PUBLIC HEARING
2026-2027 Operating Budget North Country Community College
Monday, August 3, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.

Stephen McNally, Chairperson
Matthew Brassard, Vice-Chairperson

Chairman McNally called this Public Hearing to order at 9:30 am with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Matthew Brassard, Chris Clark, Timothy Follos, Mary Lamphear, Tracie McGill, Stephen McNally, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Matthew Stanley, Davina Thurston, Michael Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Meg Wood. Kenneth Hughes and Cathleen Reusser were excused.

Department Heads present: James Dougan, and Mike Mascarenas. Judy Garrison was excused

Deputies present: Dina Garvey and Bill Tansey

Also present: Joe Keegan and Erik Harvey

MCNALLY: Welcome, we are first going to stand for the pledge, please.
And we will call the Public Hearing in session.

GARVEY: *Notice of public hearing proposed 2026-2027 Operating Budget North Country Community College*
Please take notice that the Essex County Board of Supervisors will hold and conduct a Public Hearing at the Supervisors' Chambers at the Essex County Government Center, 7551 Court Street, Elizabethtown, New York on the 3rd of August, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., on the proposed operating budget for North Country Community College for the 2026-2027 fiscal year commencing September 1, 2026, providing for a proposed total expenditure of $17,645,322.00 and a proposed contribution from each county sponsor of $1,378,700.00 ($1328,700.00 towards operating and $50,000 capital funding).
Please take further notice that at said public hearing to be held at the time and place set forth above, the Essex County Board of Supervisors will hear all persons interested therein concerning the same; and the said Board will consider written comments received by the Clerk of the Board on or before 4:00 p.m. on July 31,2026.
Please take further notice that a copy of the proposed budget may be obtained upon request from the North Country Community College Business Office, 23 Santanoni Avenue, PO Box 89, Saranac Lake, New York 12983, (518) 891-2915 or from the Clerk of the Board's Office, 7551 Court Street, Elizabethtown, New York, 12932
Judith A. Garrison, Clerk
Essex County Board of Supervisors
7551 Court Street, Elizabethtown, NY 12932
(518) 873-3353
Dated: July 14, 2026

MCNALLY: Thank you, does anybody have any comments or are there any guests who would like to speak?

MASCARENAS: Yeah, all I would say and it's my opinion that North Country has put together a real responsible budget proposal. There's $50,000.00 less in this proposal as compared to last

year. In some ways I think that's a little short sighted. I would never recommend that this Board pay an increased amount to Franklin County's Board, which is why I am not making the recommendation to pay the extra $50,000.00. I will be going up to North Country tomorrow with Jim Dougan, and we're going to really look at their facilities. I think anytime you reduce your investment on capital it just gets more costly long term. There becomes a point in time when you can't afford not to do things. So, while I commend these gentlemen for putting together a budget that's responsible and ultimately helps our taxpayers, I do worry that down the road some of those things that weren't being done today is going to be more costly tomorrow, but again, that takes some collaboration between us and Franklin County and North Country Community College on making sure that the North Country facilities are up to par and where they need to be to continue to attract students and offer the programming that's been so awesome there in the last handful of years. So, more to come on that topic, but I just wanted to make that part of the public record.

MCNALLY: Anything else? I guess we'll close the Public Hearing.

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION THIS PUBLIC HEARING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:36 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina L. Garvey, Deputy Clerk
Board of Supervisors