

2025

THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

NOVEMBER 12, 2025

The Board convened at 10:30 A.M. in the Supervisors' Chambers at the Court House, Lake Pleasant, New York, with the Chairman, Clay J. Arsenault presiding. Mr. Arsenault led the members of the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and an opening prayer.

The Clerk, Mrs. Laura Abrams, called the roll with the following Supervisors answering:

Arietta	Chris D. Rhodes
Benson	Phillip C. Snyder
Hope	Steven M. Tomlinson
Indian Lake	Brian E. Wells
Inlet	John Frey
Lake Pleasant	Betsy A. Bain
Long Lake	Clay J. Arsenault
Morehouse	Anthony Fernandez
Wells	Beth Hunt

Also present: Barry Baker-RPTS Director/Budget Officer, Jodie Small – County Treasurer, Carole Ruiz – Personnel Officer

Public Comment: No one present.

Reports of Standing/Special Committees:

Mr. Rhodes: Met with the Sheriff, Ms. O'Neill his Confidential Secretary and Tim O'Neill, Emergency Services Manager to discuss the extension of the ST18 grant. Ms. O'Neill has had conversations with DHSES, they stated that a letter from the County could help. Mr. Rhodes stated that he prepared a letter for the Chairman and himself to sign. The letter states the cause of the delay, the impact it will have if we don't receive the extension, and that it is not a lack of dedication to the project but rather the amount of time it takes to not only find a suitable site but also get a site approved by the APA. DHSES also told Ms. O'Neill that they are tightening up on the eligible vendors and how they want to see procurement accomplished. There is a big push for MWBE and going through the Office of General Services.

Mr. Wells: The AATV regular meeting was cancelled this week and moved to next week. It will be Nov. 19th in Minerva. The membership meeting is the 7th and 8th in Lake George.

Mr. Tomlinson: Tracy Eldridge, Highway Superintendent will be in Friday for a committee meeting.

The Chairman introduced Carole Ruiz, Personnel Officer to review promotional requests from Community Services. Ms. Ruiz handed out the department's employee information, including current salaries, salaries with 5% COLA, and moving to the top of their ranges as the Department Head requested. Ms. Ruiz also handed out the history of the two current Clinical Social Workers. Mr. Wells stepped out as they will be discussing a relative. Ms. Ruiz stated Ms. Bain had asked her to call the Department Head to discuss the salaries of the two Clinical Social Workers. One has been a Clinical Social Worker longer, however, the other started sooner in a different department. Due to the Step and Grade, and by moving them to the top of their steps, the newer Clinical Social Worker will be making more until the other Clinical Social Worker gets her step in 2027. The Department Head is requesting it and stated the employees are fine with it. The Department Head further stated that she is asking the newer Clinical Social Worker to pick up more duties that she was going to have her Deputy Director do. She doesn't feel it is fair to ask her to do the extra duties and not move her to the top of the scale. The Board discussed. The Board agreed that it is up to the Department Head to know if it will be an issue with morale. The Board agreed to these requests, with the notion that she doesn't come back later and request more help. She currently has one vacant position.

Ms. Ruiz left the meeting.

Mr. Wells returned to the meeting.

The Board reviewed the quote for the District Attorney's equipment request for 2026. The Board agreed to increase the amount in the Tentative Budget Account No. A1165.0402 by \$5,000 to cover her recent request for software document storage fees.

The Budget Officer reviewed the prior changes made to the Tentative Budget.

The Board discussed the District Attorney's salary. Ms. Bain stated she hasn't hired someone else in the office to help answer the phones. Mr. Snyder stated that he doesn't feel we should give more money just because someone else is making more. Mr. Fernandez stated that she has not presented her workload as she was asked a couple of times to do. Also, she never asks for anything for the office. If the office is that busy and they have that much work, we should be hiring more staff. Ms. Hunt suggested an 8% raise. The Board discussed raises that are in the Tentative Budget for other Department Heads. Mr. Fernandez discussed the increase the District Attorney received when she was elected. The Board's decision was to leave the Tentative Budget at the 5% COLA.

The Budget Officer discussed funding County Clerk Account No. A1410.0105 Motor Vehicle Clerk PT for Ms. Earley to stay until February. Everyone agreed to fund it at \$2,000.

Mr. Rhodes stated that the County Treasurer is in attendance for the budget a lot. He would like to see her get an increase for helping with the budget. The Board discussed. Mr. Rhodes suggested \$4,000. Mr. Rhodes further suggested that it be budgeted in the Budget Officer's budget. It was discussed how doing these types of things affect the people that were in the position prior. The Board decided to have the Budget Officer discuss with the Personnel Officer on how to create this additional position.

The Budget Officer stated that Personnel Account No. A1430.0403 Legal Services \$2,500 was added to the budget.

The Board discussed the Board of Elections Account No. A1450.0108 Programmers. They increased it by \$1,000 but there has not been a charge to that account since 2022. The Budget Officer stated that he will get an answer from Board of Elections.

The Budget Officer explained that the Sheriff's Account No. A3110.0407 Supplies/Postage/Law Books is increased by \$3,500 for law books.

Public Health Account No. A4189.4106 Infrastructure Grant – amount removed. It will be funded by resolution in 2026 with what is remaining in the grant.

Fish & Game Account No. A8720.0402 changed to \$5,500 to match contract amount.

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding how much surplus cash to use for the 2026 Budget.

The Chairman discussed the possibility, in the future, of not giving COLA to stipend positions.

Mr. Tomlinson discussed the changes for the employees that are in this budget; the reduction of the health insurance contribution, the increase in buyout, and the 5% COLA. He hopes these changes will help recruit and retain the lower entry level positions.

Mr. Snyder discussed if giving a flat amount for COLA instead of a percentage was a possibility.

The Chairman recessed the meeting until November 14, 2025 at 10:30 AM.