hearing any further, this meeting will be short but thank you for that and you said you're going to stick around? Okay, very good. Alright. Is there any other items for the privilege of the floor? If not, we'll close the privilege of the floor and move into the short agenda.

Proposed Resolution – Transfer of Foreclosed Properties to Chautauqua County Land Bank Corporation— *Presented by Kim Meleen, Director of Real Property Tax*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Transfer of Tax Foreclosure Property to the Village of Mayville— *Presented by Kim Meleen, Director of Real Property Tax*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Transfer of Tax Foreclosure Property to CHQ Transit— *Presented by Kim Meleen, Director of Real Property Tax*

Unanimously Carried

MOVED by Legislator Anthony, SECONDED by Legislator Vanstrom to adjourn

Unanimously Carried (5:16 p.m.)

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