

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 29, 2024 - 10:00 AM

James Monty, Chairman
Charlie Harrington, Vice-Chairman

Chairman Monty called this Ways & Means committee to order at 10:00 am with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Chris Clark, Robin DeLoria, Derek Doty, Shaun Gilliland, Charlie Harrington, Ken Hughes, Steve McNally, James Monty, Cathleen Reusser, Favor Smith, Matt Stanley, Ike Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson, Davina Winemiller, Margaret Wood and Mark Wright. Matthew Brassard was excused.

Department Heads present: James Dougan, Judy Garrison, Mary McGowan, Dan Manning, Michael Mascarenas, Jack Moulton David Reynolds and Matt Watts.

Also present: William Tansey and Thomas Murphy.

News media: None present.

MONTY: Good morning, it's 10 o'clock we'll call the ways and means to order. If everybody would join me in the salute to the flag. Thank you. Roll call Judy, please. Thank you. We have no guests, moving onto resolutions please.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Monday, February 12, 2024

Chairman – M. Wright Vice-Chairman – I. Tyler

- 1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND PLACING ON FILE THE 2023 BOARD OF ELECTIONS ANNUAL REPORT. Smith, Wright**
- 2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHANGE IN THE TERM OF THE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS FROM TWO (2) TO FOUR (4) YEAR TERM. Gilliland, McNally – *tabled*.**

GILLILLAND: I don't have a motion actually, I'm the one that actually signed a letter of endorsement to do that but I think the county leadership needs to sit down with Board of Elections and work through some issues that have come up the last few weeks so I move that we table this motion at this point.

MONTY: We have a motion by Mr. Gilliland, second by Mr. McNally. Discussion on the motion?

GILLILLAND: Sir, point of order no discussion on the table.

MONTY: I'm sorry thank you.

DOTY: I'm sorry so when will the issue come back in front of us again?

GILLILLAND: When it's taken off the table by a motion of the board of those who vote to table.

DOTY: Okay.

MONTY: Thank you. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed – carried.

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO SURPLUS AND DONATE A 2016 FORD EXPEDITION TO THE MINEVILLE CV TECH SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CLASS.** Tyler, Clark
4. **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHARD JENSEN UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM ESSEX COUNTY JAIL.** Tyler, unanimous

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Monday, February 12, 2024

Chairman – I. Tyler Vice-Chairman – C. Barber

5. **RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO CONTINUE TO FUND THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM THROUGH THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION BEYOND APRIL 2024.** Hughes, unanimous

HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, February 12, 2024

Chairman – JP. Wilson Vice-Chairman - C. Harrington

6. **RESOLUTION OF CONGRATULATIONS AND APPRECIATION TO JACQUELINE "JACKIE" THOMAS UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM ESSEX COUNTY WITH OVER 36 YEARS OF SERVICE.** Hughes, unanimous
7. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF LESLEE MOUNGER AS A MEMBER OF THE ESSEX COUNTY SERVICES BOARD (CSB) FOR A TERM EFFECTIVE 1/10/2024 – 12/31/2026 AND AS A MEMBER OF THE ALCOHOL SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR A TERM EFFECTIVE 1/10/2024-12/31/2027.** Hughes, Tyler
8. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS, FROM VARIOUS UNEXPENDED 2023 GRANT FUNDS TO 2024 GRANT FUNDS.** Thurston, Barber
9. **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO RICHARD GRAVER, LONG SERVING VOLUNTEER FOR THE ESSEX COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING AND SINCERE CONDOLENCE TO HIS FAMILY ON HIS PASSING.** Monty, unanimous
10. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR REVIEW OF THE 2024-2025 NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE AGING ANNUAL PLAN.** Doty, Stanley
11. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH OFFICE FOR THE AGING AND CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,543.27, FOR THE**

PERIOD MARCH 1ST – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, TO INCREASE EVIDENCE BASED HEALTH PROMOTION OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER ADULTS. Stanley, Tyler

- 12. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,250.00, ADRC-COVID-19 VACCINE ACCESS FUNDS. DeLoria, Stanley**
- 13. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$73,112.35, CARRY OVER UNEXPENDED 2023 FFCRA STIMULUS COVID 19 FUNDING. Thurston, Wright**
- 14. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$167,361.48, CARRY OVER UNEXPENDED 2023 DSRIP. DeLoria, Reusser**
- 15. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,426.82, CARRY OVER UNEXPENDED 2023 GIFTS AND DONATIONS FROM ADIRONDACK FOUNDATION. Stanley, Barber**

MONTY: Discussion?

DOTY: Any time table of expenditure on those funds because it came from the Foundation?

MASCARENAS: Typically not. So what you're seeing in front of you right now is really some housekeeping items from last year. A lot of times Federal budgets, State budgets don't necessarily coincide with our fiscal year so you're seeing roll over of grant funds and/or donations that kind of thing. Typically donations don't have time frames set on them the grants do but typically the answer would be no, that there wouldn't be.

DOTY: Thank you.

MONTY: Any other discussion? No discussion, all in favor signify by saying aye, opposed – carried.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Chairman – R. DeLoria Vice-Chairman – C. Barber

- 16. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH H&T ENGINEERING SERVICES, PLLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$37,500.00, FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES TO INCLUDE PRELIMINARY AND FINAL DESIGN, PERMITTING AND CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR THE AMY HILL ROAD OVER RENNIE BROOK CULVERT AND ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF CROWN POINT WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FEMA FUNDS. DeLoria, Harrington**

- 17. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH REALE CONSTRUCTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$65,000.00, TO ADDRESS ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY DAMAGES TO THE BRADFORD HILL SLOPE FAILURE SITE LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF CROWN POINT WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FEMA FUNDS. Harrington, Wood**

PERSONNEL

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Chairman – K. Hughes Vice-Chairman – JP. Wilson

- 18. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO HIRE TEN (10) STUDENT TRAINEES FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT. Hughes, Wilson**

MONTY: Discussion?

McNALLY: I think we may want to change this. The first thing it's summer employment. I think it should be not captive to just summer. I think we discussed earlier that possibly this could be a shoulder season which could be April, May not limited to actual summer number one and number two, student trainees I don't believe we should make these people be students because after they are out of high school they are not considered students if they are not furthering their education so I think we should not hinge this on student or summer. I think we should open this up a little bit more larger. It would be great if they are students and it would be great if they work in the summer time but what happens to that 21 year old kid who is unemployed, dropped out of college, not doing anything we could possibly get them too.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, I agree with you wholeheartedly. Here's what I can tell you. The titles are less important than having the positions and the money set aside for it. If that makes any sense to you Steve? So, in terms of logistics if we have ten positions and money set aside for those ten positions we can change those student trainee titles to more appropriate titles at a later time but having the approval for the money and the positions matters more. I do agree with you, that we should open it up all year long and not hold our self back to the summer months if you want to call it a county wide, for a county wide training program it doesn't limit us but I'm going to use those ten positions for summer, for fall, for spring whatever we have and if it becomes exhausted I will come back to the board and ask you for more.

McNALLY: You know possibly next week you could start filling these positions if you had the available applicants.

MASCARENAS: Yeah.

HUGHES: And I also want to jump in if I may and say that it think there were two program ideas here, there's this one here and you brought up the shoulder season which I fully support but I think it was a separate program, it would be a separate resolution. We are still working on that.

MASCARENAS: What I would do if it would be okay with the board is I would use these initial ten positions to support both so last year you approved ten positions, we didn't fill ten positions we filled seven positions in the summer so as long as we have those positions we could utilize them for either program and if those positions became exhausted then there would be the need to ask the board for additional so it's all a matter of semantics and how you want to approach it but my

plan was, let's take both those programs we come up with different marketing or branding type things for them but use those positions for either or.

MONTY: How many applicants did we have last year Mike?

MASCARENAS: I think we ended up hiring seven, is what we had.

MONTY: Yes, you hired seven.

MASCARENAS: We hired seven. We did have a handful more applicants. We don't always have spots to fill those applicants with what they desire and what the availability is so you might get a bunch that say hey, I like Probation and they'll take one but they don't want to take three, that kind of thing because they just don't have the capacity to even train them or put them with that many people in terms of a program so there is kind of that thing that you're dealing with but overall we ended up with two full time employees that stayed on after the program and they are still working here. One in IT and one in Clerk's, actually three Clerk's supportive role and another one in DSS so of those seven we got three full time employees out of what you did last summer so to me I think we should keep going with it.

WOOD: Are you going to change the resolution to encompass what we were just talking about?

MASCARENAS: Yeah, I think if we just encompass year round I can get it to Judy and Dan something written for the next meeting if that's appropriate if you want to do it that way Steve? That way when it shows up it will be worded more appropriately to cover year round availability.

McNALLY: In the summer time if you were to go ask any 17, 18, 20 year old what they are going to do for the summer pretty much, everybody would say, well, I'm going to go work here or there because there's a lot of jobs in the summer time and a lot of jobs that are very good paying you can buss at a restaurant and make \$300 a night in some restaurants so but this would be a good opportunity to those between the time they finish their winter Whiteface, Gore wherever they are working in the winter time and they've already got plans for the summer if we can catch them in the middle and they say, hey you know something instead of flipping between two jobs in the year the county might be – so I think this is a great program and I am really excited about it. I appreciate Mike's work.

MASCARENAS: I will work with you on it.

REUSSER: I just wanted to say that the idea of this as I understood it was a feeder program to a career at Essex County and it would be another option to waiting tables, going to school or some other type of position, the kid that wasn't going to school or college so the point being and then where you would advertise for this would be at the school level as well in order to start that process for someone in their career, that's how I looked at it.

MASCARENAS: Yes.

DELORIA: Well so I assume there is going to be a resolution modification to try to mold both programs together?

MASCARENAS: Yes sir.

DELORIA: So is this off the table now or?

MASCARENAS: If we pass it and then at full board we can amend that resolution to include whatever language we come up with between now and next week that would be appropriate.

GILLILLAND: Just following up on Ms. Reusser, I disagree with you in the fact that we have had some great success in bringing back the young professional graduates that have interned or have worked the summers in DPW and others and so, we have two problems one is people at the entry level and also the others of getting certified professionals such as engineers and mental health specialists and things. If we can get those people who are already in a career track and higher education and bring them in we have had success and Jim has had success in bringing them back as full time employees once they get certified and graduate but I wouldn't want to forget that as well.

MONTY: And I also want to bring up the fact that Matt, Ken, Ike and myself sat through a seminar this week in Albany about getting people employed in the county and I've got to take my hat off to what's going on in Essex County because we're doing things above and beyond what other counties in New York State are doing in fact, Ken could have taught it because that was an hour and 15 minutes of time that I can't get back. I'm sitting there listening to Ken well, that's your idea, that's your idea but it's not just isolated in Essex County but I think we are doing a heck of a job. Wouldn't you say Ken? Compared to what we've heard.

HUGHES: Putnam County actually has a really nice program that was referenced to us and I just texted both of you guys about some information on that and let the board know too just it's a great process that they are using and we are doing great things as well. So, we'll get there.

MONTY: Motion on the table, discussion. Any other further discussion? No further discussion, all in favor signify by saying aye, opposed – carried. Thank you.

FINANCE/TAX REDUCTION/MANDATE RELIEF

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Chairman – S. McNally Vice-Chairman – R. DeLoria

- 19. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTING OF MONIES RECEIVED AND DISBURSED IN 2023, BY THE OFFICE OF THE ESSEX COUNTY CLERK, PURSUANT TO COUNTY LAW 406. Wright, Reusser**
- 20. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO ADD NOEL DECKER, PRINCIPAL RECORDING CLERK, AS AN AUTHORIZED SIGNER ON THE COUNTY CLERK'S BANK ACCOUNTS. Wood, Smith**
- 21. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO ADD STACEY HAYES, DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK, AS AN AUTHORIZED SIGNER ON THE DMV BANK ACCOUNTS. Tyler, Reusser**
- 22. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND PLACING ON FILE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX OFFICE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT. McNally, Doty**

MISCELLANEOUS

- 23. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADDITION OF ONE PARCEL OWNED BY DARLA AND BEN BREKENRIDGE, IN THE TOWN OF ESSEX TO THE ESSEX COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT #1. Hughes, Gilliland**

MONTY: Discussion?

HUGHES: In looking at that parcel under Imagemate and the parcel view it only lists Darla Brekenridge as the owner. It does not list Ben Brekenridge, Ben is the son of Darla. I didn't know from a legal standpoint if Ben's name should be on this resolution if he's not the actual title, property deed holder?

GARRISON: His name was on the letter submitted from Carly Summers but we can look into it.

MANNING: Okay, we can check that and we can fix it after. I don't think it makes any difference but it means to be right for the agricultural status.

HUGHES: That's what I thought.

MANNING: Okay, we'll fix it by regular board.

HUGHES: Double check my word please.

MONTY: Any further discussion? If not further discussion, all in favor signify by saying aye, opposed – carried.

24. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO PURCHASE A COPIER FROM STATE CONTRACT, FOR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,000.00, WITH BUDGETED FUNDS. Clark, Barber

25. RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LONG TERM EMPLOYEES FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024. Gilliland, unanimous

26. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH HOMEWARD BOUND ADIRONDACKS AND THE MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00, TO ACCOMMODATE THE PURCHASE OF A VAN AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. Wilson, Tyler

MONTY: Discussion?

MASCARENAS: Yes can I just explain a little bit. So this was a resolution that didn't come to committee and I know we prefer that to happen. It's really more of a time sensitive issue. I've learned a lot about this program over the last week because I wasn't really certain what it was and I had a lot of questions in regards to the services providing and certainly in support of the vehicle that is utilized for the Veterans. What I can tell you moving forward this program started in June of last year. It's really ranking up currently. I think the intent of the program is really good. It's Dwyer funding that looks like it's going to continue to come from the State of New York and it's meant for peer to peer Veteran services and I think the thought process behind the program is strong. I would like, I asked Terri our Mental Health Director to have them come here in the near future and explain. I don't think there's a lot of people that know about these services and what can be provided and I'd like to get them in front of you as you have many Veterans in your communities that may be searching for these types of services and you can connect them. So, I'm absolutely certain that this is a good program. We're just a pass through for the State of New York to Homeward Bound of the Adirondacks for these types of funds and the Essex County

Veterans will be able to take advantage of it. So those are the next two resolutions.

MONTY: And I would like to add, on top of what Mike said we had a presentation at the United Way last month on this program and it's absolutely an amazing program and what they are doing for our Veterans out there and it's a primarily a peer based program. It is amazing what they want to do and what they are doing.

GILLILLAND: Mike and I talked about this because we were questioning about the whole thing about the van when it first came out but I mean I found it at least in my town, the best way to get to Veterans because they go to the town hall first the information on this program to get it out there would be to, once we get the information, they come and give us a presentation and stuff like that I'm encouraging the town halls to have that information handy and get it out to the local Veterans through the American Legions or VFW's or the other Veteran's organizations that are residents in our towns.

MONTY: And if you like Chairman I can contact them, I have their contact information from that and see if they would come to a committee meeting?

MASCARENAS: Terri said she was going to schedule it.

MONTY: Okay, good. Any further discussion? No further discussion, all in favor signify by saying aye, opposed – carried.

27. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00, TRANSFER FROM FUND BALANCE. Reusser, Wright

28. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT TO BID FOR A VEHICLE FOR THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00, WITH BUDGETED FUNDS. DeLoria, Harrington

MONTY: Discussion?

McNALLY: What's that vehicle for? The purpose of that vehicle?

MASCARENAS: Jack and Mary are here. When we had the discussion the purpose of the vehicle it could be for several things one is they are relocating up to the Public Safety Building and there will be a lot of travel back and forth between those buildings but there's also travel back and forth between sites is my understanding and that they don't currently have one and we don't really have a car pool so they do have the funds allocated they were budgeted and they are just seeking permission from the board to go out to bid for that. If there is a different cost the board can absolutely reject those bids if they decide so this isn't to purchase it's really just to giving us permission to go out to bid and see what happens but it's an SUV type vehicle that we are looking for something you can carry a machine in. Correct?

MOULTON: Yes, the old machines couldn't fit in an SUV and these new ones can so we have a little bit of an emergency preparedness in case we have to deploy a machine.

MONTY: Further discussion? No further discussion, all in favor signify by saying aye, opposed – carried. Anything from the floor?

GILLILLAND: With Mr. McNally, we would like to propose a resolution to go to the Governor and to the representatives in the legislator that represent Essex County, the background on this is we have, have had and have properties owned by the State that have closed Moriah Shock being one of them and the problem is once the state owns them and you want to transfer them into private use or sell them or to get them back on the tax rolls it takes a constitutional amendment to process. A constitutional amendment is two different sessions of legislature and then a statewide vote. In my time I've been in local Government I have seen two successful one, was ORDA amendment that was pushed very hard by the state Government and the other one was the NYCO amendment and they had money to be able to reach out statewide to promote that. So I also am being pushed pretty hard and I know the Supervisor of Moriah has too by Protect the Adirondacks pushing for a constitutional amendment specifically targeting Essex County on Moriah Shock but what we propose I think is a change in the Environmental Conservation Law that alters that when you have a publically owned property, state owned property that was not part of the forest preserve initially that when the state surplus' that that we call administrative properties can then be placed back into private ownership or to another purpose. One of the things that Protect the Adirondacks is trying to do was do a constitutional amendment required that if the property went back to private use it had to be for "the public good" and the other was any funds received would go into a state fund for purchasing more forest preserve. He also was talking about actually doing a trade off with purchasing more forest preserve in order shift back Moriah Shock, or sell it to a private buyer all those things we, myself objected to and so did Matt. So I think that this can be taken care of because we can, you know it shouldn't take three – if they can close the prison in six weeks it shouldn't take us three years to put it back on the tax rolls at a very minimum. We need to change the Environmental Conservation Law to reflect that. We had this one Moriah Shock, I'm not sure what's going to happen with the APA property in Ray Brook once they shift over you know to Saranac Lake and we also have the possibility of the same thing happening with the Fish Hatchery. I hope not but these are just looming issues that we will be dealing with. Do you need anything else?

McNALLY: I think the Constitutional amendment like Shaun says has not been successful. It's very time consuming and this is the time to do this. We are looking at Moriah Shock being closed, McGregor, Gabriel's, possibly the APA Headquarters but also there is other prison closures coming. This is a good time to force our hand and get this passed. There is no reason that we need to go through the Constitutional amendment process which one, is not very successful and two, it's just crazy time consuming. If we were to do a constitutional amendment this year, if we were not got get it through this year it would be another, we would have to wait three years so this is the time to do this and I think we possibly have some support in Albany on this but while we are sitting here waiting we are losing all the tax revenue that could be going to Moriah or it could be going to Saratoga County or Gabriels. If they can close a prison in six weeks but then it takes us three or four years to do this. Mr. Gilliland is correct, this is the time to push this forward to work with Matt, Dan, Billy Jones this is the time to do this and I fully support this resolution.

WOOD: I understand that the Adirondacks is unique to itself and we have our own needs but I'm curious to know, if there are other areas of the state who have not the same exact situation but similar where we could enlist their support and in turn support them for how they are solving their issues on Long Island or the Southern Tier or near there because we are not the only place that's getting shut down we just have the extra layers.

GILLILLAND: Everywhere else is not covered by this Environmental Conservation except the Catskills and the Adirondack Park.

McNALLY: But we would get support from anybody that has had a prison closing in there district. I think this is going to be very popular and this is just bait by Protect the Adirondacks. They are afraid of this being done so they've been very flexible in trying to get us to go with a Constitutional amendment and the reason they are doing this is they want to deal with these three now and then they can dodge us the next three years on the projects. This is the time to act but we the Catskills and the Adirondacks really do have a complete different layer in all this.

MONTY: I know speaking from the point of view Meg in which you are talking about there were 12 prisons closed in New York State since I was a Correction Officer and then in the Governor's Office and I facilitated in 5 of the closings of those, there's 11 of them still with no plan to do anything with. There's one that they have a beacon is going to be a multi-use type of drug and alcohol mental health type facility. It was a camp set up a little differently than a conventional prison but that's the only one. The state doesn't take care of their properties very well at all and I agree with Shaun and Steve as far as what's going on here, the only other place similar is the Catskills and even in the housing seminar we went to they brought up the fact that we, Essex County and there's two counties that have third layer of bureaucracy causing issues with affordable housing without naming it, they are talking about the Park Agency.

DOTY: Mr. Chairman, who drafts the language for us?

GILLILLAND: We would either ask Senator Stec's office or Assemblyman Jones to do it because he is in a majority.

MONTY: Anything else?

HARRINGTON: I don't believe any of these properties that have been closed by the State should have been closed without an alternative use as a plan going forward. It's an example of the state moving backwards as a result of not having a plan.

MONTY: I don't disagree with you. So we have a resolution on the floor.

GILLILLAND: Yes, I move it.

MONTY: And second? Unanimous? Thank you.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NEW YORK STATE GOVERNOR AND NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE CHANGE THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW TO PERMIT THE SALE OF STATE OWNED BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES LOCATED WITHIN THE FOREST PRESERVE TO BE SOLD AND TO BE PLACED IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP WITHOUT THE NEED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Gillilland, unanimous

MONTY: Anything else to come before this board?

HUGHES: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to raise everyone's awareness to an event that's taking place in Albany on March 5th. The highway superintendents are going to be traveling down to Albany for their lobby day to support Bridge NY, Culvert NY and Pave NY, Pave our Potholes. I went a couple years ago. It was really an educational, interesting day to be a part of a group of Highway Superintendents and the rest of the individuals to support the continued funding of this very important aspect of at least my town budget and I know it is a very important aspect of the

county budget so if you're not aware of this I encourage you to talk to your Highway Superintendent certainly if you can go it's a great thing to have town supervisors attend this as well and I do know that Essex County receives CHIPS funding so I would like to put forth a motion, a resolution of support for continued and increased funding for CHIPS, Pave our Potholes, Culvert NY, Bridge NY, Extreme Winter Recoveries – all those important programs we would like to see continued funding and support in the fiscal year 2025 budget and I hope that I can have a second in support.

RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR, THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE AND ALL OTHER STATE OFFICIALS NOT TO CUT FUNDING IN THE NEW YORK STATE 2024 FISCAL BUDGET FOR REVENUE STREAMS RELATED TO THE MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY OF COUNTY AND TOWN HIGHWAYS. Hughes, unanimous

MONTY: Thank you. Soil and water, statewide soil and water's advocacy day is the 5th as well.

HUGHES: Great, thank you.

MONTY: Anything else further?

HUGHES: I also want to say Jim you eluded to this a couple times in your comments, several attended NYSAC in Albany, the Legislative form. I just want to say I had a really great time. It was really great to hang out with those who attended and we really enjoyed ourselves and I thought the workshops were mostly very helpful, mostly and it was nice to participate in that event and if you've not been before they have another one coming up in September, down in Sullivan County. September 9-11 and it was a great time so I encourage all of you to attend to learn more about county governments.

McNALLY: I just want to add something when you go to those you realize how aggressive we've been at this board for the ten years as far as housing, employment –

GILLILLAND: EMS

McNALLY: EMS, yes a little tiny county up in the Adirondacks is in the forefront of all these issues and we're leading the way. Great work by Essex County.

MONTY: I concur with both of you. It was interesting talking to legislators and county people from other counties. Coming back from the mansion I sat with the County Manager, she was from Westchester County and the other was a legislator from Yates County and our problems aren't unlike their problems we are just smaller but in talking to them, we are handling the EMS situation better than they are in Westchester. We're handling housing better than they are in Yates so we're not as backwoods as people think we are but we've always had to take care of ourselves so that's what we do here.

STANLEY: I like when they were talking about EMS yesterday saying that it's going to become a county problem well, it's already been a county problem and we've actually dealt with it and they were explaining how much they don't even know how to tackle the problem. We already have a blue print to tackle that problem so hats off to this board and our emergency services because we have something that's starting to work when other people haven't started to think about it.

MONTY: Correct.

REUSSER: Maybe we should be making a presentation.

DELORIA: I would just like to note Randy Preston for pushing this forward because if it wasn't for Randy's vision, we wouldn't be here today. I just want to make that part of the record.

MONTY: Absolutely and we are out in front of everything again similar to the employment thing, when they were talking about the EMS and I'm sitting across from Shaun and we're going, we're doing that, we're doing that everything they are talking about we are doing. It looks like we are doing the right thing by our people. Thank you.

GILLILLAND: I sat in on all the county board legislative Chairs and the EMS was brought up as well and you have to save EMS package, a number of different items that they are talking about most, almost all of we have been advocating for a long time but one of the ones that has a pretty good chance of passing this time would be allowance of countywide ambulance districts in combing dual county or county and town or multiple towns between counties those kind of things so that maybe coming very, very good chance in this session that they come down the line so I encourage everybody to start thinking about that so if it does it passed and signed into law sometime in April or something then we can expeditiously look toward an alternative way of funding our EMS system going forward.

MONTY: Thank you. Anything further?

DELORIA: The state level EMS group that are making these decisions to do away with critical care, you know, I don't know exactly how that needs to be addressed but they should be reaching out locally to the counties and people like our EMS Coordinator because decisions are being made that don't truly reflect the needs of the county yet we are stuck with them because they are the State and we are just us? Come on, so I just wanted to throw that out there because that's not over yet. That's ridiculous the number of jobs that are going to be cut like telling you, oh, you've got a driver's license it's good for two years, not any more we are going to take that from you because essentially that's what they are doing because to this critical care. They don't care if you're certified or not you're done, July 1st. That can't be right. There's something wrong with that process.

MONTY: On top of the fact you paid for that license. Thank you. And lastly, I do have to say I want to thank Mr. Tansey and Mr. Manning, Chairman Gillilland, Mike Mascarenas I don't know what I'm going to do in January because I've got nothing to complain about. Thank you.

MANNING: I just want to ask one question a couple resolutions ago we were talking about asking for continuing funding for CHIPS, can you guys just recite those to me?

MASCARENAS: Jim can put it together and email it to you Dan. Jim, can you just email the resolution? That will be easier.

MANNING: Yes, that's okay with me.

MONTY: Okay if nothing further we stand adjourned. Thank you.

As there was no further discussion to come before this ways and means committee it was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors