Chautauqua County Legislature
Live Streamed on YouTube
Wednesday, October 28, 2026 6:30 p.m.
Mayville, N.Y. 14757

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

Chairman Chagnon: Good evening. I will call to order the meeting of the Chautauqua County Legislature on October 28, 2026. Would the Clerk please call the roll?

Clerk Lee called the roll and announced a quorum present. (18 members present and one vacant seat with the resignation of Legislator Vince DeJoy)

Legislator Vanstrom delivered the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

MOVED by Legislator Gustafson, SECONDED by Legislator Bankoski and duly carried the minutes were approved. (09/23/26)

1st Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Chagnon: And now in our agenda, we have 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 tonight's agenda. Individual comments are limited to three minutes and comments representing a group shall be limited to five minutes. Is there anyone wishing to address the first privilege of the floor?

Good evening, everyone. My name is Carla Rodriquez and I am the challenger for county legislative district 7. I want to raise a question about financial responsibility and consistency in how we make decisions about tax payer dollars. When democrats requested 2 million dollars of the fund balance to reduce taxes, republicans said "no". Yet, now, republicans propose 11 million dollars. Let's put this into prospective. That's 9 million dollars more, a 450-percentage increase and a 5.25 of the original amounts. My question is, what changed? If 2 million dollars was considered too much, how do we now justify 11 million dollars? As elected officials, our responsibilities should be to make *(inaudible)* financial decisions regardless of which political party introduces proposals. Tax payers deserve transparency, accountability and a clear explanation on how their money is being spent. Financial responsibility should never depend on which side of the aisle you're sitting on. There is no reason why we should use 11 million dollars because it's being irresponsible financially. The next thing I want to talk about are data centers. I believe economic development - it is important and it must be beneficial to our residents, not place an additional financial burden to our tax payers. Data centers consume significant amount of electricity and often created very few permanent jobs. There is no long-term benefits. My priority is of the interest of Chautauqua County residents so I do want you to take those things into consideration and I want to make them part of the record. Thank you.

My name is Matt Stuczynski, Greco Lane, Dunkirk. I'm just coming to you guys to thank you for bringing the management benefits to a vote today. One of the things that I did want to bring up during Audit and Control, there was a perception that managers are cherry picking benefits to bring forward to the legislature. I just want to assure you guys that is not the case. Managers benefits are only a handful compared to the union CBA's and the only way those get changed are through executive policy bulletins or local laws. And its not like we can come to your guys and ask for more personal days or an increase in sick bonuses or on call benefits. Those aren't benefits that are afforded at the managers group. The only benefits that come to you guys are the ones that we already have and what we're asking for is equality towards the unions with our group and that all I kind of want to clear up. I want to thank you guys for voting on this and just wanted to clear up that perception.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Anyone else wishing to speak to the first privilege of the floor? Anyone else for the first privilege of the floor? Seeing no one, I will close the first privilege of the floor.

PROCLAMATION:

Proclaiming October 25, 2026 – October 31, 2026
Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in Chautauqua County
By
Legislator Marty Proctor &
County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.

COMMENDATION:

Lori Dispenza
New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame
By
Legislator John Penhollow &
County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Opened
6:49 P.M.

Public Hearing Regarding the 2027 Tentative Budget

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

Closed
6:50 P.M

Opened
6:50 P.M.

Public Hearing Regarding a Potential Application for
2026 Community Development Block Grant Funding through the
New York State Office of Community Renewal

Hello, good evening. My name is Stephanie Nick, I'm a special projects coordinator with Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development. The purpose of this public hearing is to gather public input on the potential application of a New York State Community Development Block Grant Microenterprise Assistance Program. The New York State Community Development Block Grant Program is administered by the New York State Homes and Community Renewal Department. This application focuses on economic development with the principal purpose of benefiting low and moderate income persons within Chautauqua County. Outside of the – sorry, entitlement Cities of Jamestown and Dunkirk the county is planning to apply for $250,000 and CDBG funds to support new and developing microenterprise businesses and is expected that $212,500 of the requested CDBG funds will be used to create and further develop microenterprise businesses and to offset the cost of equipment and working capital expenses with the remaining funds utilized for expenses related to program delivery and grant administration. This hearing provides CDBG program information and is here to accept public input on the proposed grant application and alternative project ideas. Chautauqua County is committed to fair housing and no residents will be displaced due to this grant program. If anyone has any questions outside of this hearing today, I can accept written questions until November 3rd. My email is nicks@chqgov.com, thank you.

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

Closed
6:53 P.M

Clerk Lee: There are no veto messages from County Executive Wendel from the September 23, 2026 Legislature meeting.

VETO MESSAGES FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE WENDEL
NO VETOES FROM 09/23/26

Clerk Lee: There are 10 communications on the agenda, if you would like a copy of any of these items, please let our office know.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter – Vincent DeJoy, Chautauqua County Legislator, District 9 - Resignation
2. Certificate – Representatives from Legislative District 9 – Certificate to Fill a Vacancy
3. Letter – County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr.- Amendment to the Chautauqua County Administrative Code
4. Letter – Chaut. County Ag. & Farmland Protection Board – Ag District 10, 8 Year Review
5. Affidavit of Publication – Legal Notice – Public Hearing re: CDBG MAP (1st Notice) (Post Journal and Observer)
6. Affidavit of Publication – Legal Notice – Public Hearing re: CDBG MAP (2nd Notice) (Post Journal and Observer) –
7. Affidavit of Publication – Legal Notice – Public Hearing Local Law Introductory No.14-26 (Post Journal)
8. Affidavit of Publication – Legal Notice – Public Hearing re: 2027 Tentative Budget (Post Journal and Observer)
9. Letter – NYS Department of State – Acknowledgment of Local Law 7-26
10. Report –Kitty Lyons, Director of Finance – August 2026 Investment Report

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LOCAL LAW INTRO. 13-26 – A LOCAL LAW AMENDING LOCAL LAW 1-83, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FOR A MANAGEMENT BENEFIT PLAN FOR COUNTY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES *(Originally presented on the 9/23/26 Legislature Agenda – Referred back to A.S. & A.C. for further review)*

Chairman Chagnon: Are there any questions or comments on local law introductory 13-26?

Legislator Johnson: Yes, sir, thank you. Just briefly, I'm going to vote "No" on this and not because and I was the one who caused it to go back to committee I think but not because folks didn't come forward with, shall we say less than trivial observations, important observ – in other words, important observations as to some of the problems but rather because a better way to do this, would be to come back to committee, come back to the legislature, you know, through HR or the County Executive and let's look at the entirety of the compensation packages we're talking about and not just one, one attribute. So that's why I'm voting "no".

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Other comments?

Legislator Bankoski: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make a motion to table this until after we figure out what we're doing with the budget. I think there's – that this may have an effect on how we move forward with the budget so before voting "yes" or "no", I have questions regarding the budget so I would like to make a motion that we table this until we figure out how we're going to proceed with the county budget later on in the meeting.

Chairman Chagnon: Okay so, Legislator Bankoski is making a motion to table local law introductory 13-26. Is there a second to the motion? Legislator Nelson, you're making a second?

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Nelson to table local law 13-26

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, the motion has been made and seconded, it is not debatable so we will proceed to a vote and Olivia, would you please call the roll?

Local Law Intro 13-26 R/C Vote to Table: 18 YES; 0 NO; 1 VACANT SEAT; – Unanimously Carried to Table

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RESOLUTIONS:

239-26 Appointment of Charles Nazzaro as Legislator from Legislative District 9, City of Jamestown Ward 3, District 3; Ward 5, District 2; Ward 5, District 3; Ward 6, District 1; and Ward 6, District 4

Legislator Vanstrom: It'll be good to have his talent back, we've missed you, Chuck.

RES. NO. 239-26 – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED (1 VACANT SEAT)

Chairman Chagnon: Please take your seat. But, before you sit down, we have something to do. So, if you would remain standing and raise your right hand and please repeat after me.

Swearing in Chuck Nazzaro
By
Chairman Pierre Chagnon

240-26 Authorize Lease Agreement at the Chautauqua County-Jamestown Airport (JHW) For Parking Lot Space with Federal Express Corporation, A Delaware Corporation, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

241-26 Authorize Execution of Lease Agreement with the City of Jamestown for Office Space for the Chautauqua County Public Defender's Office, by Public Facilities, Public Safety, and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

242-26 Authorize Lease Renewal with Verizon Wireless Services, LLC for Tower Space, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

243-26 Authorize Federal and State Aid Applications for the Chautauqua County Dunkirk Airport Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) for FY 2027-2031, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – *Carried with Legislator Scudder voting "No"*

244-26 Authorize Federal and State Aid Applications for the Chautauqua County Jamestown Airport Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) for FY 2027 2031, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – *Carried with Legislator Scudder voting "No"*

245-26 Accept and Authorize Execution of Contract For County Infrastructure Grant Program Funds for the Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer District Phase III Extension Project, by Public Facilities, Planning and Economic Development and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

246-26 Authorize Sections 89-t and 603(p) Retirement Plans for Peace Officers in the Probation Department, by Administrative Services, Public Safety, and Audit & Control Committees

RES. NO. 246-26 R/C Vote: 19 YES; 0 NO; – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

247-26 Amend 2026 Budget for Sections 89-t and 603(p) Retirement Plans for Peace Officers in the Probation Department, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees

Legislator Bankoski: Yes, I'd just like to commend Mr. Taylor for this resolution and the one prior too. It is budget neutral so he's done a commendable job supervising his department where this will have no effect on this year's budget or the next, I believe, three budgets I think, when he did his presentation at the Public Safety meeting and also, it'll help as a recruiting tool for him also as far as retaining some of his staff and hopefully recruiting people to help in his office also. So, I'll be voting "yes".

RES. NO. 247-26: 19 YES; 0 NO; – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

248-26 Amend 2026 Budget for Portland-Pomfret-Dunkirk Sewer District Generators for Pump Stations #'s 1-5, by Public Facilities and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

249-26 Amend 2026 Budget for Liability Insurance Departments, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

250-26 Amend Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene and Social Services 2026 Budget for Increased Safety Net Costs, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees

Legislator Johnson: If I may abstain with your permission, normally I would vote against this but it being this late in the year, that really wouldn't be practical so I'd like to abstain if I may?

Chairman Chagnon: That needs the approval of the entire legislature for you to abstain.

Legislator Johnson: Okay.

Chairman Chagnon: So, would you like to request that of the legislature?

Legislator Johnson: Briefly, please.

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, then with the approval of the legislature, Legislator Johnson would be permitted to abstain. So, all those in favor of Legislator Johnson being allowed to abstain on this resolution, please say "aye", those opposed?

Chairman Chagnon: We have three "nays" (Bankoski, Nazzaro, Proctor). The motion is adopted so you are permitted to abstain.

Legislator Johnson: I thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Other questions or comments on the resolution? Hearing none, all those in favor please say "aye", opposed? And with 1 abstention. It is carried.

RES. NO. 250-26: 18 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSTAIN (Johnson) – ADOPTED

251-26 Amend Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene and Social Services 2026 Budget for Increased Services for Recipients Costs, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

252-26 Accept Donation of Boat Lifts for the Navigation Division for the Office of the Sheriff, by Public Safety and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

253-26 Requesting Law Enforcement Education Program on E-bikes and E-scooters in Chautauqua County High Schools, by Public Safety Committee

Legislator Larson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I'd like to offer an amendment to my resolution. A constituent got in touch with me and said he's very much in support of this but, educated me that I should add the three BOCES facilities in our county that are High School students that are there, Ashville, Fredonia and Cassadaga. So, I would like to add in the fourth WHEREAS after High School, "and three BOCES facilities" and then in the RESOLVED after High School, "and three BOCES facilities".

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, we have a motion to amend the resolution by Legislator Larson, do you have a second?

Legislator Bankoski: I'll second it.

Chairman Chagnon: We have a second by Legislator Bankoski and Olivia did you catch that amendment and its entirety?

Clerk Lee: I did not.

Legislator Larson: Olivia, in the fourth WHEREAS after the word High School "and three BOCES facilities" and then in the RESOLVED, after High School "and three BOCES facilities".

Clerk Lee: Okay, thank you.

Legislator Larson: You're welcome.

MOVED by Legislator Larson, SECONDED by Legislator Bankoski to amend to add new text in bold – Unanimously Carried to Amend (shown below)

WHEREAS, among the Sheriff's Office, local Police Departments and the State Police, including School Resource Officers (SROs) there are a sufficient number of law enforcement personnel to go into each of the 17 County School Districts that contain a High School ***and three BOCES facilities***, with an educational program on the laws and rules surrounding the operation of e-bikes and e-scooters, and

RESOLVED, that the Chautauqua County Legislature requests the Chautauqua County Sheriff to coordinate with local police departments and the State Police, including SROs, an educational program to be delivered to every Chautauqua County Middle School and High School ***and three BOCES facilities*** by the Spring of 2027 to combat the illegal and out-of-control use of e-bikes and e-scooters and to promote public safety.

Chairman Chagnon: Now, discussion on the motion to amend resolution 253-26? Any discussion on the motion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the amendment please say "aye", opposed? It is carried. Now, for discussion on resolution 253-26 as amended, are there any questions or comments?

Legislator Larson: Mr. Chairman, to the surprise of some, I don't think I need to say much. I will only say that if we did a survey of this room, it would be the rare driver who doesn't have their own – and Legislator Gustafson shared with me a situation in the Town of Busti I was not aware of, there's almost nobody in the room I think that doesn't have their own story of being shocked, surprised or horrified by something they've seen involving E-bikes or E-scooters. I choose to give the benefit of the doubt to a lot of our folks that they have no idea what the law of New York is on these E-bikes and E-scooters so, I'm working with the Sheriff, with great

cooperation, we think that – let's try an education program this spring with High School students and hopefully not only will they understand but they can take back to their homes what they've learned and our wild west will settle down a bit next summer with some luck. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Legislator Nelson: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to compliment Legislator Larson for this resolution. I think it was in August, we were talking about the three-foot law that a lot of these stories started to come out and I think it's a great idea. Education our youth is paramount in making this a little better. It won't solves every problem but it'll certainly help, so thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Any other questions or comments on resolution 253-26 as amended? Hearing none, all those in favor please say "aye", "opposed?" Carried.

RES. NO. 253-26: Unanimously Carried as Amended

254-26 Authorize Acceptance of New York State Office of Mental Health Grant Funds and Amend the 2026 Budget for the Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene Mobile Crisis Team, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

255-26 Authorize Acceptance of New York State Office of Mental Health Grant Funds and Amend the 2026 Budget for the Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Enhanced Coordination, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

256-26 Authorize Acceptance of New York State Office of Mental Health Grant Funds And Amend the 2026 Budget for the Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene Children's Single Point of Access Program, by Human Services and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

257-26 Authorizing Application Submittal for 2026 Community Development Block Grant Microenterprise Assistance Program, by Planning & Economic Development and Audit & Control Committees – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

258-26 Authorizing Public Hearing Regarding 8-Year Review of Chautauqua County Agricultural District 10, by Planning & Economic Development Committee – *UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED*

259-26 Quit Claim Deeds, by Administrative Services and Audit & Control Committees

RES. NO. 259-26 R/C Vote: 19 YES; 0 NO; – UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

260-26 Consider 2027 Tentative Budget, with the Changes Listed Below, and Present Same to the County Executive for His Consideration and Action

Legislator Whitney: I have two things to say. Number one, the original plan was to give back 11 million and I'd like to apologize for the people that have left the county the last couple of years that over paid and either moved out, moved to a rental or moved into a nursing home, that whoever bought their house is going to get the benefit and the other thing, I want the legislators that are running unopposed to think about if we approve 8.5 million dollars, what a mess that's going to make next year's budget. Thank you.

Legislator Johnson: Mr. Chairman, I will vote "no" on this and not because I believe that anybody who prepared the budget didn't work hard, they did. There's a lot of detail on it but, we went into last year's budget with a 2-million-dollar gap, unfavorable gap between revenue and expenses. That 2 million has turned into 7 million as we come to the end of 26 and now, we're going into 2027 budget with approximately a 10-million-dollar negative gap revenues less than expenses and I don't think we have been aggressive enough on cutting expenses and when is say "we", I mean all of us, the legislature and the – despite all the hard work, the entirety of the Executive Department so I will be voting "no".

Legislator Anthony: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I cast my vote tonight, I'd like to just briefly explain my position as a member of the Audit & Control committee, I sat through the entire week of budget hearings, reviewing County Executive Wendel's proposed budget and I appreciate the work that has gone into the process and I voted for the changes that came out of our committee discussions and I stand by those votes and believe that they'll work of all our committees has helped improved the proposed budget but, at this point I believe that we could do a little more work. My preference would be to retain County Executive Wendel's original proposed 0% tax levy increase while incorporating the changes and recommendations made by all of our committees during budget week. I have always been a strong advocate for maintaining a healthy fund balance and I believe the reserves we have today are a result of the difficult decisions in fiscal discipline that have brought us to where we are, protecting that financial stability remains important to me and at the same time, we continue to face financial pressures from both the State and Federal Governments and we have been warned at some point a tax increase may be unavoidable and that is why I believe we should make every reasonable effort to give our residents one more year of relief while we have the opportunity to do so responsibly. This is about balancing the need to prepare for the future challenges with the financial pressures our tax payers face today and I am hopeful that our economy and the counties financial circumstances will be in a stronger position in the years ahead. But we must make responsible decisions with the resources we have right now. And I also recognize that my position differs from that of my republican colleagues and I respect that those differences are there, but my responsibility is to the residence and tax payers I represent. I believe that we should pursue every reasonable opportunity to ease their burdens and for these reasons, I will be voting "no" on the budget as presented and I respect the work that has been done, but I believe we can build on it and deliver a true 0% tax levy increase for 2027.

Legislator Bankoski: Yes, Mr. Chairman. When the County Executive first proposed his budget, he talked about putting money back in everyone's pocket. The way I looked at that was, I was excited and as you can see, that day I was. And I tried to hold back my glee because I've been a proponent for the last, I don't know, 3, 4, 5 years, asking for 2 million dollars to lower the tax levy which it was voted down, year after year after year because I wanted to lower the tax levy to give our tax payers real money back in their pocket. So, when he said he was going to put money back in our pocket, the way I look at it is, you're either A, you're going to lower the tax levy and that puts money back in my pocket or you're going to do some type of program or do something that's going to give me some money. None of those things had happened. He kept the tax levy flat and the same and he lowered the tax rate and then he proposed using 11 million dollars out of the unobligated fund balance. I was told for the last few years we couldn't touch that, that was a time when we could have given some money back in peoples pockets but we chose not to, because we thought the sky was going to fall and we couldn't touch the golden egg. Now, the sky isn't falling but we can use 11 million dollars of that or 9.8 or whatever the numbers are that we're proposing to use to balance our budget so it's throwing up a red flag as far as I'm concerned. I think what we should do, and just my opinion is we should put the tax rate back to where it was this year, let's table this budget, send it back to committee and let's run these numbers again. Let's go look and see if we can find some more savings and that's why I proposed tabling that resolution there for the managers retirement thing, I think we should go back and seriously look at all these COLA's that we've given out to all of the employees and to myself. I'll be the first one to raise my hand and say I will – you know, you lead by example. We are leaders here in this room and if I expect somebody else to take a cut in pay or do less with something, I need to be that guy leading the pack and I will be the first one to say I will give my COLA from my salary – I will be the first one to say I will give it back to help lead this charge because I can see the writing on the wall that next year, if we're using 11 million of the fund balance this year, it's only going to be worse next year. So, with that being said, I'm proposing a motion to table this budget, send it back and let's roll up our sleeves and let's start doing some work.

Chairman Chagnon: So, Legislator Bankoski, as I understand it, you're making a motion to table resolution 260-26?

Legislator Bankoski: Yes sir.

Chairman Chagnon: And do you have a second? Legislator Nelson, you're seconding?

Legislator Nelson: I am seconding it, yes.

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Nelson to Table Resolution 260-26

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, we have a motion to table and as I've stated earlier, a motion to table is not debatable so we will go to a vote. Would the clerk please call the roll?

R/C Vote to Table RES. NO. 260-26: 7 YES; 12 NO (Anthony, Gustafson, Harmon, Heiser, Johnson, Merritt, Pavlock, Penhollow, Proctor, Scudder, Vanstrom, Chagnon); – MOTION TO TABLE FAILS

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, so we're still discussing resolution 260-26 as presented. Further comments, questions on the resolution? Any other comments or questions on the resolution 260-26 as presented? Hearing none, would the clerk please call the roll?

RES. NO. 260-26 R/C Vote: 10 YES; 9 NO; (Anthony, Bankoski, Buchanan, Johnson, Larson, Lewis, Nazzaro, Nelson, Whitney – ADOPTED

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, that brings us to the last listed resolution on the agenda which is 261-26. Olivia, please.

261-26 A Resolution Adopting a Uniform Tax Exemption Policy Pursuant to General Municipal Law § 874(4) Providing that the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency Shall Not Consent to Real Property Tax Exemptions, Mortgage Recording Tax Exemptions, or Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Data Center Projects

Legislator Larson: Mr. Chairman, this resolution to prohibit our Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency from offering tax breaks to data centers recognizes 4 simple facts. This resolution will be our "input" to Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency uniform tax-exempt policy. First, Americans today are reluctant to accept additional data centers in their communities. Second, data centers are a tremendous train on electrical supply in return for very few permanent jobs. Third, any community that wants to invite the development of a data center does not need to offer any tax breaks or other subsidies to attract a data center. Fourth, any community that wants to invite the development of a data center, should at a minimum, receive generous host benefits from the data center developer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Legislator Bankoski: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there are legal questions regarding this proposed resolution. The County Attorney believes that the county does not have the legal authority that the proposed resolution would proport to exercise. There is also a question at the legislature is the authorizing body with jurisdiction to establish policy parameters governing the exercise of the agencies power to grant tax exemption benefits within Chautauqua County. So I make a motion to refer this proposed resolution to committee, where these legal questions can be resolved.

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, we have a motion by Legislator Bankoski and a second by Legislator Larson.

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Larson to Refer to Committee

Chairman Chagnon: Discussion on the motion to refer resolution 261-26 to committee?

Legislator Johnson: I am very much in favor of the spirit of this bill, but I understand the legal questions and so I support the move back to committee. I might love to see wind turbines, BESS batteries and solar farms included in the same kind of logic but we'll see.

RES. NO. 261-26: Unanimously Carried to Refer to Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Chagnon: And that ladies and gentleman brings us to announcements. And I have an announcement. Before you all leave, all you legislators leave tonight, we're going to assemble down front for our 2026 picture of the legislature. Other announcements for the good of the order? Any other announcements from legislators?

Legislator Lewis: I just had a question. Didn't we table something that we were going to handle after the budget?

Chairman Chagnon: That will be taken up –

Legislator Lewis: Next time?

Chairman Chagnon: Next meeting. It's tabled until the next meeting.

Legislator Lewis: Ah, thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: You're welcome. Any other announcements?

Legislator Proctor: I just want to remind everybody that Tuesday is election day. Go vote and early voting is taking place right now.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Any other announcements? Hearing none, that brings us to our second privilege of the floor.

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: And it looks like we have someone ready to address the second privilege of the floor.

Thank you, Kitty Lyons, Director of Finance, Seymour Street, Fredonia, New York. I just wanted to comment on the referral back or tabling actually of local law – tonight due to questions that are remaining. I just want to remind everyone here that the Human Resources Director and myself, attended both the Admin Services and Audit and Control committee meetings in September where we presented both financial information and information regarding what this changed is and we answered questions there. I'm sure that information, the minutes would reflect that discussion. Then last month, you referred that local law back to committee because there were remaining questions. The HR Director and myself answered several questions between the September and October meeting via email. We then at the October meetings of both Admin Services and Audit and Control, sat before both of those committees to answer any further questions. There were questions that were presented which we answered. I assume that the minutes from those meetings that if any of you are interested in those discussions, you have those available to you. I do welcome you, any of you who do have questions on the financial impact which we did discuss at all of those 4 meetings but, I'm always available for questions if you have them between now and the November committee meetings so that you have all of the information available to you in order to cast a vote on this local law, thank you.

Michael Rauh, the Director of the Veterans Service Agency. I live on County Road in Lakewood. I'd like to request some clarity on if the county has decided when to hold a vote on the new proposed veteran's property tax exemption for veterans that are permanently totally disabled. As the Director, I've even today, received 2 phone calls and an email about it so I'm receiving repeated questions from the public about it and I know that the various I guess, townships and school districts have to vote to adopt it. I didn't know if there was any plans for it?

Chairman Chagnon: Michael, I wished you would have reached out to me, personally because I can inform you that County Attorney, Nate Harp, and I have a plan to present that in January.

Mr. Rauh: Excellent. Okay. *(Inaudible)* just want something to be able to tell the public is all.

Legislator Larson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This evening, we witnessed a well-earned commendation for a resident of this county that served our nation in the armed forces for over a decade including in Iraq. Any suggestion at the top of our Federal Government that woman in

our armed forces weaken our military should be rejected by every American. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Anyone else wishing to address the second privilege of the floor? Anyone else for the second privilege of the floor? Seeing no one, I'm looking for a motion.

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

Unanimously Carried (7:32 p.m.)

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