# WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Monday, June 29, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m.

Matthew Brassard, Chairman
Ike Tyler, Vice-Chairman

Chairman Brassard called this Ways and Means meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the following supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Matthew Brassard, Chris Clark, Timothy Follos, Ken Hughes, Mary Lamphear, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Matt Stanley, Davina Thurston, Joe Pete Wilson and Meg Wood. Tracie McGill and Cathleen Reusser arrived at 10:05 a.m. Steve McNally and Michael Tyler were excused.

Department heads present: Mike Mascarenas, Jim Dougan, Josh Favro, Dan Manning, Judy Garrison, Roy Holzer and David Reynolds.

Also present: Chase McGinness and Cliff Holzer

BRASSARD: I will call this ways and means committee to order. Stand to salute the flag. Roll call Judy. We have no guests so we'll go to resolutions.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

**Monday, June 8, 2026**
**Chairman – K. Hughes Vice-Chairman – D. Thurston**

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES BEATON AS THE ESSEX COUNTY VETERANS' CEMETERY SEXTON REPLACING LOREN HENRICHS, EFFECTIVE APRIL 30, 2026. Pierce, Menser**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE COMBINED STATE FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS GRANT (SICG) IN AN AMOUNT UP TO $1,411,982.00. Hughes, Stanley**

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Monday, June 8, 2026**
**Chairman – M. Stanley Vice-Chairman – K. Hughes**

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AMENDED AND RESTATED PILOT AGREEMENT BY THE ESSEX COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY WITH RESPECT TO A CERTAIN PROJECT TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY CHPE LLC., AND APPROVING A CERTAIN HOST COMMUNITY AGREEMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE SAME. Stanley, Barber**

## HUMAN SERVICES

**Monday, June 8, 2026**
**Chairman – D. Thurston Vice-Chairman - C. Reusser**

4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO WRITE-OFF $10,996.96, SELF-PAY PATIENT BAD DEBT FOR SERVICES IN 2024. Thurston, Pierce**

5. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MINDFUL MEDICAL MENTOR, LLC, A PHYSICIAN DESIGNED EDUCATION AND WORKFLOW INITIATIVE WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS. Thurston, Preston**

6. **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL S7818 WHICH DESIGNATES THE POWERS OF THE NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COMMISSIONER TO LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS TO REMOVE A BARRIER THAT EXISTS WITH PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSES TO OVERDOSE DEATHS. Stanley, Hughes**

7. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENTS OF HEATHER REYNOLDS, RN OF UVHN ELIZABETHTOWN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AND DR. KRISTEN MACK TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) EFFECTIVE JUNE 2026. Reusser, Menser**

8. **RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE QUARTERLY REPORTS FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PATIENT SERVICES PLUS THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE CERTIFIED HOME HEALTH AGENCY AND THE QUALITY REPORT FOR THE 2ND QUARTER OF 2026, ALL OF WHICH WERE APPROVED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC), PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) AND THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR ON JUNE 2, 2026. Reusser, Pierce**

9. **RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE QUARTERLY REPORTS FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PATIENT SERVICES PLUS THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT AND THE QUALITY REPORT FOR THE 2ND QUARTER OF 2026, ALL OF WHICH WERE APPROVED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC), PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) AND THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR ON JUNE 2, 2026. Reusser, Thurston**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**
**Monday, June 15, 2026**
**Chairman – C. Barber Vice–Chairman – C. Clark**

10. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTACT AMENDMENT WITH H&T ENGINEERING SERVICES, PLLC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED $31,500.00, TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES INCLUDING PRELIMINARY DESIGN, HYDRAULIC EVALUATION AND PERMITTING FOR THE ENSIGN POND ROAD OVER MILL BROOK CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF MORIAH, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS. Clark, Menser**

BRASSARD: Any discussion?

HUGHES: I have a quick question. I know a couple of these resolutions state that they are contract amendments is this to mean that we previously approved these and it's a change order or just a variation of the amount? I just would like some clarification on the wording contract amendment.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, that's a good question.

DOUGAN: Good morning.

HUGHES: Sorry Jim, I just want to better understand what the contract amendment aspect is.

DOUGAN: So H&T Engineering Services is what we call a term contract. What they do is they provide us with hourly rates for each class of engineer and any rates that we have been doing, for instance, any reimbursables they have already done. Every time we have a project they give us a cost estimate using those rates and then I bring it to you as a contract amendment. We have H&T Engineering and SRA Engineering both under contracts like this. H&T generally does our structural bridge and culvert replacement. SRA tends to do more things revolving river bank and more of that work if they are heavy that way they are SRA, if they are heavy structural they go to H&T then we have similar contracts for architectural services and repeat services survey and geotechnical and we call all of those contract amendments because they've given us the rates and whenever we do this we do this as a not to exceed so we develop the scope, they price out that scope and then they bill us at those hourly rates at that not to exceed price.

HUGHES: I appreciate the explanation. Thank you and also is the term of the contract is that an annual term? Is that a three-year term?

DOUGAN: It's a one-year term and we can renew it up to twice, up to three years.

HUGHES: Okay I appreciate the explanation.

BRASSARD: Any further questions for Jim? Thank you. I have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Being none all in favor, opposed – carried.

11. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH ATLANTIC TESTING LABORATORIES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $10,770.00, TO SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION AND GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION SERVICES FOR THE ENSIGN POND ROAD OVER MILL BROOK CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF MORIAH, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS. Barber, Pierce**

12. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER IN AN AMOUNT OF $64,295.68 TO ARIF INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION TO SUPPLY AND DELIVER STEEL SHEET PILES FOR THE COUNTY ROUTE 18 OVER A TRIBUTARY TO FRANKLIN FALLS CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM**

**BUDGETED/FEMA FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER. Thurston, Menser**

13. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT TO BID SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT, SPECIFICALLY; I. REPAIRS TO THE BALER LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPAL RECYCLING FACILITY, II. (1) REPLACEMENT COMPACTOR WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM 2026 BUDGETED FUNDS. Clark, O'Bryan**

BRASSARD: Any discussion?

HUGHES: Is the compactor one of the satellite sites?

DOUGAN: Yes.

HUGHES: Which satellite site?

DOUGAN: Probably Minerva's

HUGHES: Okay thank you.

BRASSARD: Any further questions? All in favor, aye opposed – carried.

14. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF $11,165.97 TO ALTA EQUIPMENT COMPANY FOR REPAIRS TO A JCB HD110W RUBBER TIRE EXCAVATOR WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER. Clark, Thurston**

15. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASING ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF $6,895 TO SERVICE WELDING SUPPLY FOR A MILLER MILLERMATIC 252 MIG WELDER SPOOLGUN ALUMINUM PACKAGE WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER. Menser, Stanley**

16. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,104.82 - INSURANCE RECOVERY BUS #38. Hughes, O'Bryan**

**PERSONNEL**
**Monday, June 15, 2026**
**Chairman – M. Wood Vice-Chairman – C. Reusser**

**NO RESOLUTIONS**

**FINANCE/TAX REDUCTION/MANDATE RELIEF**
**Monday, June 15, 2026**
**Chairman – I. Tyler Vice-Chairman – JP. Wilson**

**17. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE ASSIGNED COUNSEL'S OFFICE INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $175,000, HURRELL-HARRING FUNDS FOR CASELOAD OVERFLOW FOR YEAR THREE (04/01/2026-03/31/2027) Follos, Pierce**

BRASSARD: Discussion? Mike, is that just left over money from that case?

MASCARENAS: No so, you're all been brought up to speed on the issues we're having with attorneys so currently now in the Public Defender's office we are down to two attorneys and what this is is past funds that we had that was unspent prior years the state is allowing us to use to pay for overflow attorneys where we made assignments to specific courts strategically to be able to hopefully get through this timeframe when we are struggling with staffing. The staffing issue really came from we had a retiree, we had a maternity and we had someone else leave employment, stayed in the county but went to a different county department so it all happened kind of overnight it's been the perfect storm. Leah, myself, Reg Bidell met with state officials last week Office of Court Administration, ILS on this plan specifically and in trying to come up with a further plan that will allows us to meet the mandate of counsel at first arraignment which is becoming increasingly difficult given the size of our county and the lack of attorneys we do have so we're still – stay tuned for what's to come next with that but yeah, this is just shifting funds that had been budgeted for those salaries that we no longer have because we don't have those people and repurposing them so that we can still utilize them and meet the need of service.

O'BRYAN: Mike, did the Court of Administration have anything that they could offer as far as a solution?

MASACARENAS: Yeah, I had a great meeting with them. I don't want to get out in front of anybody in terms of this. Last year myself, Sheriff, the Public Defender, Dan Manning a whole bunch of us got together and we put together CAP court which is central arraignment part the Sheriff at the time was really graceful allowing us to use that facility and our plan included one centralized arraignment per day. We've spoken with ILS. We've spoken with OCA on that the only thing they don't like of our plan is that we only do one a day. So we had that conversation within the last week our numbers really don't, in my opinion I'm a data guy, I'm a numbers person you know that about me don't speak to having more than that. We average less than one a day county wide in terms of arraignments and to put resources where they are not needed seems silly but that's where the hangup is right now so CAP courts exist in about half the counties statewide. The State likes to paint things with broad brushes where counties that are much larger than us absolutely would have the need for more than one a day. I personally feel that if you're arrested for a crime that's worth holding somebody now spending up to twenty-two or twenty-three hours of jail time is probably not an inappropriate amount of time most people currently are getting appearance tickets for crimes that they commit and they are getting a court date later but again,

that's my opinion it's not shared opinion by state officials so, that's a work in progress in terms of getting a centralized arraignment part I think that would solve a lot of our problems with running around all hours of the night trying to figure this out and get from North Elba to Minerva and/or Ticonderoga in a reasonable amount of time.

REUSSER: Could you name who are current DSS attorneys are?

MASCARENAS: Yes, Michelle Bowen and Jared Cadena.

REUSSER: Who is the second one?

MASCARENAS: Cadena he came from Public Defender. He was one that went from their office over to DSS.

REUSSER: Alright, very good. Thanks.

BRASSARD: Any further questions? Okay all in favor, aye, opposed – carried.

18. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESSEX COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT TO RFP FOR AN INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE INFORMATION SYSTEM DEPARTMENT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $35,000 – WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM HOMELAND SECURITY. Barber, Menser**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

19. **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LONG TERM EMPLOYEES FOR THE MONTH OF JULY. Brassard, unanimous**

20. **RESOLUTION SETTING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2026-27 NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPERATING BUDGET. (AUGUST 3, 2026 AT 9:30 A.M.) Wilson, Hughes**

21. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 120 OF JUNE 2, 2026, AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS - FROM THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $147,664.16, CARRYOVER OF UNEXPENDED 2025 UNMET NEEDS FUNDING. O'Bryan, Barber**

BRASSARD: We do have one more right Judy?

GARRISON: Yes, everyone should have a copy on their desks from DPW.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH SHEEHAN AND SONS, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $169,524.01, TO PROVIDE LABOR AND MATERIALS NECESSARY FOR**

**CONCRETE SIDEWALKS, ASPHALT SUBBASE INSTALLATION, FINAL GRADING, MINOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS, CONCRETE PAVER BRICK INSTALLATION AND TOPSOIL RESTORATION FOR THE FORMER PROBATION BUILDING PARKING AREA AND EMPLOYEE COURTYARD AREA PROJECT LOCATED AT THE ESSEX COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER MAIN COMPLEX WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS. Clark, Reusser**

BRASSARD: Discussion? Jim, who is the second bidder?

DOUGAN: All State Construction.

MASCARENAS: Just informational Jim brought this up at DPW bids don't always come in in time to meet committees they are kind of random in that way we have really one person that really prepares all that work and does all that work which is why it's here today at ways and means and didn't come through at DPW but we would like to get that accomplished this year and that project is headed in the right direction. I'd appreciate your consideration.

BRASSARD: Any further discussion? All in favor aye, opposed – carried. Anything else to come before the committee?

REUSSER: Is Sheehan one of our term contracts?

DOUGAN: Yes.

REUSSER: Thank you.

BRASSARD: Anything else? If there's nothing else we are adjourned.

As there was no further discussion to come before this ways and means committee it was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors