

Minutes
Planning & Economic Development Committee
July 15, 2026, 6:00 pm, Legislative Chambers
Livestreamed on YouTube
Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Harmon, Penhollow, Johnson, Merritt

Members Absent: DeJoy

Others: Chagnon, Lee, Swan, Geise, Wurster, Zafuto, McCoy, Nick, Sharp, Pacos

Complete video of meeting can be viewed on YouTube

Chairman Harmon called the meeting to order at (6:14 p.m.)

Approval of Minutes (06/17/26)

MOVED by Legislator Penhollow, SECONDED by Legislator Merritt to approve the minutes

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak.

Local Law Intro 9-26 – A Local Law Opting Out of RPTL Section 487 Tax Exemptions for Certain Equipment and Energy Systems

Discussion Item Only- Action taken at full Legislative Meeting

Resolution 184-26 – Declaring Job Creation the Number One Economic Development Goal (Referred to Planning & Economic Development Committee during the June 2026 Legislature meeting.)—Presented by Rebecca Wurster, Planning Coordinator for the Department of Planning and Development and Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development

MOVED by Legislator Merritt, SECONDED by Legislator Penhollow to Amend by Substitution – Unanimously Carried to Amend (Amended version shown below)

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

TITLE: Declaring Job Creation Sustainable Disposable Income Growth the Number One Economic Development Goal of Chautauqua County Government

AT THE REQUEST OF: Legislator Fred Larson

WHEREAS, since 2022, Chautauqua County has ~~recently~~ lost 230 jobs at Bush Industries, ~~100-84~~ jobs at Serta Mattress, 350 jobs at Truck Lite, and 79 jobs at Monofrax, all in the Town of Ellicott; and

WHEREAS, in 2014/2015, the County ~~earlier~~ lost 425500 jobs at Carriage House in Fredonia, and in 2014 it lost 200 jobs at Petri Baking in Silver Creek; and

WHEREAS, the County has seen Employment drop by 14,000 (from 64,000 to 50,000) over the past 15 years or so; and

WHEREAS, the loss of employment has played a role ~~resulted~~ in Chautauqua County losing population since the 1970s, and since the the 2010 Census, the County had the at the highest rate of population decline of any of the 8 counties of Western New York, shrinking declining from approximately about 135,000 residents to around just 124,000 (a loss of 11,000 residents); and

WHEREAS, over the past five years (2021-2025), CCIDA-supported projects have helped create nearly 4,000 permanent and temporary/construction jobs and retain more than 5,800 existing positions. During that same time period, the CCIDA played a central role in advancing projects that will generate almost \$2 Billion in investment within our county, and will create approximately 400 units of new housing; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Chautauqua County Legislature declares private sector and not-for-profit sector Job Creation the Number One Economic Development Goal of County Government and the County of its-Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency; and be it further

RESOLVED, that job creation and retention do not happen without adequate housing, workforce training, shovel-ready sites/infrastructure, and placemaking/quality of life, activities undertaken primarily by the County's Department of Planning & Development in conjunction with the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth; and be it further

RESOLVED, that government grants, Payment in lieu of tax agreements (PILOTS), exemptions from sales taxes and mortgage taxes, low interest loans, and taxpayer-funded infrastructure improvements will continue to be directed at ~~private-investments that will support the createion and retention of jobs~~ for our residents.

APPROVED

VETOES (VETO MESSAGE ATTACHED)

Unanimously Carried as Amended

Proposed Resolution – Requesting AFPB to Remove Parcel from Agricultural District 10
—*Presented by Lauren Sharp, Senior Planner with the Department of Planning & Development*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Government Reduction Initiative Assistance for Town of Pomfret for North Chautauqua County Re-Organization Plan—*Presented by Lauren Sharp, Senior Planner with the Department of Planning & Development and Dan Pacos, Town of Pomfret Supervisor*

Carried, with Legislator Johnson Voting “NO”

Proposed Resolution – Authorizing Application Submittal for 2026 Community Development Block Grant Funding through the New York State Office of Community Renewal—*Presented Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator with the Department of Planning & Economic Development*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Approve Dunkirk Lighthouse and Veterans Park Museum Non Pointsource Grant Application—*Presented by Dave McCoy, Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Approve Bemus Creek Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Implementation Grant Application—*Presented by Dave McCoy, Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator*

Unanimously Carried

MOVED by Legislator Johnson, SECONDED by Legislator Merritt to adjourn.
Unanimously Carried (7:31 p.m.)

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