WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
Monday, September 28, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m.

Matthew Brassard, Chairman
JoePete Wilson, Vice-Chairman

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

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

Deputies present: Michael LaVallie and William Tansey

WILSON: Good morning I'm sitting in for Mr. Brassard today so I'll call the meeting order. Please stand for the salute to the flag. Roll call please. We don't have any guests today so we'll move right into resolutions.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Monday, September 14, 2026
Chairman – K. Hughes Vice-Chairman – D. Thurston

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO PURCHASE RADIOS IN THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FROM SOUTHERN TIER COMMUNICATIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $13,000.00, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM SICG 24 FUNDS. Hughes, Pierce**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO PURCHASE RADIO PARTS AND ACCESSORIES IN THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FROM MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $8,000.00, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED SICG 24 FUNDS. Menser, Clark**

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO PURCHASE A REPLACEMENT DC POWER PLANT FOR GORE MOUNTAIN TOWER SITE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $38,000.00, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS. Menser, Lamphear**

WILSON: Questions?

HUGHES: Just to clarify, this is the battery backup?

MASCARENAS: Yes.

HUGHES: Thank you.

WILSON: Further questions? All in favor aye – any opposed – motion carries.

4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AWARD BID TO NIELSEN FORD IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF $158,465.40, FOR TWO (2) NEW 2027 FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY VEHICLES. McGill, Hughes**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Monday, September 14, 2026
Chairman – M. Stanley Vice-Chairman – K. Hughes

1. **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO HANNAH NEILLY FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE FOR ESSEX COUNTY IN THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES DEPARTMENT. McGill, unanimous**

2. **RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE REGIONAL OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM (ROOST) AS THE TOURISM PROMOTION AGENCY FOR THE 2027 I LOVE NEW YORK MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM. Pierce, Follos**

HUMAN SERVICES
Monday, September 14, 2026
Chairman – D. Thurston Vice-Chairman - C. Reusser

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JESSICA PERKINS TO THE ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM BEGINNING JULY 8, 2026 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026. Hughes, Wood**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $62,552.00, NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF ADDICTION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS (OASAS) O'Bryan, Barber**

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDEMENT IN THE MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $141,751.00, CARRYOVER 2025 DIRECT SHARE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS. Lamphear, Wood**

4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDEMENT IN THE MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $128,577.00, NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH FUNDS FOR A FULL-TIME POSITION IN THE ESSEX COUNTY CHILDREN'S SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS PROGRAM (C-SPOA). Clark, Menser**

WILSON: Any questions?

FOLLOS: These motions related to funds, should we be doing them as roll calls?

MASCARENAS: Only during full board.

FOLLOS: Okay thank you.

WILSON: Further questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – motion carries.

5. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF SURPLUS FUND BALANCE IN THE MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT FROM FEDERAL SALARY SHARING IN THE AMOUNT OF $164,538.00. O'Bryan, Pierce**

6. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER IN THE MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT FROM THE ESSEX COUNTY FUND BALANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF $325,000.00, TO COURT ORDERED CONFINEMENT. Wood, Menser**

7. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH GREAT RANGE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $12,500.00, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS. Hughes, Barber**

8. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $67,500.00, SALE OF MOBILE UNIT. Clark, Wood**

9. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT TO BID FOR A NEW TRANSIT VAN IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. McGill, Follos**

10. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $34,824.31, JUUL SETTLEMENT FUNDS. Barber, O'Bryan**

11. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $3,320.00, ELIZABETHTOWN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL MINI GRANTS. Menser, Reusser**

12. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $810.00, 2026 AUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL VEHICLE FUNDS. Clark, Lamphear**

13. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO PURCHASE A NEW AND UNUSED COPIER FOR THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $10,000.00, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM UNMET NEEDS FUNDING. Hughes, Lamphear**

14. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE TOWN OF WILMINGTON AND THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $68,000, FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR INDIVIDUALS 60 AND OLDER. Follos, McGill**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Monday, September 21, 2026
Chairman – C. Barber Vice–Chairman – C. Clark

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – TRAFFIC CONTROL INCREASING REVENUES AND**

APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $19,922.52, SALE OF MATERIALS TO TOWNS. Clark, Menser

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH ALLSTATES CONSTRUCTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $83,050.00 FOR THE MOSS ROAD OVER THE BOQUET RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF LEWIS WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED/US FISH & WILDLIFE FUNDS. Pierce, Barber**

WILSON: Questions?

HUGHES: Quick question, I know the Boquet River Association is heavily involved in maintaining or making sure that projects, various culverts things like that are in line with what they are looking to do when it comes to migration that's the wrong word but movement of wildlife, fish, things like that does the county work with BRASS on these types of projects?

MASCARENAS: Yes. I don't know if you want to offer the courtesy of the floor to Mr. Dougan? We just had this conversation this morning on another project.

HUGHES: I certainly would.

WILSON: And just to maybe look ahead a little does that question apply to the next two resolutions as well in a general sense?

DOUGAN: BRASS is involved in this project. US Fish and Wildlife funds are funding about half of the project and then, BRASS actually had their separate contractor that removes the original culvert pipes that were there. BRASS's contractor removed that and then our contractor Allstates is launching the permanent bridge and installing things back so yeah, we are working closely with BRASS on that project, on a number of projects. Actually I invited BRASS last week, when this project is done to come and talk to the board about the project between our engineering staff, US Fish and Wildlife and BRASS on how we did it. It's us getting creative for funding right and still trying to do both a structural repair and dealing with wildlife connectivity at the same time.

HUGHES: I'm glad you brought up the funding because I do know they may have access to possible money we may not be able to have access to and vice versa and so that collaboration for the Town of Essex will be important for us on a couple projects that we are looked so I'm glad the county is also participating in that relationship as well.

MASCARENAS: In other words the county acts as a partner on some of those similar type of projects so not just BRASS we work with other agencies as well.

HUGHES: Thank you.

PIERCE: More of a comment, I'm not sure which group it was BRASS or US Fish & Wildlife but this project was delayed for a few weeks because when they pulled up those two culverts they found some mussels down there.

WILSON: Further questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – motion carries. Do you want to hang out for a second just in case we have more questions?

DOUGAN: Sure, I'll hang out.

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AWARD A PURCHASE ORDER WITH APPLIED ENERGY IN THE AMOUNT OF $17,698.00, FOR A 750 KVA PHASEBACK POWER QUALITY DEVICE TO BE INSTALLED AT THE ESSEX COUNTY COURTHOUSE, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER. Clark, Menser**

WILSON: Questions?

PIERCE: What is a 750 KVA Phase back power quality device?

DOUGAN: Basically it does surge protection, it does arch flash protection we installed one up at the public safety building six, eight months ago and what it does is it conditions your power so it's a three phase service sometimes all your legs of power are coming in three of them aren't always in balance and then one of them gets significantly low for example that's when you have a brown out so if you've got a large piece of equipment and one leg is supplying 120 and the other leg is only supplying 80 you can do real damage to that so this conditions that power going in is what it does.

PIERCE: Thank you.

WILSON: Further questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – motion carries.

4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A CONTRACT WITH FRIEND COMMERCIAL CONTRACTING CORP., IN THE AMOUNT OF $724,693.00, FOR GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE RIVER ROAD (CR18) OVER TRIBUTARY TO FRANKLIN FALLS FLOW CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF ST. ARMAND, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FEMA FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID CONTRACT. O'Bryan, Barber**

5. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY RELATED TO THE DOCK STREET OVER MILL BROOK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF MORIAH AND ALL ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE PAYMENT TO THE PROPERTY OWNERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $9,140.00, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED BRIDGE NY FUNDS. Barber, Pierce**

PERSONNEL

Monday, September 21, 2026
Chairman – M. Wood Vice-Chairman – C. Reusser

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A STIPULATION WITH LAKE PLACID CLUB LODGES OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. VOIDING AND RENDERING NO LEGAL FORCE AND EFFECT A CERTAIN STIPULATION ENTERED INTO BY ESSEX COUNTY AND THE**

ASSOCIATION ON FEBRUARY 7, 2000, AND RETURNING TO THE ASSOCIATION ALL MONIES THEY PAID ON THE BACK TAXES. Wood, Reusser

WILSON: Questions?

HUGHES: Thank you sir. Is it 2000 or 2020?

MANNING: Two thousand. Yes, the original stipulation was dated February 7, 2000, this has been going on for a long, long time that relationship between Lake Placid Lodge Association and the county with respect to returning those timeshares in exchange of them paying the taxes.

HUGHES: I know we had this conversation in committee and it was pretty muddy for me then, it's a little less muddy for me now with that explanation. I think the only concern that I have and I'm going to support this, is insuring somehow the language on the final resolution that this doesn't appear like it is an open opportunity for others to say we are paying back, back taxes, we want our back taxes too that this is a very specific group this is not a precedent for others.

MANNING: It can't because this is the only timeshare organization done this way but it's a good question. No one else can come back and say you transferred timeshares back to us it's a moot point.

HUGHES: Okay that's fair. I appreciate understanding that and your explanation in public forum.

MANNING: Good question though.

WILSON: Further questions?

REUSSER: Can I ask why this topic is under Personnel?

MANNING: Because that's my committee and something I am doing so I brought it up at personnel.

REUSSER: Even though it's not –

MASCARENAS: We don't have a legal committee so everything gets pigeon holed into personnel.

REUSSER: That's okay I was just curious.

MANNING: No problem.

WILSON: Further questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – motion carries.

2. **RESOLUTION GRANTING JOSEPH PATRICK MCCORMACK AND ELIZABETH ANN MCCORMACK A PERMENANT NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY OVER PROPERTY OWNED BY ESSEX COUNTY IN THE TOWN OF MINERVA BEARING TAX MAP NUMBER 155.3-1-1.000 FOR THE PURPOSES OF INGRESS AND EGRESS TO PROPERTY OWNED BY MCCORMACK BEARING TAX MAP NUMBER 155.3-1-71.000. Wood, Reusser**

FINANCE/TAX REDUCTION/MANDATE RELIEF
Monday, September 21, 2026
Chairman – I. Tyler Vice-Chairman – JP. Wilson

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEVY OF UNPAID, 2026/2027 VILLAGE AND SCHOOL TAXES, AND ALL ROAD, WATER, SEWER AND GARBAGE RENTS ON THE 2027 TAX LEVY EXCEPT THAT PAYMENTS FOR 2026/2027 SCHOOL TAXES WHICH ARE RECEIVED IN THE ESSEX COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE. Hughes, O'Bryan**

2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPT. INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $50,000.00, US DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT. McGill, Hughes**

WILSON: Questions?

HUGHES: Can you please remind me what the anticipated use of this money is for?

MASCARENAS: Yup different items but we do primarily human firewall training on a regular basis it's a electronic training that we do with all of our employees as that's obviously the number one way to prevent threats. The other one is we are looking to get another software that acts as a scanning device that scans in the background for known threats and those types of things we don't have one chose yet but that will come at a later time because this grant was just awarded so those are the two proposed items for that $50,000.

HUGHES: Thank you.

WILSON: Further questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – motion carries.

3. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO PURCHASE A NEW MAIL MACHINE FROM PITNEY BOWES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $20,800.00. Wood, Clark**

MISCELLANEOUS

1. **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LONG TERM EMPLOYEES FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. Wood, Reusser**

2. **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO DOUGLAS C. MEYER, DIRECTOR OF CRISIS SERVICES OF MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN ESSEX COUNTY FOR 19 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF ESSEX COUNTY. Follos, unanimous**

WILSON: I've got one resolution from the floor that I'd like to bring on the behalf of Mr. Brassard it's a resolution of condolence for Mary Sprague who passed away September 9. She is a resident of the Town of Moriah and an employee of Essex County, if I could get an unanimous second.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF MARY SPRAGUE. Wilson, unanimous

WILSON: Do board members have anything else they need to bring from the floor?

REUSSER: I have a resolution of condolence to the family of George Onni. George Onni served the Town of Elizabethtown on their Zoning Board of Appeals and also with DSHS and he's helped the Town of Elizabethtown immensely with the current FEMA projects. He died unexpectedly last week.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF GEORGE ONNI. Reusser, unanimous

MOSES: I'd like to thank Sheriff Reynolds and all his officers for helping the Town of Schroon with their Adirondack Marathon the 30th one on Sunday yesterday. Everything went so smoothly and they were a big part of that smooth operation.

HUGHES: Chairman, thank you. I was remiss in bringing this up at the DPW committee last week but I wanted to just take the opportunity to express deep appreciation to Jim Dougan and his crew for the work that's been done recently on a couple of our county roads the chief among them is the Blue Ridge Road in the Minerva section has been really a challenge. I don't drive it every day I drive it occasionally to see my brother but I know those who do drive it daily have experienced a lot of challenges we have had a couple of staff members that do that trip and it is really a wonderful job done there heavily traveled road going east with the log trucks so thank you for that but also roads those that I do travel it a little bit more Youngs Road in Westport, Lake Shore Road also in Westport I just had a chance to ride that on my bike incredible job and I bring this up at ways and means because it does take ways and means to figure out how to pay for that those jobs and I know in all of our towns it's tough to find money, CHIPS money and our local budget money to pave roads it's very difficult. I know that having to pave can be around $16,000-$17,000 to pay for that equipment and I also know in the Town of North Elba I was recently up there as well and Old Military Road is, I don't know where it is right now but I do now there was major work going on up there so I just want to offer congratulations to the DPW crew for their efforts to just improve our county roads with those paving jobs. We hear from our constituents about the pot holes, we hear it from our constituents about lug nuts falling off and broken springs, things like that so I'm glad the county is doing this work to make sure these highly traveled roads are in the best condition possible and I know that the job does not ever end so Jim, thanks to you and your crew.

WILSON: Thank you Mr. Hughes. Anything else?

MENSER: Recently I've been trying to get ambulance services scheduled for next year and I think the county is going to be looking at what the cost is going to be involved in this moving forward because it's great that the county put out to us that they were going to reimburse us 50 cents on a dollar with a maximum of $125,000, but when ambulance squads found that out they try to immediately jack the prices up so that they can get all that money and this is not a satisfactory situation. In our case the current ambulance service that we have we pay $50,000 a year for which is a good deal for next year they want to change that to $180,000 with no improvements to the service itself and that's all because they knew that money was supposed to be available and that's not a good situation. It is still a burden on the taxpayers.

REUSSER: I would just like to in general work with the Elizabethtown Ambulance service it's been highly controversial for many years I don't know what the motives of the people are in your town and it would be easy to say they are motivated by the county's contribution to support these services but I would closely look to the Town of Lewis for them to be ready for Elizabethtown and

Lewis but also Willsboro and Essex we provide support to them in the past we've also supplied support to Keene and Keene Valley as well as Westport. It's an expensive service for those folks to be ready 24 hours a day, 7 days a week it does take resources. The Town of Elizabethtown's cut and the Elizabethtown Lewis budget is $277,000 this year it is not an inexpensive service to run for folks that work or volunteer have a high cost to their training as well as the equipment, supplies everything to do their job so I welcome you to take a look at we've done in Elizabethtown-Lewis's emergency services. I think we've done a nice job and keeping the prices down I recommend you work with Josh, look at the data on the subject how many calls you have and all that sort of thing. It's not an inexpensive service.

MENSER: I agree it's not an inexpensive service. I think it is going to get more expensive as we go into the future and that's why I want everybody to be thinking about this because it's going to be very expensive. For us to go from $50,000 to $180,000 is not feasible so we are looking elsewhere and it's going to be much less.

REUSSER: When you look at the nature of the business going from a volunteer service to a paid service, a paid reliable service you're going to see the costs associated with that.

WILSON: Mr. Favro, do you want to talk big picture and address any of this or do you want to follow up with Mr. Menser afterwards? Whichever would work for you Mr. Menser?

O'BRYAN: It's not just Mr. Menser it's all of us that have ambulance services. I'm up over $600,000 this year the budget is up over $1 million dollars for Ti Ambulance Squad. Clayton and I have been talking about this because we share services. Vitally necessary we have already taken over 900 calls in the Town of Ticonderoga unbelievable but it's the long term effect of this we did a great job and I don't want to take that away, we did a great job putting it together but the longevity going forward is what's getting us excited because seeing these numbers for the first time and then on top of that I was talking to Mr. Mascarenas recently about we don't have to replace our RO2 heart monitors this year they are old, they are over fifteen years old they will need to be replaced but not in the budget this year however, because we have EMT's and advanced life support on our ambulance we have to have this equipment that other towns that don't have EMT's or advances life support on their ambulance don't have to have it but we are required by the State so in that case the $125,000 he gives me goes into that equipment and I can't use it for anything else but yeah, my fellow next door to me his ambulance doesn't have paramedics he doesn't have to pay that $125,000 or $100,000 or whatever it amounts to. So I just think here there are some things here we have to think about.

MASCARENAS: I agree with everything that's been said. We've been thinking about this a really long time. This goes back over a decade for many of us that kind of saw this coming and where it started and where the grant came from was really about a system that was dropping an awful lot of calls as a whole and our goal from day one became to try to stabilize that. We had a death in a community where a person may or may not have been saved hard saying but nobody showed the phone rang and 911 was unreliable and our goal was to get that public respect back and be able to have them know that when they call 911 somebody is going to show up now there's a cost associated with that and for you on the board you're all thinking about your current situation right now as we are having this discussion. Many of you have been paying those dollars for a lot of years. Many of you were able to hang on with volunteers for a certain amount of period of time and now are getting a sticker shock as those volunteers start to leave your system so when I look at Clayton shaking his head yeah, he doesn't know it any other way he's been paying three quarter of a million dollars for the better part of a decade, the Town of Jay I believe is in that same

circumstance, Willsboro bit off and was one of our first that created an EMS district in some of their revenue. The difficult part in Essex County is we are very and people probably get sick of saying this but we are very distinct and different from community to community in terms of who those payers in those systems are. When you're in North Hudson Mr. Clark was telling me this morning a lot of the responses in North Hudson are people on the Interstate they are not necessarily locals but those responses still have to happen and the amount they are contributing to our economy are priceless but to not have that service there for those visitors is really a disservice to those things that we're doing in Essex County. When you get into a certain part of the county the reimbursement is all Medicaid related when you see what those insurance amounts are being paid those amounts aren't the same as when we go to towns that are heavily traveled by tourists and those calls are generated revenue from insurance payouts that are much higher than Medicaid so you really, it takes a long time to understand your community demographic to be able to understand where your money is coming from, who are the people that rely on the service and how you can best provide a cost that's acceptable to taxpayers but you are all in the same boat. I will say that I never considered with the ALS the price of equipment something that was new to me when you brought it up to me so I thank you for that and our plan, is a plan that was passed a year and a half ago and is certainly a working document that we can utilize moving forward but for town's that were paying a heavy price though that $100,000 is a godsend for them because it's just a reduction for the ones that haven't been paying much it's sticker shock right, it's holy cow. It's like me now going to stores with my daughter and going I can't believe how much jeans cost now? It's like holy cow but yes, happy to continue those conversations to work toward a better plan because we can always make things better, improved and more fair but these things cost.

Favro: I would be more than happy if any of you want your statistics for your towns, let me know and I'll get that to you and like Mike was saying, the cost of everything is just outrageous. I used to work with Randy Preston selling ambulances –

WILSON: Why don't you come up Josh so we can get you on the microphone.

MANNING: While Josh is coming up Mike failed to kind of fill you in for most of the new people, what had been done in the past and Mike and the board in the past petitioned the State of New York to allow counties to create ambulance districts and I was on the committee to try and coordinate language and do this but it got all bogged down I know how it did but I don't want to say publicly so a lot of credit goes to Mike and prior board, those of you that have been here before. Secondly, you've got a lot of procural interest here I mean it is a great idea if you can all get together and say, yes, even though we can't create an ambulance district you probably could contract with the county and at that scale it would probably save you money but you've got ambulances run by fire districts, you've got ambulances that are contracted out, you've got ambulances run by towns and everybody has an interest and I don't know if Mike has investigated but to date, that's a never ending job.

MASCARENAS: Yes it's ultimately why we settled, where we settled simply there was so many different options out there that none of them worked for everyone.

REUSSER: Just another factor in this briefly is revenue recovered on the part of each and every district so not only are you talking about the insurances and the cash payment you are talking about going after that money.

FAVRO: Yes, as I was saying 15-20 years ago an ambulance was $100,000 you're looking upwards for a basic ambulance now $250,000 to $300,000 and then you add in a $50,000 stretcher in the back of it, a $50,000 monitor and that's not taking into account your salaries and health insurance and all that good stuff so just going along with what you're saying it's not a cheap business to be in fuel prices alone you take that somewhere like Ausable Forks they have to go to Plattsburgh every time they have to transport a patient so that's also taxing on the whole system but once again, if you need any statistics I'm more than happy to get whatever you need just so you have a better idea of numbers and that sort of thing.

HUGHES: Mike, you did a really well worded memo to the board back in June of 2025 it might be worthwhile to resend that out to this board some of us were not privy to that memo and maybe some of our predecessors shared that memo but you did a real nice job of laying out what the problem is, where we currently were back in spring/summer of 2025 and where you wanted to go and how the mathematics worked out. I'm actually providing that because in Essex and Willsboro we are both jumping up 123% for our EMS budget line so I have to explain that to my constituents on Tuesday night and my board needs to understand that as well and they have not been involved in that conversation because they have not needed to have been involved so now, I provided not only that memo but also with the resolution of the MOU agreement provided to me which basically helps shave through the details of all of that so I think it is probably helpful to resend that out just so we have a better understanding of where we were, where we are and where we want to be.

MASCARENAS: Thank you for reminding me that I did that.

HUGHES: I will give you a copy if you need it.

WILSON: Josh, when is the next EMS committee meeting?

MASCARENAS: Two weeks?

FAVRO: Sub committee meeting you mean? It will be next month, a couple weeks right before public safety.

WILSON: Yeah so maybe by then if we got the memo everybody is brought up on the background we can continue this conversation that Mr. Menser started.

MASCARENAS: And we can certainly provide you with what every town is paying. I can tell you from just what I am seeing if you're getting out of it for a half a million or less you're doing really well and most people are paying more than that most people are.

WILSON: Any final comments? Alright, thank you. Anything else from the floor?

FOLLOS: Different topic and if this isn't an issue for other towns that's fine we can just move on. This issue of meeting every time we need to have kennel has been an issue in Wilmington whether it's an issue for every town that have heard there might be a county wide solution or plan I'm looking for some more information about any plans.

MASCARENAS: The county was working really hard on trying to make it easier for all of you and have a central location. Ms. Reusser kindly raised her hand and said I'd be happy to host any town contract with individuals that want a spot to bring a dog unfortunately our grant application with Ag and Markets was declined. I think it was a really good plan. I'm kind of disheartened that

it was declined being that they were here at a lot of our meetings and kind of knew what our plan was and I thought it would be a shoe in quite frankly but it wasn't so I think we'll continue to go after to kind of centralize an area where this dog issue doesn't continue to be such an issue for all the towns and try to figure out at 2 a.m. you're going to get help and again, if it is declined I'm not against trying to help you out from a county standpoint if you have costs and we want to centralize a location I'd be happy to participate in helping and providing the infrastructure I don't want to provide the administrative component that gets your dogs to these areas long term but I'm more than happy to help in funding the startup of getting the kennels that were properly approved. I don't want to do it for each town but I would like us to have a plan of where overflow would go and those types of things and that. I'm happy to do that.

WILSON: Along with the memo that Mr. Hughes mentioned could you email out the recommendations that the task force made because Mr. Monty did lead a pretty vigorous effort to try and develop a plan that would consolidate some services geographically so if you don't mind sending that out as well you read the background and everyone can get caught up.

O'BRYAN: The hard part over the last few months is you've got your nice dog and then you've got your heinous dog a little different ball game dealing with that in the same kennel so we are kind of working through that. We had a couple heinous dogs luckily we were able to turn that around but we used to bring them up to the SPCA but we can't do that anymore they won't take them so it is something to think about going through this exercise and we'll take all the help we can get.

MASCARENAS: We can send you those minutes from those meetings too that happened we have them there and you will be able to catch up on anything you think you may have missed. So that was a great recommendation, thank you.

WILSON: Any other issues, comments?

REUSSER: I'll just say that we haven't held a dog impoundment meeting since Mr. Monty left office and going back on what Mike said we did apply for a grant that we were declined on. I want to also mention that I met with the SPCA last week and they will be sending out to each of the towns an opportunity to go them per incident and a cost associated with the per incident and I suggest that you all look at that and take it seriously that is one opportunity you will have. There's no upfront money if you don't need to use them then you don't expend any money but if you need them you'll know the cost associated with that and keep in mind as you have these problems with dogs in your communities they need to be medically stable meaning they can't have a face full of quills, they can't have parvo virus the SPCA can not take on that burden. So those are the kinds of situations we are planning for with having these dog impoundment spaces for animals that can't be placed at the SPCA. Anybody that has questions please don't hesitate to give me a call and reach out to me.

WILSON: Thank you. Any final things? We do have an executive session so if anybody is all set? I ask for a motion to go into executive at 10:45 a.m.

MANNING: The reason is legal advice for Tony Remirez v. Essex County case.

WILSON: Moved by Mr. Follos, second by Mr. Pierce. All in favor aye.

THE COMMITTEE MOVED INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:45 A.M. TO DISCUSS LEGAL ADVICE ON TONY REMIREZ V. ESSEX COUNTY CASE.
THE COMMITTEE MOVED BACK INTO OPEN SESSION AT 10:56 A.M.

WILSON: Alright I need a motion to come back into regular session at 10:56. Mr. Menser makes a motion, Ms. Wood second. All in favor aye. We are back in regular session no decisions were made but we do have a motion.

MANNING: Yes, I need a motion to pay Veritext the sum of $1,921.20 incident to preparation to 50-H transcript regarding the Remirez case.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF INVOICE NO. 9575670 IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,921.20 FOR THE PREPARATION OF A TRANSCRIPT OF A 50-H HEARING FOR TONY RAMIREZ V. ESSEX COUNTY. Menser, Reusser

WILSON: Questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – that motion carries. Anything else Dan? Mike?

MASCARENAS: Yes, just one quick announcement reminder, budget workshops are the rest of this week. We will be exhausting ourselves for the next four days up in the upstairs room social services department if you would like to attend all or any if you find you've got a moment, just stop in we'll be there and you learn a lot at those things I know everyone that seems to come seems to be happy that they have come that they can learn an awful lot at those sessions so you're all welcome to attend.

PIERCE: How do you access that room from here?

MASCARENAS: It depends on who you are whether you ring the bell and announce and we decide whether to let you in or not. No, we'll get you in we'll get a badge up there that where you can get it. You can get to Judy and Judy will walk up anybody and get them in she does have a badge.

GARRISON: Yes, will do.

WILSON: I need a motion to adjourn. Mr. O'Bryan second by Mr. Hughes. All in favor aye. We are adjourned. Thank you.

As there was no further discussion to come before this ways and means committee it was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors