

**2025**

**FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION**

**NOVEMBER 17, 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

Public Comment: No one present.

Reports of Standing/Special Committees:

Mr. Rhodes: The Sheriff has informed him that he would like to move forward with the renovations to his office. It was talked about previously and approved, but he doesn't feel it will happen in 2025. He will look into how it was funded in 2025 and what needs to be done to fund it in 2026.

Mr. Wells: The AATV meeting is this week. He asked Mr. Rhodes if this renovation is the large project that has been talked about. Mr. Rhodes stated no, just a reorganization of the Sheriff's Office. He now has his new deputy back from training and he is interviewing for an Account Clerk; the office needs to be made more efficient.

Ms. Bain: The Village Mayor contacted her regarding meeting with the County Board to explain why the Village would like to buy the old Peter's Oil property in Speculator. The use would be for public parking and a park. She would like to meet with the County Board to educate us on the pros and cons and they are willing to put in the deed any restrictions that the County wants for no buildings. The Chairman asked if the County owns that property. Mr. Baker explained that the DEC has a lien on the property. The County has old tax liens on the property that we made the Village whole for that the County is in debt to collect. There have been discussions regarding this

in the past. It was never foreclosed on. It was removed from the tax roll. It is still owned by Peter's Oil. The Board discussed the history of the property further. Ms. Bain will reach out to the Mayor to set up a time for a meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

**RESOLUTION NO. 401-25**

**AUTHORIZING THE REHABILITATION OF THE ENTRY DOOR SYSTEM LAKE PLEASANT COMPLEX – 2025**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, the entry doors located near the Clerk of the Board's office at the Lake Pleasant facility need repair and rehabilitation, including but not limited to new openers, internal locking devices and mechanisms, automatic openers for ADA compliance, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has received a written proposal from Kelley Bros., LLC, Syracuse, New York, under Jefferson County JCC Cooperative Contract #2023B-5 in the amount of **\$19,730.87** for the purchase and installation for rehabilitating the exterior aluminum doors with panic bar hardware, ADA compliant automatic push button operators, and associated materials and labor, and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee has reviewed the proposal and supports the project, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the DPW Superintendent is hereby authorized to proceed with the purchase and installation of the said repairs and rehabilitation of the entry doors at the Hamilton County Lake Pleasant Complex, 102 County View Drive, at a total cost of **\$19,730.87** from Kelley Bros, LLC, Syracuse, New York, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized to transfer **\$19,730.87** from the Building Reserve Fund to Account No. A1620.0413 Building Projects to cover said cost of door repair, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the DPW Superintendent and Clerk of the Board be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Frey and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT,  
FERNANDEZ, AND HUNT

NAYS: NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 402-25**

**AUTHORIZING CHANGING EMPLOYEE STATUS – PUBLIC WORKS**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, the DPW Superintendent has met with the Public Works Committee and Internal Management Committee to recommend the following employees be changed from Temporary Status to Full Time Employee Status –

Richard Clawson – Transfer Station Technician Grade 12, Step 7 at \$26.31 per hour

William Babcock – MEO Grade 11, Step 5 at \$23.97 per hour

and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Internal Management Committees recommend this change, be it

RESOLVED, that hereby the Personnel Officer is authorized to adjust the employees as stated hereon effective November 17, 2025, and the DPW Superintendent, County Treasurer and Clerk of the Board be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Hunt and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT,  
FERNANDEZ, AND HUNT

NAYS: NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 403-25**

**AUTHORIZING ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY POSITION TO BE SALARIED  
POSITION**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

**BY MR. SNYDER:**

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County District Attorney proposed that the Assistant District Attorney position should be a salaried position, and

WHEREAS, due to the inconsistency of the hours the Assistant District Attorney maintains and the fact that the Public Defender's Office positions are salaried and upon the recommendation of the Hamilton County Personnel Office, and

WHEREAS, the budget was not adjusted when the position was changed from part-time to full-time on May 2, 2025, be it

RESOLVED, that the Personnel Officer is hereby authorized to make the position of Assistant District Attorney a salaried position effective November 9, 2025, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be authorized to pay out all accrued vacation time and compensatory time to the Assistant District Attorney, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer is authorized to make the following transfer to cover the budget shortage and the payment of benefit time:

FROM: Account No. A1990.0401 Contingent	\$10,925.00
TO: Account No. A1165.0106 Assistant District Attorney	\$10,925.00

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer, Personnel Officer and Office of the District Attorney be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT,  
FERNANDEZ, AND HUNT

NAYS: NONE

2026 Budget Discussion:

Mr. Baker reported that he received the chargebacks from Board of Elections and Personnel. Mr. Baker discussed the budget summary.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Board to give an update on salaries and the local law that approves salaries for elected and appointed employees. The Clerk of the Board stated that the Personnel Officer discussed the question regarding if the adopted amount in the budget must be the amount the Board approves by local law. The attorney informed her that no, just because the amount is in the budget it does not commit the Board to have to approve that amount by local law. The salaries are set by what is approved by local law.

Mr. Fernandez stated that over the weekend he heard from some people regarding the election, about the system and the lack of confidentiality. Other Board members stated that they had heard the same thing and witnessed it. Mr. Fernandez stated that possibly they need more training and put the visors back up so when you are at the voting machine you are by yourself. The Board discussed the fact that more privacy is needed.

11:00 AM Motion to open the Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget by Mr. Arsenault, seconded by Ms. Hunt. Carried. No public present.

The Chairman recessed the meeting, leaving the Public Hearing open.

11:15 AM The Chairman opened the meeting.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to close the Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget. Seconded by Mr. Frey. Carried.

Mr. Arsenault made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2025 A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit for Hamilton County for 2026 and Authorizing the Adoption by Hamilton County of a Budget for 2026 that will Require a Tax Levy that is Greater than the Tax Levy Limit for the 2026 Fiscal Year. Seconded by Mr. Wells. Carried. No public present.

11:20 AM The Chairman recessed the meeting, leaving the Public Hearing open.

11:30 AM The Chairman opened the meeting.

Mr. Arsenault made a motion to close the Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2025. Seconded by Ms. Bain. Carried.

The Chairman called for a motion to adopt Local Law No. 7 of 2025.

Motion: Mr. Fernandez

Second: Mr. Frey

#### LOCAL LAW NO. 7 OF 2025

State of New York

County of Hamilton

A LOCAL LAW OVERRIDING THE TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR HAMILTON COUNTY FOR 2026 AND AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION BY HAMILTON COUNTY OF A BUDGET FOR 2026 THAT WILL REQUIRE A TAX LEVY THAT IS GREATER THAN THE TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR THE 2026 FISCAL YEAR

BE IT ENACTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Hamilton as follows:

- Section 1. Title: This Local Law shall be known as “Hamilton County Responsible Budgeting Law of 2026”.
- Section 2. Declaration of intent: The intention of this local law is to comply with the requirements of General Municipal Law Section 3-c (5) prior to adopting the 2026 Hamilton County Budget. The combined impact of persistent inflation, workforce and supply shortages have necessitated this increase. Notwithstanding current

economic and fiscal conditions, the County will need to provide services in 2026, in addition to those mandated by the State, which are important to our citizens. After serious and sustained efforts to minimize the amount of the tax levy, it is clear that a responsible 2026 Hamilton County Budget will require a tax levy that will be greater than the tax levy limit calculated pursuant to applicable State Law.

- Section 3. Authorization: This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law Section 3-c, which expressly authorizes the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Board of Supervisors. This local law hereby authorizes adoption of a 2026 fiscal year budget for Hamilton County that requires a tax levy increase that is greater than the calculated tax levy limit.
- Section 4. Severability: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or other portion of this local law is for any reason declared unconstitutional, or invalid or in whole or in part by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable and such unconstitutionality or invalidation shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this law which remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.
- Section 5. Effective Date: This local law shall take effect upon the date on which a certified copy of this local law is filed in the office of the Secretary of State pursuant to section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

AYES: ARIETTA (292), BENSON (221), HOPE (413), INDIAN LAKE (1,363), INLET (355), LAKE PLEASANT (897), LONG LAKE (791), MOREHOUSE (92), WELLS (683) = 5,107

NAYS: NONE

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 404-25**

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AND ADOPTION OF THE 2026 COUNTY BUDGET**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

**BY MR. RHODES:**

WHEREAS, the tentative budget for the year 2026 has been duly presented to the Board by the Finance Committee and Budget Officer and duly advertised, and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held on November 17, 2025 as required by Section 359 of the County Law, be it

RESOLVED, that the following increases and decreases be made in the 2026 Tentative Budget:

INCREASE:

A1165.0102 DA Confidential Secretary	\$5
A1165.0402 DA Office Supplies	\$5,000
A1185.0403 Coroners Autopsies	\$27,000
A1325.0101 County Treasurer	\$4,000
A1410.0105 County Clerk - Motor Vehicle Clerk PT	\$2,000
A2490.0401 Community College Tuition	\$40,000
A3110.0407 Sheriff - Supplies/Postage/Law Books	\$3,500
A3640.0103 Emergency Management – Temp.	\$1,000
A4310.0117 Mental Health - Clinical Social Worker C	\$19
A4310.0118 Mental Health -Principal Account Clerk	\$640
A8020.0101 Director of Economic Dev., Plan. & Tourism	\$3,307
A8720.0402 Fish and Game	\$2,000

DECREASE:

A1010.0406 Leg. Brd Law Books	\$7,000
A1185.0401 Coroners Travel	\$27,000
A1910.0402 Repairs to Vehicles – Insurance	\$85,000
A4189.4106 PH Infrastructure Grant	\$41,614
A6010.0111 DSS Principal Account Clerk	\$567

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Revenues be amended as follows:

INCREASE:

A1110.0000 Sales & Use Tax	\$100,000
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DECREASE:

A2680.0000 Insurance Recoveries	\$65,000
A3389.0000 DA Aid to Prosecution	\$40,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following amendments be made:

CREATE:

A1430.0403 Personnel – Legal Services	\$2,500
A3150.0116 Admin. Assist. To Jail Physician	\$10,000

DECREASE:

General Fund Cash Surplus	\$287,985
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and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon the amendments, amounts as listed to be raised by tax, making the total 2026 Budget \$10,502,538.00 and pursuant to Section 360 of the County Law, the said tentative budget as amended be and hereby is adopted as the Budget for the year 2026.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT,  
FERNANDEZ, AND HUNT

NAYS: NONE

The Chairman thanked everyone for their hard work.

Other Reports:

Mr. Frey: Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Fernandez: Confirmed that there isn't a Committee Day scheduled. The Clerk of the Board stated that in November and December there are not scheduled Committee Days; committee meetings are scheduled as needed.

Meeting recessed until December 4, 2025 at 10:30 AM.