WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
Monday, August 31, 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, Mary Lamphear, Steve McNally, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Cathleen Reusser, Matt Stanley, Davina Thurston, Michael Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Meg Wood. Ken Hughes and Tracie McGill were excused.

Department heads present: Angie Allen, Linda Beers, Mike Mascarenas, Jim Dougan, Josh Favro, Dan Manning, Judy Garrison, Roy Holzer, Chelsea Merrihew, Terri Morse, Heather Sheehan and David Reynolds.

Deputies present: Michael LaVallie and William Tansey

Also present: Joanne Caswell, Melinda Morin and Jessica Thompson.

BRASSARD: It's 10 o'clock I will call the ways and means committee meeting to order. I guess we already did the pledge at the public hearing this morning. We will go right into roll call Judy. Okay we do have guests this morning Terri Morse, Mental Health Director presentation of BRIEF.

MORSE: Good morning everyone. Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to update members who have seen and heard our BRIEF coalition organization and may be new for some of the other board supervisors. I'm actually going to turn this over to Linda Beers because Linda is making the presentation and update and sharing with you the item you have in front of you. So Linda would you be willing to come up and walk the team through this.

BEERS: Good morning everybody. Thanks so much for having us here. I have a real short type of thing you have information in front of you. Thanks to Joanne Caswell who turned this into a beautiful book but I just wanted to give you an idea today of what BRIEF is.
So good morning everyone. Thank you for being here and for your commitment for strengthening families and communities across Essex County. I want to start with a simple comparison that highlights what BRIEF truly represents. In Essex County we have a Board of Supervisors made up of leaders from every town you. Every supervisor brings knowledge, experience and perspective of their own community but when you sit at one table you are no longer just speaking for individual towns you're working together on behalf of the entire county. You collectively strengthen and you come from diverse different skills and different perspectives and you have one shared mission and that's to make Essex County the best it can be. BRIEF operates much in the same way. Our executive committee and our coalition partners come from probation, mental health, public health, DSS, education health care and more. Each of us brings our own expertise but when we come together we create something stronger than one system could create alone. We become a countywide team working with a population centered approach one that sees the whole picture and responses to the whole community so what is BRIEF? BRIEF is Building Resilience in Essex Families that's what it stands for so BRIEF is a connector for Essex County system of care. We bring together schools, health care providers, behavioral health specialists, department agencies, families, youth, community organizations that might other wise be in isolation. Our value lies in connecting the dots. We reduce silos. We identify gaps and build

coordinated solutions and these solutions are ones no single agency now matter how dedicated or accomplished and I'm here to say that.
At this point I'd like to invite the executive committee to stand and be recognized so this is BRIEF not with us today is Erin Velsini but you will see Joanne Caswell, Melinda Morin, Heather Sheehan, Traci Ploufe is not with us today, Angie Allen is here, Allen Jones was unable to come, Jessica Thompson she is our Coordinator and keep us together kind of person, Terri Morse and of course myself we make up the BRIEF Executive committee I just wanted you to know who we were. Thank you guys.
These leaders represent one of the most important pieces of BRIEF. They are the people that understand what's happening within their own systems and help move information pretty quickly identifying gaps and services, connecting resources across agencies and responding when community needs emerge BRIEF is not creating another layer of government we're not becoming another service agency we are creating the connective tissue between the system that already exists. Helping Essex County function is in one word network and that coordination extends county wide. BRIEF isn't focused on one town, one neighborhood or one small population our reach touches all eighteen towns in Essex County. A great example of this is the social connection mapping initiative.
I'm going to go to this you have a copy of this if you don't have it in front of you it's in the book it's an excerpt and this is homework for you. I challenge you each to get a hold of Jessica and work towards this. What does this mean? It is a great example we took the data from the community health assessment including concerns about depression, rising mental health needs and transformed it into a county wide prevention strategy. We ask, what does your community already have? How do we make resources visible? How do we strengthen connection and how do we increase protective factors to build resiliency? So I'm from Schroon Lake I know what we have in Schroon Lake. I have a pretty good what's in Minerva because I go to Minerva. I go to North Hudson those towns I know and I'm less familiar as we move out each one of your towns have these unique little pockets things that you support that nobody knows about you know on the third Thursday there's a birthday party for everybody in your town I just made that up maybe you will do that anyway those are the type of things that create resiliency and help your people feel connected to services. This is how we turn information into action. This is how we build a stronger more connected Essex County one where families are supportive, you feel seen and the system works together instead of separately. BRIEF is about partnership, it's about collective resilience and most importantly it's about making sure every person in Essex County has access to the support and care in their community they need to thrive. Thank you for being part of this and working together with us and so we appreciate all of you and that is what BRIEF is and I just wanted to give you an overview so thank you.

BRASSARD: Any questions for Linda? Okay we'll move into resolutions. Go ahead.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Monday, August 10, 2026
Chairman – K. Hughes Vice-Chairman – D. Thurston

1. **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO LEE TORRANCE FOR HIS DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS OF ESSEX COUNTY AS FIRE AND EMS COORDINATOR AND FIRE INVESTIGATOR WITH THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES. Stanley, O'Bryan**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZNG THE PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT TO BID FOR AN ELECTRIC HEALTH RECORDS PROGRAM FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT. Pierce, Clark**

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET TRANSFER IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF $8,500.00, TO COVER UPFITTING COSTS OF TWO NEW VEHICLES. Tyler, Barber**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Monday, August 10, 2026
Chairman – M. Stanley Vice-Chairman – K. Hughes

4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AWARD BID TO PLUGIN STATIONS ONLINE, LLC IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $59,373.00, FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT CHARGING STATION AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID CONTRACT. Tyler, Stanley**

5. **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE INCLUSION OF SEVEN (7) APPLICATIONS, FOURTEEN (14) PARCELS AND RELEVANT SEQRA PAPERWORK FROM THE 2026 OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR THE ESSEX COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT. Stanley, Wood**

HUMAN SERVICES
Monday, August 10, 2026
Chairman – D. Thurston Vice-Chairman - C. Reusser

1. **RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A TWO-YEAR DELAY OF THE FEDERAL SNAP ADMINISTRATIVE AND BENEFIT COST SHIFTS ENACTED UNDER H.R. 1 AND CALLING ON NEW YORK STATE TO HOLD COUNTIES HARMLESS IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FAILS TO ACT. Thurston, unanimous**

MCNALLY: According to NYSAC there's two states in the country and New York is the third that is going to be taking this and putting it down on the counties to make up the difference in SNAP. It's going to be brutely to the county budgets if this happens.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, if you remember the Beautiful Bill this is what this goes back to.

MCNALLY: They call it the Big Beautiful Bill but I mean, Hamilton County which has 5000 people is going to effect like $60,000 a year and the average in the statewide of counties is going to pick up another five hundred, six hundred thousand per year in costs.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, my concern with that from day one is always about the smoke and mirrors right what sounds really good in terms of in front of the media and the public doesn't always shake out well. What this really is is a cost shift so the Federal Government essentially is going to go from paying 50% to paying 25% which means there's more cost that's going to be pushed down to the state so where is it going end up? It's going to end up on property so I think we really need to understand what these things mean when they come out and this is typically from what we deal with on an year in and year out basis in trying to plan our budgets and we also get our hands tied

with the tax cap on top of that that we've got to meet which is an arbitrary item so when that tax cap is eaten up by half a million dollars and it's SNAP cost shifts you don't have necessarily a lot of room to wiggle when it comes to meeting the mandates that has started with the Federal Government and is now going to be shifted from the State to the counties.

MCNALLY: The State of New York is very good at passing their responsibility down to the counties and we are pretty much limited on the way we get our revenues, sales tax and property tax and the state has done this with multiple different scenarios over the years kicking the cost down to counties. It's got to stop.

TYLER: Well I assumed since the state budget is going up 62 billion dollars they are going to have the money to cover you.

BRASSARD: Wishful thinking. Any other comments?

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $18,185.00, INSURANCE RECOVERY. Pierce, Stanley**

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $3,430.79, INSURANCE RECOVERIES. Thurston, Menser**

4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT TO RFP FOR A DROP SHIPPED MEAL PROGRAM FOR THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING NUTRITION DEPARTMENT. Wood, Reusser**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Monday, August 17, 2026
Chairman – C. Barber Vice–Chairman – C. Clark

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT TO LAKE PLACID CLASSIC FOR THE USE OF THE COUNTY ROADWAYS FOR THE 2026 LAKE PLACID CLASSIC HALF MARATHON, 10K AND 5K EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026. Preston, Stanley**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING IN THE FIRST INSTANCE 100% OF THE FEDERAL AID AND STATE "MARCHISELLI" PROGRAM AID ELIGIBLE COSTS, OF A TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AID PROJECT, AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFORE, FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF TWO (2) BRIDGES ON COUNTY ROUTE 4, ENSIGN POND ROAD LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF NORTH HUDSON AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SAME. Clark, O'Bryan**

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH FISHER ASSOCIATES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $451,191.00, FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES TO INCLUDE PRELIMINARY DESIGN, DETAILED DESIGN AND RIGHT-OF-WAY INCIDENTALS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF TWO (2) COUNTY ROUTE 4, OVER BLACK BROOK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF NORTH HUDSON**

WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED/NYSDOT FEDERAL AID FUNDS. Clark, Menser

4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH CREIGHTON MANNING ENGINEERING & SURVEYING PLLC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $44,000.00, FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES TO INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL TESTING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF (3) TRACY ROAD OVER ROE POND OUTLETS CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECTS LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF MORIAH WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED/CULVERT NEW YORK FUNDS. Barber, Tyler**

5. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH AZAR DESIGN COMPANY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $216,300.00, FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES TO INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL TESTING FOR THE REPLACEMNT OF THE BRADFORD HILL ROAD OVER PUTNAM CREEK BRIDGE LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF CROWN POINT WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED/BRIDGE NY FUNDS. Menser, Thurston**

PERSONNEL
Monday, August 17, 2026
Chairman – M. Wood Vice-Chairman – C. Reusser

NO RESOLUTIONS

FINANCE/TAX REDUCTION/MANDATE RELIEF
Monday, August 17, 2026
Chairman – I. Tyler Vice-Chairman – JP. Wilson

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A ONE-TIME SUPLUS SALES TAX DISTRIBUTION TO THE EIGHTEEN TOWNS IN ESSEX COUNTY IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF $2,775,025.00, AS PER ATTACHED CHART; THIS ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION ALLOCATED BASED SOLELY ON EQUALIZED ASSESSED VALUE IS REQUIRED TO BE PLACED INTO A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE FUND AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE SALES TAX SURPLUS TO BE DEPOSITED INTO THE ESSEX COUNTY BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FOR FUTURE RADIO AND PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PROJECTS. O'Bryan, Tyler**

BRASSARD: Any discussion?

WILSON: It's not clear to me, is this an annual formula or is this going to be a one-time?

MASCARENAS: JoePete stop it. For right now what we know is we had a surplus of an increase in sales tax. This is strictly a one-time thing that is going to be going to communities which is why we're trying to require that communities utilize it for one-time expenditures. That once you incorporate that and use it to buy down your levy then you create a hole the next year so not

knowing what our sales tax is going to look like on an annual basis we added some of those requirements but I appreciate the effort.

WILSON: Well it is important about that statement you just made to clear that up.

STANLEY: Did we also discuss when we were talking about this to not require a capital reserve for town's that do not have them just need to be set up and just how to inquire about to report the use of funds?

MASCARENAS: Yeah I mean what we want to see is those funds being utilized for those capital improvement projects. If you have – it's really similar to the funds you get from us for occupancy tax if you have accounts set up for that that would be a reasonable place to put it in as long as your tracking that appropriately in terms of your finance. I have no issue.

WOOD: I just wanted to confirm that this could go into water and sewer budgets as well as general fund?

MASCARENAS: Yeah, water and sewer is a capital project locally you would want to decide whether that was beneficial that flexibility is really up to you I'm not interested in telling anybody what capital area to put this funding in just caution to the wind that we would like to see it being spent on those one time items and not being used to buy down the levy and create a problem in the future that's all.

WOOD: So in and out right?

MASCARENAS: Yes.

MCNALLY: This is a good opportunity to get those projects done that you really don't have in your budget for the last few years like for my budget we leave a minimal amount for sidewalks now we are going to get sidewalks done but I think at this time of year you are going to get the money at this time of year you want to put it in a capital improvement fund because it will carry over in the same fund for next year because what will happen is it will get diluted in your general fund budget if you're not careful the best way to do it establish that fund and say you don't get your whole money spent this year you'll have next year to begin and another warning is we may never get this money again so if you buy down your budget you are going to have a short fall the following year so this is an excellent opportunity to improve our communities.

FOLLOS: It says, per attached chart there's no attached chart but I assume it is what we were emailed a few weeks ago?

MASCARENAS: Correct the full resolution will be provided it is that attached chart that you saw at Finance committee that had the formula broken up by equalization rate in every town. We did change it per Mr. Hughe's recommendation from assessed value to equalized value so that 100% is figured across the board.

THURSTON: I just had one question clarifying and I apologize I just want to make sure that my understanding is so for example, St. Armand has a disinfection mandate could we use this as our match for that?

MASCARENAS: Yes, I think that's the point. You know I've lived in the grant world for a lot of years when I was the Director of Planning and what always came up short in communities were those matching dollars. You know you get a grant approved and it's 75/25 or 50/50 and try to find those matching dollars to get accomplished was very difficult so this is a really nice way to provide those matching dollars on those items that you typically didn't have and not put further burden on your taxpayer so it's a way to relieve your taxpayer by cost avoidance verses buying down the levy.

THURSTON: Thank you.

BRASSARD: Anything else? All in favor aye, opposed – carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

GARRISON: That's all I have.

BRASSARD: Anything else to come before ways and means?

PRESTON: Yes, I'd like to propose a resolution approving a five-year agreement with ROOST to provide tourism marketing services on behalf of the eighteen towns in Essex County the funding for such services will be provided from occupancy tax revenues and authorizing the County Attorney to negotiate and finalize the terms and conditions of this agreement.

WITHDRAWN: RESOLUTION APPROVING A FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH ROOST TO PROVIDE TOURISM MARKETING SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE EIGHTEEN TOWNS IN ESSEX COUNTY THE FUNDING FOR SUCH SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED FROM OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUES AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE AND FINALIZE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT. Preston, Stanley and *tabled* Reusser, Wood and *withdrawn* Reusser, O'Bryan

BRASSARD: Any further discussion?

TYLER: Have we discussed this before? I think I missed it.

MANNING: At the end of this committee I'd like to move into executive session and go over what's going to happen. I think this is a good start and then you can decide.

TYLER: I don't know if I'm going to vote yes when I don't know what we are voting on.

MANNING: We can go into an executive session now.

REUSSER: I make the motion to table this pending executive session.

BRASSARD: Motion to table the resolution by Ms. Reusser, second by Ms. Wood. All in favor, opposed – resolution is tabled.
Anymore resolutions from the floor? Okay I need a resolution to go into executive session. Moved by Mr. Tyler, second by Mr. O'Bryan.

MASCARENAS: We have a personnel issue that needs to be discussed in executive session as well as a contract.

MANNING: Legal advice regarding occupancy tax and the contract thereto.

THE COMMMITTEE MOVED INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:25 A.M. TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL ISSUE AND LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING OCCUPANCY TAX AND CONTRACT THERETO. THE COMMITTEE MOVED BACK INTO OPEN SESSION AT 11:06 A.M.

BRASSARD: Okay no decisions were made in executive session. I need a motion to go back into regular session. Mr. Barber seconded by Ms. Reusser. At 11:06 we are back in regular session.

MASCARENAS: You have a resolution on the table and we are looking maybe for a motion to withdraw.

BRASSARD: A motion to withdraw the previous resolution. Moved by Ms. Reusser, second by Mr. O'Bryan. Any discussion? Being none all in favor, opposed – carried.

MASCARENAS: Mr. Preston would you like to offer a new resolution?

PRESTON: Just so I'm straight we're just looking for the addition of approval for this body based on the recommendations from counsel?

MASCARENAS: Yeah a resolution authorizing – do you want to go Dan?

MANNING: A resolution authorizing the county manager and county attorney to negotiate a proposed five-year contract with ROOST.

MASCARENAS: Yes with the results of those negotiations to be brought forth to this board at a later time for approval.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZNG THE COUNTY MANAGER AND COUNTY ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE A PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH ROOST. Preston, Reusser

BRASSARD: Any further discussion? Being none, all in favor, opposed – carried. Anything else to come before ways and means? Okay we're adjourned.

As there was no further discussion to come before this ways and means committee it was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors