WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
Monday, July 27, 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, Tracie McGill, Steve McNally, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Matt Stanley, Michael Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Meg Wood. Cathleen Reusser and Davina Thurston were excused.

Department heads present: Linda Beers, Laura Carson, Michael Diskin, Mike Mascarenas, Jim Dougan, Josh Favro, Dan Manning, Judy Garrison and David Reynolds.

Deputies present: Michael LaVallie and William Tansey

Also present: Lucianna Celotti and John Bernardi, United Way.

BRASSARD: It's 10 a.m. we will call the ways and means committee to order. Stand to salute the flag. Roll call Judy. Okay we have one guest this morning John Bernardi from United Way.

BERNARDI: Thank you so much for having me here today. I really appreciate it. It's an honor and a privilege to be with you all this morning. I want to talk to you about financial instability and how pervasive that is and I understand I'm preaching to the choir the community leaders or county leaders or leaders in your towns and I understand I'm preaching to the choir here but the data and the information that I am presenting you today can be very useful to you in your work whether it's understanding what families are going through in your towns or whether it's writing a grant even for infrastructure and other needs so it's very important and if you consider the Federal poverty limit and there's some data on the back of that flyer that I gave you. The Federal poverty limit is extremely low you can see it there for a family of four, it's thirty-three thousand dollars and change for a family of four. If you make a penny over that you're considered not living in poverty and if any of you know of a family of four here in Essex County that is living high on the hog as they say, on $33,000 income for that household I'd love to meet that family. So the Federal poverty limit is here, it's very low you can see what it is for an individual and then what we've done is we've established an ALICE threshold. This would be the bare bones minimum for a family to be able to get by without assistance well this gap between the Federal poverty limit and the ALICE threshold is a significant gap there are literally tens of thousands of families in our region that are above the Federal poverty limit but living below the ALICE threshold this creates vulnerability that is significant. If I have a flat tire or Ike Tyler has a broken furnace next winter we could probably weather that storm, we could probably figure that out we're not going to lose our jobs likely we are not going to have to use our grocery money to repair the furnace or our rent or mortgage funds and we're lucky, we're lucky enough if we're able to have a little bit of a buffer to withstand those sort of unforeseen circumstances but there are literally thousands of households here in Essex County as you can see that don't have that buffer some are not even banking in any capacity and so one small mishap things that we would take for granted a flat tire, a broken furnace, a leaky roof nuisances to some of us can be catastrophic to other families so what we've done is we've compiled this data it's extensive data from a tremendous committee of high level researchers that are gathering this data in fact one of them is my good friend who lives here in Elizabethtown Dr. Robert Bradley, Bob Bradley some of you might know. He's a retired

superintendent. Brillant guy. He's part of the group that's gathering and analyzing this data so it's very useful. Data is very handy to have but it's just that it's data so what are we doing about it? We're working with a number of partners including Essex County Department of Social Services and Essex County Public Health and numerous other organizations and non-profits like ACAP and numerous others to really help address the issue of financial instability and unmet needs that families are facing. I'd like to call it a hand up not a hand out. For example, we might hear from somebody in Linda's department or somebody in Angie's department where they are working with a family and have come across an obstacle or a challenge that the Government funding or Government regs can't quite meet. We can partner with them, we do often to help meet that need and again we call it a hand up because we are not in the hand out business we are in the hand up business and sometimes that can enable a family to stay afloat, avoid homelessness, avoid eviction, avoid unemployment as you know I was listening to the Sheriff and others talk about a county road or state road transportation in particularly in Essex County is so significant and for those of us who are going to get in a nice vehicle later today we're lucky there's a lot of people in your towns and throughout the county and throughout the region who are struggling to find transportation or maintain transportation and it's so significant to employment, to quality of life, to youth enrichment and any number of things so again, my point today being here is to emphasize how significant financial instability is and how we can work together through partnerships and collaborations and numerous other opportunities to help good hard working families stay afloat. Homelessness of course has been become a significant issue throughout our region one thing we can do to elevate that is to prevent it in the first place to give families that hand up so that they can stay in their apartment or stay in their home. I've been working with Supervisor Barber and others to also help provide a better level of support to people who are utilizing the Villa on a temporary basis in some cases there's a feeling that they needed a little more support and a little more collaborative effort so we've been working with a group of people to do that but even before we get to that point preventing homelessness is so important and again, our ALICE project is really focused on working with families again, if you're at or below the Federal poverty limit there's a fair amount of support you can access. That doesn't mean you're living a great life that's not at all what I mean but there's a fair amount of support through the county and other means if you're at or below the Federal poverty limit but if you're above that and below the ALICE threshold it's very limited to what types of support you have access to so we're working with Government nonprofit and faith base entities to create a network of not only support but outlook so that again, this is a different look at poverty or financial instability than we are used to seeing if you go back 20,30,40 years you would hear people say, well, if they got a job they are okay. Why are they complaining they have a job. You would hear these things 20,30,40 years ago it's just a different environment now there are households that are working three jobs to try to maintain that household and still struggling to meet basic needs so again, our ALICE project is really focused on shining the light on challenges on financial instability and how we again can work together and collaborate in such a way to give people the hand up they need so that they can enjoy the quality of life that we all deserve and that we all want for everyone. I'll stop there.

BRASSARD: Any questions for John?

HUGHES: Good morning sir. I just want to say thank you for revisiting this. I remember a couple of years ago you and Supervisor Jim Monty from Lewis did a really good job of bringing to light the ALICE acronym and this sector of our demographic who really are working hard but just above and so it is a challenge and I know all of us in this room are working hard for the most vulnerable amongst us not only in our towns but county and so I'm really pleased to see just the revisit of this for new supervisors to inform them, remind all of us of the value and importance of these

individuals who are in our communities trying really hard to make it work so thank you for you revisiting that today.

BERNARDI: Thank you Supervisor Hughes.

STANLEY: I also want to point out I first met you John when we had my first couple of months in office and we had a massive flood and the support that the United Way gave the Town of Jay and the amount of organizations that the United Way works with to be able to get people the assistance they need so anybody who does run into a problem if I have an issue, something comes in my whether it is an income issue or after a firing John is always my first call and the stuff you guys do I've been very lucky to support some of your fund raising efforts so I want to thank you especially from the bottom of my heart for the work that you do for the residents of our counties and our towns.

BERNARDI: Thank you Matt that means a lot. I appreciate that.

BARBER: John I would just like to thank you also. I work here on the committee for low- and medium-income housing so that's part of the reason why and I'm right there on the Clinton County border so I enjoy working with you and to continue working with you for Clinton and Essex County.

BERNARDI: Thank you Clayton that means a lot to me. I appreciate it.

MASCARENAS: John I believe a couple years ago when you visited at that time you were doing a campaign with ALICE to ask that our federal representatives reconsider the Federal poverty level and what that was and I'm guessing the outcome wasn't good?

BERNARDI: Yes and no. They did adjust the Federal poverty level limit recently within the last few years but it is still way below what would be a reasonable level you can see it on the back but they did adjust it but again, a couple thousand dollars you know they raised it but it's still a huge issue Mike but they did raise it a little bit and they did adjust it a little bit but again, it's a significant issue so we have more work to do.

MASCARENAS: Okay thank you.

BRASSARD: Any further questions? Comments? No? Okay thank you.

BERNARDI: Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity.

BRASSARD: We have no more guests, so we'll go right into resolutions Judy.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Monday, July 13, 2026
Chairman – K. Hughes Vice-Chairman – D. Thurston

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A SEVEN (7) YEAR CONTRACT WITH SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER INTRADO FOR E911 PHONE UPGRADE AND NEXGEN COMPLIANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $627,989.45, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM 2025 SFY NEXGEN GRANT. Hughes, Stanley**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ACCEPT A BID FROM NIELSEN OF MORRISTOWN INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $63,057.31, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FLY CAR IN THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS. O'Bryan, Barber**

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE UNITED STATES MARSHALL SERVICES FOR HOUSING CRIMINAL MARSHALL DETAINEES. Menser, Clark**

4. **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PRETRIAL, PROBATION AND PAROL SUPERVISION WEEK JULY 19-25, 2026. Wood, Tyler**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Monday, July 13, 2026
Chairman – M. Stanley Vice-Chairman – K. Hughes

1. **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE ESSEX COUNTY CAPITAL RESOURCE CORPORATION OF CERTAIN TAX-EXEMPT REVENUE BONDS, NOT TO EXCEED $60 MILLION, TO FINANCE A PROJECT FOR CIDC ESSEX, LLC., IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW YORK AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING MORTGAGE TAX ABATEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF $736,971.00. Menser, Pierce**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $100,000.00, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT, INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SAME - NYS DEC SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROGRAM. Barber, Tyler**

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT RFP FOR THE NYS DEC FUNDED UPPER BRIDGE PROJECT IN THE TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD. Barber, Tyler**

HUMAN SERVICES
Monday, July 13, 2026
Chairman – D. Thurston Vice-Chairman - C. Reusser

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF VALERIE LONGWOOD TO THE ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD DEVELOPMENT DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE FOR A TERM BEGINNING JULY 10, 2026 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026. Hughes, Menser**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS WHO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING PRESCHOOL CENTER BASED PROGRAMS IN ESSEX COUNTY WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS. O'Bryan, Wood**

BRASSARD: Discussion?

MASCARENAS: Yes, for the record we had discussion about this during the Human Services meeting. Linda provided some data to everybody on Friday which was well done she included a

map of where these individuals actually are located. She did a cost comparison of parental travel verses RFP and public travel and the one exception is that she has agreed to change to the IRS mileage rate for those individuals instead of the standard chart she provided during the meeting. This will be for two-way travel so for drop off and pick up which means you might have an empty car on the way home that isn't the way it's been done in the past just for clarity and transparency that's what we are proposing in this resolution.

MENSER: I wanted to clarify this is for children's with disabilities, correct?

MASCARENAS: Yes pre-school it's a mandated service we are required to provide.

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

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $28,211.00, CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS GRANT AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS WITH FOUR TOWNS IN ESSEX COUNTY FOR COMMUNITY ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION PROJECTS. Preston, Menser**

4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $1000.00, AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE RECOVERY. Barber, Pierce**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Monday, July 20, 2026
Chairman – C. Barber Vice–Chairman – C. Clark

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH H&T ENGINEERING SERVICES, PLLC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $7,500.00, TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION FOR THE COUNTY ROUTE 18 (RIVER ROAD) OVER A TRIBUTARY TO FRANKLIN FALLS CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF ST. ARMAND WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED/FEMA FUNDS. Clark, Wood**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH KUBRICKY CONSTRUCTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $98,828.00 FOR COUNTY ROUTE 35 (OLD MILITARY ROAD) STORMWATER STRUCTURE REPAIRS, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF NORTH ELBA, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS. Preston, Tyler**

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT TO THE ADIRONDACK SPORTS COUNCIL FOR THE USE OF THE COUNTY ROADWAYS FOR THE 2026 ADIRONDACK MARATHON AND DISTANCE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26 & 27, 2026. Wood, Pierce**

BRASSARD: Discussion?

FOLLOS: Where is the roads located?

MASCARENAS: Jim, do you have the answer? Is it Old Military Road?

FOLLOS: It's in Schroon Lake.

MASCARENAS: Oh Schroon Lake so a bunch of county roads? One county road in particular?

DOUGAN: Lots of them.

WOOD: It's in Schroon Lake, all the way around the lake.

MASCARENAS: All the way around the lake. Okay thank you.

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

4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT TO BID FOR THE REPLACMENT ROOF TOP HVAC UNITS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING. Pierce, Lamphear**

PERSONNEL
Monday, July 20, 2026
Chairman – M. Wood Vice-Chairman – C. Reusser

1. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND PLACING ON FILE THE 2025 ESSEX COUNTY SELF-INSURANCE ANNUAL REPORT. Wood, Barber**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF A CERTAIN ACTION ENTITLED ANGEE CORROW V. ESSEX COUNTY ET AL VENUED IN THE ESSEX COUNTY SUPREME COURT BEARING INDEX NUMBER CV21-0511 BROUGHT AGAINST THE COUNTY OF ESSEX. McNally, Wood**

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESSEX COUNTY TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF AUSABLE FOR PLACEMENT OF AN ANTENNA AND TRANSMITTER AT THE TERRY MOUNTAIN TOWER SITE. Follos, Stanley**

FINANCE/TAX REDUCTION/MANDATE RELIEF
Monday, July 20, 2026
Chairman – I. Tyler Vice-Chairman – JP. Wilson

1. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE OMITTED AND PRO-RATA TAXES FOR THE 2027 TAX ROLLS. Tyler, Pierce**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE REAL PROPERTY FEE SCHEDULE. Clark, Barber**

MISCELLANEOUS

1. **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LONG TERM EMPLOYEES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST. Brassard, unanimous**

GARRISON: We do have another resolution everyone should have copies on their desks from DPW. A resolution authorizing a contract amendment with All States Construction in an amount not to exceed $177,443.58, this is for bridge superstructure installation at the Moss Road over the Boquet River Bridge replacement project, located in the Town of Lewis, with funds to come from USF&W budgeted funds and further authorizing the County Chairman or County Manager to execute said contract amendment.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH ALL STATES CONSTRUCTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $177,443.58, FOR A BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE INSTALLATION AT THE MOSS ROAD OVER THE BOQUET RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF LEWIS WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM US FISH & WILDLIFE BUDGETED FUNDS. Pierce, Clark

BRASSARD: Any discussion? All in favor aye, opposed – carried. Anything else from the floor? Nothing from the floor. Anything from you Judy?

GARRISON: No, that's all I had.

BRASSARD: Michael, Dan? Okay we are adjourned.

As there was no further discussion to come before this ways and means committee it was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors