

219th Organizational Meeting
Tuesday, January 2, 2018

J. GARRISON, CLERK OF THE BOARD: Good morning and welcome. I would like to call this 219th organizational session to order. Please stand for the salute to the flag. Thank you. I will call on the County Clerk, the Honorable Joe Provoncha to give the invocation. Please remain standing.

PROVONCHA: Dear heavenly father, we bow our heads in your presence. You have brought us into a new year. We pray that you give us the wisdom to see the mistakes we've made and give us the courage to change them. We seek your spirit of strength to see injustice and want to correct it. We look for your compassion as many seek of us to help them in the time of despair. You are a present to us as we seek your constant guiding hand through all our matters. Help us trust in the concepts that made this country great, it is you who has inspired our founders. Keep, we pray the light of freedom alive in this county and in us. Bless our President and national leaders, our Governor, our State leaders, our Chairman and county leaders. Keep safe the members of our armed forces, here and abroad and bring we pray, them home safely to the arms of their loved ones and we ask all of this through your most holy and precious name. Amen.

GARRISON: Thank you Mr. Provoncha. We will know swear in the newly elected supervisors. Would Mr. Giordano and Mr. Wilson please escort Mr. Jackson to the County Clerk to be sworn in and escort him back to his new seat.

PROVONCHA: Madam Chairwoman, holding the bible will be Mr. Jackson's granddaughter Sarah. Raise your right hand and repeat after me –

JACKSON: I, Ronald Jackson, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Essex County Supervisor, Town of Essex Supervisor, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

GARRISON: Would Mr. Marnell and Mr. Harrington please escort Mr. DeLoria to the County Clerk to be sworn in and escort him back to his new seat.

DELORIA: I, Robin DeLoria, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Essex County Supervisor, Town of Newcomb Supervisor, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

GARRISON: Would Mr. Moore and Mr. Merrihew please escort Mr. Montroy to the County Clerk to be sworn in and escort him back to his new seat.

PROVONCHA: Mr. Montroy is being sworn in with his mother's bible and his wife Ruth will be holding the bible.

MONTROY: I, Dean Montroy, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the

United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Essex County Supervisor, Town of St. Armand Supervisor, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

GARRISON: Thank you. I will now call the roll for the 2018 Board of Supervisors.

PRESENT:

Gerald Morrow	- Town of Chesterfield
Charles Harrington	- Town of Crown Point
Noel Merrihew	- Town of Elizabethtown
Ronald Jackson	- Town of Essex
Archie Depo	- Town of Jay
Joe Pete Wilson	- Town of Keene
James Monty	- Town of Lewis
Stephen McNally	- Town of Minerva
Thomas Scozzafava	- Town of Moriah
Robin DeLoria	- Town of Newcomb
Robert Politi	- Town of North Elba
Ronald Moore	- Town of North Hudson
Michael Marnell	- Town of Schroon
Dean Montroy	- Town of St. Armand
Joseph Giordano	- Town of Ticonderoga
Michael Tyler	- Town of Westport
Shaun Gilliland	- Town of Willsboro
Randy Preston	- Town of Wilmington

Department Heads Present: Brandon Boutelle, Richard Cutting, Laurie DeZalia, Michael Diskin, Nancy Dougal, Judith Garrison, Chris Garrow, Donald Jaquish, Charli Lewis, Daniel Manning, Michael Mascarenas, Sue Montgomery-Corey, Daniel Palmer, Joseph Provoncha and Kristy Sprague.

Also Present: Michael Blaise, Jim Dougan, Dina Garvey, Laura Carson, Assemblyman Dan Stec, Michelle Preston, Wes Miga, Linda Gilliland, Sarah Jackson, Craig Jackson, Ruth Montroy, Mrs. Montroy, Loni and Derrick Sprague and Sharlee Keyworth.

News Media Present: Pete DeMola - Sun Community News and Denise Raymo – Plattsburgh Press Republican.

GARRISON: Thank you. I will now call for nominations for the 2018 temporary Chairman of the Board.

McNALLY: Madam Clerk, I would like to move the name of Gerald Morrow, from the Town of Chesterfield as temporary Chairman for 2018.

GIORDANO: And I will second that.

GARRISON: Mr. McNally moves the name of Mr. Morrow, seconded by Mr. Giordano. Are

there other nominations?

DEPO: I move that the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one vote for Gerald Morrow as Temporary Chairman.

MONTY: I will second that.

GARRISON: All those in favor, opposed – carried. Would Mr. McNally and Mr. Monty please escort Mr. Morrow to the County Clerk to be sworn in and then to the dais.

MORROW: I, Gerald Morrow, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Temporary Chairman for the Essex County Board of Supervisors, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

MORROW: Thank you everyone for your support. The first order of business is to adopt the rules and regulations that will govern the board for 2018.

RESOLUTION #1 - ADOPTING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Giordano, seconded by Mr. Monty and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2921 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

MORROW: Thank you. At this time I will ask for nominations for the 2018 Chairman of the Essex County Board of Supervisors?

GILLILLAND: Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure and my honor to forward the name of Randy Preston of re-election as the Chairman of the Essex County Board of Supervisors. I met Randy four years ago when I first came into this seat. At that time the only thing I knew about him was he was called, "Bad Randy" since then I met his wife and he can't be all that bad but frankly, he scared me because he knew what he was doing, he had an answer, he had an opinion and I thought I'm never going to crack through to this guy on anything. What I did find in my time sitting next to him and working with him in various capacities is a man who is insightful, who questions, who listens but most of all is decisive and that decisiveness in the past year has done very good for this board. You all remember what Mr. Preston said when he tapped out of here with his inauguration speech last year he laid out a number of priorities for our county and guess what? He's gotten them done.

This board has turned itself around from the, 'kick the can' board to the board that looks for problems, identifies them, evaluates them and attacks them. Let me give you a few examples, EMS – this county under Mr. Preston's leadership is leading the State in fixing a critical life threatening problem that effects all rural counties not only in the State and Country but we're leading the fight on it and we're getting to the fix. Frontier Town – this county, with that economic engine to be put down in the southern part of this county, this county is ahead of the State in moving that forward. If it wasn't for Mr. Preston's decisive leadership and we're not going to get caught in another political do-loop attitude by going ahead and if he has to reach

and talk to whomever to make things happen, he makes things happen. The budget – we are back at the end of five year plan right now, under the cap, we're moving forward doing a lot more with what I frankly consider less and more efficiently. The re-organization of Social Services that particular largest department of this county is working like a well-run machine because Mr. Preston recognized the problem and put in the right people in the right place at the right time for that. The addition to the Community Resources Department is another one, we recognized that that was a truly leveraging department that helps all towns in this county and under his leadership we now have several new positions in there and is helping this county tremendously including and related to that hiring of a DPW Civil Engineer. Our capital equipment phase replacement plan for DPW, for the first time we know what our investment has to be into the out years. This was also done under Mr. Preston's leadership and I think we can name numerous other issues such as the fairgrounds, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building, other things. We are now a board that moves forward and it is because of Mr. Preston's leadership. My twenty-five years in the Navy has made it very clear, every organization reflects its leader and when you have a decisive, thinking leader that can set the tone everybody moves forward and everybody does better. Mr. Chairman, I am proud and honored to place my nomination of Randy Preston before this board for re-election as our Chairman.

MORROW: Thank you very much. Is there a second?

MARNELL: I'll second that motion.

MORROW: Mr. Gilliland moves Mr. Preston's name in nomination, seconded by Mr. Marnell. Is there anymore nominations?

WILSON: I move the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Mr. Preston as the 2018 Chair of the Board.

MORROW: Thank you.

SCOZZAFAVA: I'll second that.

MORROW: All in favor, opposed – carried. Would Mr. Gilliland and Mr. Marnell please escort Mr. Preston to the County Clerk where he can take his oath and then escort him to the dais.

PROVONCHA: Mr. Preston's wife, Michelle is going to hold the bible.

PRESTON: I, Randy Preston, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Essex County Chairman for the Board of Supervisors, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations Chairman.

MORROW: Mr. Preston it's an honor to hand this gavel to you and I could not hand it over to a more qualified individual. You have been one of the best Chairpersons this board has ever had.

PRESTON: Thank you Jerry. And just in case you were worried, I only want one more year. We will now call the nominations for the 2018 Vice-Chairman of the Essex County Board of

Supervisors and I would like to name Mr. Gilliland in nomination for the 2018 Vice-Chair. So, Shaun is highly qualified graduated from the military Virginia Institute, he also holds Masters Degrees from US Naval Post Graduate School and the US National College. Shaun served our country for twenty-five years obtaining the rank of Captain, commanded five ships at sea, served on numerous high profile staffs including NATO, the Chief of Naval Operations and joint Chiefs of Staff. He retired in 2005, started a diversified stock farm and started an International Explosive and Logistics Operation. Shaun has served his community through many different positions but when it comes to nominating Shaun again, I didn't know at first, we kind of had a rocky start and I kind think it was him not me but who would guess that but anyways I am so very proud to call him my friend. I am also when I think about Shaun I think about one word and one word only at least a start, integrity. Do we have a second?

TYLER: I will second that.

PRESTON: Thank you very much. Are there any other nominations?

MERRIHEW: I move that the nominations be closed for the 2018 Vice-Chairman of the Board.

MOORE: Second.

PRESTON: All in favor, opposed – carried.

Would Mr. Tyler and Mr. Politi please escort Mr. Gilliland to the County Clerk to be sworn in.

PROVONCHA: Mrs. Gilliland will be holding the bible.

GILLILLAND: I, Shaun Gilliland, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Vice-Chairman for the Essex County Board of Supervisors, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

PRESTON: Very good and again, thank you Shaun. You do above and beyond all the time. I quite frankly don't know how you do it with running that farm. I really don't know how you do it. So it says in my cheat sheet here it's now time for my remarks. Trust me, I won't put you through a pain of an hour and half of remarks so hopefully my priorities are priorities of others on this board, the county EMS is right on the top of my list. We're looking at this. We have applied for a grant, a large grant that I've been led to believe to get us converted over to a county EMS. People sadly are dialing 911 and are not getting an ambulance until over an hour later and that just should not be in this day and age. So there's a group of us that have been working very hard on this and I think this is the year that we're going to get there and we've got a lot of support in Albany and I feel that they get it. Maybe they didn't at first but I feel now that they get it and we are also asking and I know when you mention taxes everybody gets nervous, as it stands now towns can form an ambulance taxing district, counties cannot. So we are pushing legislation through Betty Little's office and Dan Stec to try and get this in the forefront; twenty-five cents per thousand of assessment. Twenty-five cents would fund this program as we go forward. I don't think twenty-five cents is going to hurt anyone and it boils down to you dial 911 you should get an ambulance within a reasonable amount of time and I'm hopeful there's a large contingent of us I think going to Albany at the end of this month that I can get a one on one with the Governor because I know if he understood the magnitude of this problem

he is the only reason we got any movement at all and it's always been at this conference. You talk to him and normally within a week or so you get action so I'm hopeful because this is so important to this county that we're going to be successful actually I'm confident that we are.

The next thing on my list here is that Cornell believe it or not like, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building I think people have heard that it's really in bad shape and we're looking at purchasing the Jehovah Witnesses' Building in Lewis and actually I think we're going to however, I will say no intention of just abandoning that building now granted it was a \$2 million dollar price tag to do all the repairs to it, that does not have to be done at once. I think we need to get these people into a safe place and then I think as time goes on we need to slowly start looking at priorities in this building and slowly start bringing this building back to something that the county and Westport can be proud of. So I have no intention of abandoning this building none. I think there's a lot of history there and I think we can do this and we can do this and not go bankrupt doing it.

The other thing that I am extremely proud of and I brought this up I think at our last meeting, the cooperation of this board as far as I'm concerned is amazing. I started my eleventh year being here and I just never seen the cooperation that we've had this last year. It's been totally amazing and you know what you can get a lot done when everybody is willing to cooperative and everybody is willing to compromise to get things accomplished and I'm very proud that this board has been able to do this.

The next thing is I'd really like to see a conclusion of the classification on the Boreas Ponds that's very, very important to our towns in the southern part of this county and as far as I'm concerned the entire county. This has dragged on a very long time that I don't get it. I just don't get it why it needs to drag on this long. Just make a decision and move forward plan and simple so you know if it's not going to play in our favor, it doesn't but make the decision and let's move forward.

The last thing you'll be happy to know on my list is I also look very forward to the Frontier Town Project moving forward. We're making progress. It might be slow but we are making progress thanks to our DPW and this started when Jim from the DPW actually got there, but this is a very, very exciting project. It is to me. We've got some of the buildings down. We've got the brewery coming in. We've got some very positive things happening in southern Essex County and again, I'm proud that this board is working through. There's bumps in the road, here and there but we're working through them and this is an exciting project and I also thank the Governor for funding it. So it's all positive looking forward at least my concern about things is for the most part taking care of you know again we're making progress and we're meeting as in us and DEC officials who is going to kind of head up this project, we're meeting on a regular basis trying to keep the lines of communication open for everyone and I want to thank each and every one of for the support this past year. It's kind of been a tough one for me but I've gotten through it and I want to thank you for the support and that's it.

Okay I know you're very happy that I'm done speaking so at this time I would ask the District Attorney, Kristy Sprague to come to the front of the room and be sworn in by the County Clerk. Thank you.

PROVONCHA: Holding the bible is going to be Derrick Sprague the attorney's father and mother is present and sister.

SPRAGUE: I, Kristy Sprague, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Essex County District Attorney, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

PRESTON: We will now proceed with resolutions of the day.

RESOLUTION #2 – APPOINTING THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESSEX COUNTY SELF-INSURANCE PLAN.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Scozzafava, seconded by Mr. Politi and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2921 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

GARRISON: Thank you.

PRESTON: At this time I would ask Judy Garrison to come to the front of the room and be sworn in by the County Clerk.

GARRISON: I, Judy Garrison, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Clerk, Essex County Board of Supervisors, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

GARRISON: Mr. Chairman, I announce my Deputy, Dina Garvey.

GARVEY: I, Dina Garvey, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Deputy Clerk, Essex County Board of Supervisors, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

RESOLUTION #3 – APPOINTING A COUNTY ATTORNEY.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Giordano, seconded by Mr. Morrow and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2921 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

PRESTON: I would ask that Dan Manning come to the front of the room to be sworn in by the County Clerk.

MANNING: I, Daniel Manning, III, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Essex County Attorney, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

RESOLUTION #4 – APPOINTING A COUNTY AUDITOR.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Tyler and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2921 votes

NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

PRESTON: I would ask at this time for Ms. DeZalia to come to the front of the room to be sworn in by the County Clerk.

DEZALIA: I, Lauren L. DeZalia, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Essex County Auditor, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

DEZALIA: Mr. Chairman at this time I'd like to call Laura Carson my Deputy to come forward to be sworn in.

CARSON: I, Laura Carson, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Essex County Deputy Auditor, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

RESOLUTION #5 – APPOINTING A PURCHASING AGENT.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Monty and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2921 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

PRESTON: Linda Wolf is not with us today so Dan did you want to say a few words?

PALMER: Linda is not here. It appears that our Purchasing Agent may be a grandmother today so she is otherwise disposed.

RESOLUTION #6 – AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF BRANDON BOUTELLE AS THE ESSEX COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Politi, seconded by Mr. Jackson and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2921 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

RESOLUTION #7 – DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR 2018.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Morrow, seconded by Mr. Giordano and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2566 votes
NOES: 355 votes (Scozzafava)
ABSENT: 0 votes

PRESTON: I'm just looking down through the list here we've got Sun Community News,

Plattsburgh Press Republican and the Adirondack Daily Enterprise and the Glens Falls Post Star as the official newspapers of Essex County pursuant to Section 214 of the County Law for the publication of all local laws, notices and other matters required by law to be published.

SCOZZAFAVA: I don't understand why we, because it cost a lot of money for these legals, continue to keep the Post Star and the Press Republican? Their subscribers have pretty much dropped off the map. They don't do the home delivery anymore except by two group or mail they just mail the Press Republican and the Sun covers every community in this county.

PRESTON: Mr. Manning do you have any comment?

MANNING: I hate to open a can of worms here but I guess we have to.

SCOZZAFAVA: I opened it.

MANNING: We've talked about this three or four times before. In order to be designated an official newspaper in the County of Essex you have to be a newspaper that is actually purchased and paid for, you can't be a free newspaper and we need to have at least two. We don't need to have to four you can cut some of these out if you wish. The Sun Community News really isn't officially under the law a newspaper by virtual fact that it is not paid for, it is not a subscriber paid paper so to just leave that in there would really put us at jeopardy with respect to publications of our local laws or any of our notices they could be deemed de facto, improper. The Press Republican, I don't know about the Adirondack Daily Enterprise or the Glens Falls Post Star but you've got to have at least two papers in there that are paid papers, designated papers as per the law.

GILLILLAND: I guess agreeing with Mr. Scozzafava, take a look at these subscription numbers I mean the Sun is the one that gets to our entire county. I would dare say it is read throughout the county. The others are read in certain areas of the county so you know, if we use one or two or all of the other three or four it's still is important if we would need to get the word out to the public throughout the county then it needs to be put. I also found that sometimes it's hit or miss with public notices as to whether you actually get them in some of those other newspapers. At least at the town level the Sun always carries the public notices we ask them to so I understand the law from Mr. Manning's point of view but you know, sometimes if we are looking for an de facto solution or the jury's solution I think we can still keep the Sun in there because it gets the word out.

PRESTON: I agree.

TYLER: Legally we have four papers, do we have to put it in four papers or can we pick and choose and put it one or two papers?

MANNING: Legally you only have to designate one paper.

TYLER: I know designate but –

MANNING: If you designate four papers you've got to put it in all four you cannot pick and choose. Every local and publication has to be placed in every one of these. The Sun Community News and I agree with Shaun it does reach the most people but it's not legal, but we do it so that it reaches these people. You couldn't simply take all the rest of the papers out and leave

the Sun Community News that would be completely illegal. We've had a lawsuit on that here at the Essex County Supreme Court level and there's been appellate division rulings on the same issue.

TYLER: My suggestion would be to take one that we have to have as a legal paper and keep the Sun that we would have two.

MANNING: You could do that if you wanted to. You would have to make a decision which paper would serve the most constituents in the County and I think I wasn't here when this was chosen before they've been simply carried over for years, I think they were designated because certain of these papers reached the southern area and certain reached the rest some of the North etc. Sun was added later. I'm not really comfortable having Sun in the list it probably should be a separate thing because it's really not an official newspaper designee. You can resolve to put the things in listed as an additional newspaper kind of tending those two.

PRESTON: I think we should take our chances, it would be him going to jail right because I think the Sun should be in there along with one other official.

TYLER: It's just real expense. I mean this day and age maybe ten, fifteen, twenty years ago it was logical but not anymore. It's just crazy how much it costs to put these articles in the paper.

PRESTON: I agree.

JACKSON: I think 100% that we are wasting money but at the moment we don't the option but perhaps Mr. Stec in the Assembly and Betty Little in the Senate can work to have it changed and no longer discriminate against the newspaper that doesn't charge. I don't think that's fair in this day and age. I think we should pursue with that but for now I agree the Sun and throw a dart at the wall in term of one of the others to cover the legality of it but I don't see any need for three when one will do.

PRESTON: Thank you.

POLITI: The Sun is not well read at all in the North of the County and I won't support it. There's no question. The Adirondack Daily Enterprise has been in the North end of the county and not the Sun at all.

MANNING: For purposes of the local law you need two papers so you can only take out one if you're going to keep the Sun.

SCOZZAFAVA: So is the Sun one of our legal papers? Or can't be? We do notices in the Sun.

MANNING: It's designated in here but it's in with the other three.

SCOZZAFAVA: So is it certain municipalities that it's not recognized as a legal because I see bank foreclosures in there, I see all kinds of legal notices.

MANNING: This is just for municipalities, the definition of what the newspaper is for purpose of publication and it excludes newspapers that are not paid for.

SCOZZAFAVA: I would agree with Mr. Jackson because it's antiquated the law, especially

today with the internet and so on. It's very expensive for localities.

MANNING: It's very antiquated and in researching it the last time it had to do with a case in Buffalo and they carved out a niche and they stopped all these types of papers and in today's day and age it should be based upon circulation, that's what the whole reason is putting notice in the newspaper is to get it out to the public not whether it's paid for, not paid for or anything like that.

PALMER: The other thing is it needs to be a daily paper too because in order to, for our public hearing notices we are required to publish five days prior to the meeting if you change it to a weekly that changes your whole schedule as to when you can hold special meetings and those kinds of things so if you choose to take some out make sure you that you leave at least one daily in there because you have to have that daily publication.

MANNING: And that's where the Sun is a little difficult too because they are only a weekly publication.

MERRIHEW: Seeing that we've discussed the legalities and limitations I would be prepared to offer a motion to move this along to designate the Plattsburgh Press and the Adirondack Daily Enterprise as our official papers whether or not we want to include, given times back and forth with the Sun it doesn't matter because that's not a legal paper so the motion that I would be offering for the legality of our designation would be the two papers and that would be sufficient for Mr. Politi's legion.

PRESTON: Well our County Attorney says we can change it at any time. Do you want some time to think about it or not?

MARNELL: The Southern part of the county gets serviced the Post Star and I would like to see the Post Star and either the Plattsburgh Press or the Adirondack Journal to cover the north end because Schroon, Minerva and Newcomb they are delivered the Post Star with a carrier and I think they do a little bit further that those three towns.

PALMER: This is how we got the four papers originally.

GIORDANO: I don't want to belabor this but my impulse suggestion would just to get some data on circulation numbers and the cost to put an ad in the paper and actually look at it because it's just like Ron had said, throwing darts at the wall.

PRESTON: Yeah, I would rather push this off until Shaun is chairing the meeting.

McNALLY: We don't get the Press Republican down south and the extra cost, I don't know what it to be but to cover the whole county is more important than to save a few thousand dollars a year that's why we need to maintain a northern paper and a southern like the Post Star and Press Republican or Post Star and Adirondack. The only way we get the Press Republican is in the mail and it is two days late.

GILLILLAND: I would propose that we pass this resolution as stated right now and follow Mr. Giordano's lead there and get some data on circulation and cost.

MONTY: I just wanted to echo Dan's sentiment because we had a situation with a grant where

we had posted our legal notice and we were in plenty of time but the paper was not out until Thursday and when it was initially reviewed it was kicked back until we appealed it and we had everything from the date we submitted it that allowed it so it is very critical as far as the grants and stuff that we had that five day time frame in there. I really think the daily is a necessity.

MOORE: I think Mr. Gilliland just put a motion on the floor?

PALMER: There is a motion on the floor.

MOORE: I was going to second that what Shaun said just to move along. Let's get these four papers listed and then find out what the process is.

PRESTON: We have a motion and a second on the floor and Judy do we know what the motion is?

GARRISON: To move the resolution through as written.

PRESTON: Questions, discussion?

MORROW; I'm going to support it as written because we've been a very open board with the public here and I'm proud to say that and I said it last week we haven't played politics, we don't discriminate, we don't do anything the more we get out in the public the better we are it shows we're open Government in today's day and age a lot of them aren't that way and with what money we spend here what we are discussing here is peanuts for what money we spend here as our Government representing people's lives. I wholeheartedly support this as written.

PRESTON: Okay so I would guess that this is going to be a roll call vote.

GARRISON: This is the resolution as written and follow up with circulation and costs on the newspapers.

RESOLUTION #8 – ORDERING THE CONFINEMENT OF DOGS TO PROTECT THE DEER HERD.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Monty, seconded by Mr. Scozzafava and adopted.

SCOZZAFAVA: I'll second it for discussion. When you read the body of this resolution, you get down to the be it resolved, isn't this a complete contradiction to our tethering law? I mean, we're ordering dogs, every dog in the county to be securely confined.

PALMER: Just during the notice period.

MONTY: I think that's what your definition of confinement is Tom. You can have them behind a fence, it doesn't say we can't tether them out for a short period of time obviously not in this one but I think it's your terms of confinement.

SCOZZAFAVA: That's why I'm asking. This was brought to my attention.

MANNING: They are both separate and distinct laws, they both have separate and distinct enforcements and this is what the law requires be done so that's why we pass this resolution. I guess you could take and try to define what confine means and as it is defined in our local law

and it's defined in here and we need to have this passed by law.

PRESTON: Any further discussion? This is not a roll call so all in favor, opposed – so carried.

RESOLUTION #9 – ADOPTING AN INVESTMENT POLICY AND DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES FOR COUNTY FUNDS

This resolution was moved by Mr. Scozzafava, seconded by Mr. Tyler and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2921 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

RESOLUTION #10 – PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW §554 AND §556 DELEGATING TO THE ESSEX COUNTY AUDITOR THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE CORRECTIONS TO THE TAX ROLLS OF NOT MORE THAN \$2,500.00, AND THE PAYMENT OF REFUNDS DUE AS A RESULT OF SUCH CORRECTIONS.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Morrow, seconded by Mr. DeLoria and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2921 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

RESOLUTION #11 – OF ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE ESSEX COUNTY PURCHASING POLICY AND ALL PROCEDURES RELATED THERETO AND AUTHORIZATION OF THE CONTINUED USE THEREOF.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Politi, seconded by Mr. Merrihew and adopted.

RESOLUTION #12 – AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION FOR THE SUPERVISORS OF ESSEX COUNTY.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Scozzafava, seconded by Mr. Marnell and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2921 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

PRESTON: Any discussion?

SCOZZAFAVA: I never want it to be said that I didn't vote for my own raise.

GARRISON: We do have a couple from the floor.

RESOLUTION #13 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 396 DATED DECEMBER 27, 2017 ENTITLED “RESOLUTION FOR 2018 SALARIES FOR ALL MANAGEMENT/CONFIDENTIAL AND CERTAIN DEPARTMENT HEAD EMPLOYEES AND ADOPTING THE SAME”

This resolution was moved by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Morrow and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2921 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

SCOZZAFAVA: This is an amendment to the resolution?

PALMER: No, it's not an amendment it's a corrected resolution. There was one salary that was listed incorrectly.

MANNING: We previously did this but it is corrected now the mistake.

SCOZZAFAVA: That's why we are amending it.

PRESTON: Any further discussion? If not, roll call. Do we have resolutions from the floor?

GARRISON: I have one more.

RESOLUTION #14 – INTRODUCING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2018

This resolution was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Giordano and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2921 votes

NOES: 0 votes

ABSENT: 0 votes

PRESTON: Do we know what that is?

MANNING: It's a local law fixing the 2018 salary of the Public Defender who was appointed for a fixed term. What this is is we had already passed a Local Law No. 1 of 2018, which contained all fixed salaries for all elected and appointed officials in the county that's to be done by pursuant to statute; we have to do it by local law. We established a public hearing date and after we've done that we found that Mr. Boutelle's salary was erroneously listed so rather than, there's a 45 day permissive referendum period required for these local laws so by the time we get through the permissive referendum period on the original resolution will bring it to the end of February so rather than re-due all that we're going to let that process go forward but we are going to amend it as far as Mr. Boutelle's salary to accurately reflect it. His salary will not be, his will be probably a month behind that but in order rectify the situation this is what you need to do so all this is is a local law that fixes Mr. Boutelle's salary. He was shorted on the original resolution by \$2500.00, this includes that \$2500.00 so that it can remain whole.

PRESTON: I believe we did have a mover and a second? Okay, I guess not yet. Does someone want to move it and second? Mr. Jackson, second by Mr. Giordano. Discussion? If not, roll call vote please.

At this time I think Mr. Boutelle is here. I ask him to come forward and be sworn in by the County Clerk.

MANNING: Let the record also reflect that we set a public hearing date on January 16, 2018 at 9:00 in the morning.

BOUTELLE: I, Brandon Boutelle, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of Essex County Public Defender, according to the best of my ability.

PROVONCHA: Congratulations.

PRESTON: Thank you. Are there any other motions to come from the floor?

GILLILLAND: Yes Mr. Chairman we do have our Assemblyman, Mr. Stec here today and tomorrow is the beginning of the legislative session and I would like to offer the courtesy of the floor to Mr. Stec so he can come up and tell me what he's going to do for us.

PRESTON: Do we have second for that, Mr. Scozzafava. Mr. Stec come on down.

ASSEMBLYMAN STEC: Happy New Year everybody and thanks for offering me just a few minutes to address everybody. In my prepared remarks coincidentally I'm prepared to discuss at length legislation that I have concerning the definition of a newspaper so I'm glad I brushed up on that before I came up here today. Truth be told, first of all thank you it's been a pleasure to work with and represent Essex County the past five years in the State legislature. One of the pieces of legislation that I got the opportunity to inherit from my predecessor your very own Teresa Sayward, was legislation to modify the definition of a newspaper so I'm going to assume that you have the same kind of issues and experiences with that knowing where the newspapers are coming from and the geography of the county you in many ways have a problem and others would say an opportunity in that you don't have one monster newspaper that covers your whole footprint like Warren County does with the Post Star out of Glens Falls but you've got geographical overlaps and that's driving you to look at four newspapers anyways her legislation which is now my legislation which is still pending legislation would address that so that essentially it would allow for non-paid for newspapers and would give you additional flexibility. It does not have a Senate sponsor and the few times that it has ever come up outside of Albany I've gotten, I wouldn't say angry or threatening but they weren't happy, thoughtful calls from newspaper editors, because daily newspaper editors that are paid are very concerned about maybe gorging their ox but anyways. I'm aware of the issue and I can certainly look at it again and see if we can get some motion but I've got to think that on the one hand four newspapers is a lot more legal advertising money that you're spending that you surrounding counties that don't have four but on the other hand I think Jerry hits the nail on the head when you probably consider the size of your budget and what that state, the public trust and transparency that that added cost although you grit your teeth at it it's not the end of the world but it's real money, it's your tax payer's dollars and I'm happy to look at that but I didn't really want to leave with that but you've spent a fair amount of time on it today so I thought I'd least let you know it's on my radar and it hasn't gone anywhere. I don't think it's racing to go anywhere but we'll take a look at it again. Randy likes to talk about having cocktails or whatever it is with the Governor at the end of every January he might want to add this to his list too although I think he probably should lead with what you're going to talk about.

I wanted to report to all of you that your Chairman and your Vice-Chairman and all of you but I've had a lot of contact with those two on the various issues that they both addressed today that are important to the county they've been outspoken advocates for legislation to allow a county to set up its own EMS taxing district and it's a very real issue and we see it in Warren County as well. I apologize for referring to my home county except I was on their board there and I lived there and I'm intimately familiar with the goings on of those issues and there are an awful lot of similarity especially when you get outside of Queensbury and Glens Falls they're running into the same problems and in fact earlier this fall we had hosted Senator Little hosted in Warren County an EMS forum if you will and they had a speaker up from Albany County Sheriff's office as how they did it. Not exactly what we're looking for but at least it was on the table to discuss things and I know it's going to get a good look because as both Randy and Shaun pointed out it's a very real issue.

You've also been not shy about some other legislative issues or concerns that they have or

desires of the need for a family court Judge to be established, that slot. That will require legislation that is likely if it's going to happen the first opportunity for that to happen likely at budget time, get it worked into the budget. If that doesn't happen it's not the end of the world there's always another opportunity but that's likely where it will first come up and I'm also aware that you have a you and Hamilton County both have expiring funding from your landfill closure, from the State that is set to expire this year and it's a significant amount of money we'll see if we can also work it and again that will probably be appropriately done if it can be done in the budget process so I know Senator Little is working for these issues as well as in my office and hers talk about these often so that's on our radar.

I want to congratulate everyone on your elections. I hope everyone has had a good holiday season. You've got a couple of new people and one new, kind of not so new, been here before supervisors but I want to congratulate your new members here and let them know and hopefully your colleagues will agree my door and my phone is always open to all of you and certainly I look to do whatever I can to you in your capacity as the town supervisor certainly anything county wide and I don't care what your party affiliation is you know, I work for you guys and I think everyone knows that but I think in this day and age with what's going on and what's about to start happening in Albany again and certainly what's happening down in Washington DC I think the dynamic we have here and I'm glad that the chairman mentioned it in his remarks as far as the level of cooperation that I've witnessed on your board. The other opportunity I have is that I represent all or part of four counties so I get to compare the Sheriff's and the District Attorney's. Kristy is running a close second right now to Jason Carusone but he's brand new so he hasn't screwed anything up yet. I'm kidding but your operation here, your staff and all of you and how you work you know, the people of Essex County should know that from my perspective of having the opportunity to watch other counties in the north county you guys are well run and most importantly though you treat each other and the public with a great deal of respect and transparency and that's something that a lot of people can take a lesson from. So I'm here for you this year and I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions. The District Attorney wanted to know what I can do for her. I always get nervous when anyone in law enforcement starts asking what can I do for them but anyways Happy New Year and if there is any questions I'd be happy to answer them.

PRESTON: Any questions for Assemblyman Stec? Mr. Monty I would have been disappointed if you didn't have something.

MONTY: Dan first I want to thank you for serving us and serving as well. The third round of the phase three of the broadband initiative is due out any time now and you and I have had a conversation on this. Are there any plans in the works? I know speaking for the town of Lewis I think we had some bid? I was in contact with a gentleman from Slick who bid some but he can't tell me where and I just wondered if there was anything in the works that's going to address the fact that the Government promised 100%?

ASSEMBLYMAN STEC: Thanks for bringing that up and I apologize I didn't. The broadband issue is obviously a very important issue and I know that there is an awful lot of concern here because they are still talking about that meeting that you all had in the Crown Plaza last year down in Albany so I think they got the message loud and clear that there was concern as to are we going to achieve the Governor's stated goal and Chairman, I hate to correct the Chairman but I will say the legislature provides funding but with that said, the Governor takes credit but we have a function in the budget we are to provide funding and we did provide half a million dollars to leverage potentially another half a million dollars and there was some of that added Federal money and we've come to the phase three in the fall they said in December there would be an

announcement and here we are January 2 and that announcement of what those new grants are hasn't taken place yet. We've been following this with the broadband office closely all fall and I believe any day now and at this point quite frankly because we've got State of the State tomorrow for all I know maybe tomorrow is the day that that happens the Governor kinds like to package good news with other good news and that might be his opportunity to get that word out there so I would fully expect for the next couple of weeks. Now with that said I also don't anticipate that this third round is going to get us to that 100% and in fairness to the Governor and his stated goal had it caveat to the asterisk you know and that kind of gave him a little wiggle room acknowledging that it might be impossible to get that 100 mega minutes per second everywhere in the State but you know I think the gist of his message and his realistic goal is that it's going to be close to that and certainly we're not there. I expect what's likely to happen is that there still will be a difference to where we are projected to land with the end of phase three and that 99% or 95% goal that's probably going to require additional funding. I certainly will support that. I've think they learned a lot along the way, the maps, the accuracy of the maps I think one thing local Government did a good job on beating them over the head on that hey, you can't go with these census' maps if one person has served on the whole census block has served, that was absurd. I think that they learned that. I still think they have a greater level of confidence in the maps that they are using than perhaps people sitting around this room do and I'm aware of that, Betty's office is aware of that we're going to continue to push that because you know it would be nice if Westchester and everybody else gets theirs bumped up but that doesn't do us in the Adirondacks any good, nor do I expect that we're going to have universal coverage the same as Westchester but from where we were five years ago to where the Governor says we will get and he said a couple years ago we should be able to get darn close to that and we have to it's not a convenience or a novelty for Facebook or Candy Crush or whatever the game of the day is but it's an economic development issue, it's a property values issue, it's a public safety issue, it's an education issue. I've got – there is some schools in Warren County that I don't know if it's still the case but until at least recently, kids would have to get driven to a park outside the town hall or outside the library to get a Wi-Fi signal so they could do their homework now imagine having to do that today? You know? That's absurd. So, how does that kid compete with a kid from Westchester or a kid from New York that's got the best broadband access all the time when it comes time to apply to colleges and things like that. So it's a fairness issue, it's an educational issue. I'm fully committed to it but I suspect we are going to need to put more money into it to get to where we want it to be.

PRESTON: Any other questions? If not, you really referred to me down having drinks with the Governor if you want I can probably get you in?

ASSEMBLYMAN STEC: I get my own invites. *(laughter)*

PRESTON: Okay, anything else for Assemblyman Stec? Again, on behalf of the whole board I want to thank you for coming up.

ASSEMBLYMAN STEC: On behalf of myself, my family I'm certain all my partners in Albany were glad to see you back at the helm here and we know that you had a rough year and you had a lot of people in Albany that were aware of that and we're cheering for you and so we certainly wish you and your family and everybody here and their families a very happy and healthy 2018.

PRESTON: Thank you. Is there anything else? Now Joe Provoncha is going to give the closing prayer, please.

PROVONCHA: May the good lord bless and keep you. May he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you and may he always hold you in the hallow of his hand. Amen.

PRESTON: Thank you. If there is nothing else to come before this board. We stand adjourned. Thank you.

As there was no further discussion to come before this Organizational Meeting it was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors