REGULAR BOARD
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Stephen McNally, Chairperson
Matthew Brassard, Vice-Chairman

Chairman McNally called this Regular Board meeting to order at 10:00 A.M., with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Matthew Brassard, Chris Clark, Kenneth Hughes, Mary Lamphear, Tracie McGill, Stephen McNally, Clayton Menser, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Cathleen Reusser, Matthew Stanley, Davina Thurston, Michael Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Meg Wood. Timothy Follos and James O'Bryan were excused.

Department heads present: Angie Allen, Judith Garrison, Roy Holzer, Chelsea Merrihew, Mary McGowan, Jim Dougan, Mike Mascarenas, Josh Favro, Dan Manning and David Reynolds.

MCNALLY: I will call the regular board meeting to order, please stand for the salute to the flag. Roll call please. No guests, onto resolutions please.

RESOLUTION #171 – 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.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Stanley, seconded unanimously and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #172 – AUTHORIZNG THE ESSEX COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT FOR BID/RFP FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Pierce and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #173 – AUTHORIZING A BUDGET TRANSFER FOR THE ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF $8,500.00 FOR THE COST OF UPFITTING TWO NEW VEHICLES.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Tyler, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

RESOLUTION #174 – AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AWARD BIDS, ISSUE CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS OR PURCHASE ORDERS.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Clark, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

AMENDED:
RESOLUTION #175 – APPROVING THE INCLUSION OF SEVEN (7) APPLICATIONS, THIRTEEN (13) PARCELS AND RELEVANT SEQRA PAPERWORK FROM THE 2026 OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR THE ESSEX COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Stanley, seconded by Mr. Brassard, and duly adopted

as *amended.*

MCNALLY: Questions or concerns? I would like to offer an amendment to remove property number eight from this resolution. Moved by Mr. Stanley, Mr. Brassard.

HUGHES: Just curious I wasn't here last week so I don't know maybe it was explained, why is this being removed.

GARRISON: It was included in error.

HUGHES: Okay.

BARBER: I'm sorry, can you tell me why?

GARRISON: It was included in error due to a miscommunication with Cole Trager and the farmer. The parcel number was incorrect and he will resubmit the inclusion application for the correct parcel next year.

BARBER: Okay, thank you.

MCNALLY: Any other questions on this? If not, all in favor, opposed – carried.

RESOLUTION #176 – 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.
This resolution was moved by Ms. Thurston, seconded unanimously and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #177 – AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.
This resolution was moved by Ms. Thurston, seconded by Mr. Barber, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

RESOLUTION #178 – 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.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Preston, seconded unanimously and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #179 – AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING IN THE FIRST INSTANCE 100% OF THE FEDERAL AID AND STATE "MARCHISELLI" 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. (ENSIGN POND ROAD IN NORTH HUDSON BRIDGE NY PINs 3301940 and 3301950)
This resolution was moved by Ms. Thurston, seconded by Mr. Clark, and adopted upon a

roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

RESOLUTION #180 – AUTHORIZING CONTRACT AMENDMENTS/CHANGE ORDERS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.
This resolution was moved by Ms. Reusser, seconded by Ms. Lamphear, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

RESOLUTION #181 – AUTHORIZING A ONE-TIME SURPLUS SALES TAX DISTRIBUTION TO THE EIGHTEEN TOWNS IN ESSEX COUNTY IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF $2,775,025.00, PER ATTACHED CHART; THIS ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION ALLOCATED BASED SOLELY ON EQUALIZED ASSESSED VALUE IS REQUIRED TO BE PLACED INTO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE FUND AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE SALES TAX TO BE DEPOSITED INTO THE ESSEX COUNTY BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FOR FUTURE RADIO AND PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PROJECTS.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Hughes, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

MCNALLY: Questions or concerns?

HUGHES: Quick question. I appreciate the modifications that were made after the committee conversations thank you. Is there an anticipated reporting that is going to come back to the county on how the funds are spent because I know we do that with occupancy tax money and this is kind of in the same lines as that.

MASCARENAS: Yes, so I think not to disrupt what you're already doing in your towns we'll follow the same process we do for occupancy tax in terms of the reporting on those capital expenditures and we'll do it probably the end of next year at this time or prior to the budget season and we'll kind of see how it goes. I think it's nice that communities are going to have a little bit of money to be able to make that project that wasn't whole, whole and keep it away from taxpayers while doing such.

HUGHES: I appreciate the opportunity and also the flexibility of how we spend it so thank you.

MCNALLY: Anybody else? If not, roll call please.

RESOLUTION #182 – RECOGNIZING LONG-TERM EMPLOYEES OF ESSEX COUNTY.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded unanimously and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #183 – AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER AND COUNTY ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE A FIVE (5) YEAR CONTRACT WITH ROOST FOR TOURISM, PROMOTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO TOURISM.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Barber, seconded by Ms. Wood, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

MCNALLY: Questions or concerns?

HUGHES: When is the beginning of the term?

MASCARENAS: This just gives us permission to negotiate Mr. Hughes and we are going to bring back the results of those negations to the board for final approval. So we amended a resolution that was brought forth last week to change the language of this resolution you're seeing in front of you so that we have to go back to the board. We are assuming it's going to be the beginning of 2027 but the specifics are more to come.

HUGHES: Understood, thank you.

MCNALLY: Any other questions? Roll call please.

GARRISON: Resolutions from the floor.

RESOLUTION #184 – AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH DURRIN, INC. FOR PRESCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Ms. Thurston, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #185 – AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH PRIVATE LANDS FOREVER LLC, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $5,150.00 WITH A 3% ESCALATOR FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR FOR A STORAGE OF DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZNG THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID CONTRACT.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Brassard, seconded by Ms. Thurston, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

REUSSER: What are the requirements of Private Lands the integrity of their ability or is there any?

MASCARENAS: Chelsea, is this a resolution from you? It is? Do you want to offer Chelsea the courtesy of the floor to answer any questions regarding this?

MCNALLY: Yes.

MERRIHEW: Good morning so this is the building that we've been in for as long as I can remember and we previously had a contract with Forest Service it just rolled over from year to year that land was purchased by Private Lands Forever so our records are still in the building they have been for the last almost twenty years and quite frankly over the years we've looked for other record storage facilities and there just is none.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, the name change threw me off. Same location, same place our records have always been just down in New Russia, just a different owner of that facility.

REUSSER: Are we under any obligation to protect them in any particular manner requiring fire suppression certain construction of the building or land?

MERRIHEW: No and New York State Archives is one of the things they are very loose on is we have to store them but they don't have requirements on how. I have been in conversation with Mike and Jim to hopefully in the near future find alternate storage for them.

REUSSER: Does it have to be, do we have to keep physical documents or is there a place for digital compliance of the records?

MERRIHEW: So it depends on the retention requirement by New York State Archives for OCA the court system some records are for our permanent storage regardless whether or not they have been digitalized so we are always going to have a need for a cold storage but we have been working really hard to reduce the records that we can get rid of once they are digitized or can just get rid of because they have met their retention period but again, we are always going to need some sort of physical space.

REUSSER: Thank you for the explanation.

MCNALLY: Any other questions, concerns?

MERRIHEW: I would add just because I'm up here is as long as I've been part of this process our rent has been $5000 a year so when Mr. Deming took it over he increased it by $150 and 3% each year so it's not significant more than what we have been previously paying. We have had no increase for quite some time.

MCNALLY: Roll call please.

RESOLUTION #186 – AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A 2026 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) HOUSING APPLICATION, DESIGNATING NORTH COUNTRY RURAL DEVELOPMENT AS SUBRECIPIENT, APPOINTING THE COUNTY MANAGER AS CERTIFYING OFFICER, AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Reusser, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #187 – DESIGNATING THE NORTH COUNTRY RURAL DEVELOPMENT COALITION TO ADMINISTER FAIR HOUSING RESPONSIBILITIES AND ADOPTING REQUIRED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT POLICIES.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Barber, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #188 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 160 OF 2026 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.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Menser, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

MCNALLY: Any other resolutions from the floor?

MASCARENAS: I put a resolution on your desk this morning. A resolution transfer from contingency to cover attorney fees for the murder trial in the public defender's office that transfer amount is $19,093.68. The reason we didn't have that budgeted and needed the transfer is because the Judge appointed an attorney that we were anticipating that we were going to follow that case to the end and that's just not what happened so when the Judge appointed an attorney the cost associated with that became ours. I don't have an opinion on it one way or another I think the Judge did what was right for the Judge at that time so that's the resolution.

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #189 – AUTHORIZING A BUDGET TRANSFER FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE PUBLIC DEFENDERS ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF $19,093.68 TO COVER ATTORNEY FEES FOR THE FRATTOLIN MURDER TRIAL.
This resolution was moved by Ms. Reusser, seconded by Mr. Brassard, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

MCNALLY: Questions or concerns?

HUGHES: Mr. Chairman I'm just curious if there is a, I'm going to support this no problem I get it I'm just curious if there is a breakdown of where you got to $19,093.68?

MASCARENAS: Yes, I can provide that to you the cost was much higher. We did have a certain amount budgeted just not enough to cover what the actual fees were. I can get you the cost of the entire case for that attorney specifically.

HUGHES: I just feel like it is a CYA for the county board. Certainly I trust you I just don't feel like we need support of this it's nineteen grand and I'd like to see that mathematically.

MASCARENAS: Yeah when you see something coming from me for contingent you should know and if you don't you're going to now is that I have exhausted all the options so we are always trying to get it from budgeted funds first, we are trying to make those transfers and then we make up the difference and pay from contingency. I can send that to the whole board just so they have an idea of what the cost of something like that is.

STANLEY: Will we be getting reimbursed by the State for this cost because I know a lot of the Public Defender fees are reimbursed by the State.

MASCARENAS: So we're in negotiation with ILS regarding that I didn't want to wait for answer from the State regardless if the state pays us back or not doesn't make us any less required to pay the attorney the cost is still ours so we are negotiating with the state to pay those fees but right now this is ours.

MCNALLY: Anybody else? If not, roll call please.

MASCARENAS: I have one more a sent a resolution request out to the board last week regarding MEGA and our electricity costs I just got the numbers hot off the press this morning when I sent them to you Thursday they were a little higher but it doesn't really relieve us much. I know we've had some debate on what the term should be. I'm going to stick with the recommendation that it's a two-year process. I know typically we only see costs rise but four years ago when we did this our cost was significantly less. I think some of the energy policy is driving what that cost is I have no way to look at a crystal ball and know if I'm right we'll know in two years but what I do know is that the savings four years is less than a half a cent. Me and Mr. Stanley was looking at it closely before today and it's literally a quarter of a cent in terms of the two-year cost and the four-year cost so I think it's a gamble worth taking to do the two-year resolution so the resolution would be authorizing a fixed two-year contract with Constellation procured through the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) for electricity supply to Essex County.

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that to the floor.

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #190 - AUTHORIZING A FIXED TWO-YEAR CONTRACT WITH CONSTELLATION PROCURED THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AND GAS ALLIANCE (MEGA) FOR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO ESSEX COUNTY.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Brassard, seconded by Mr. Menser, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2391 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 462 votes (O'Bryan, Follos)

BRASSARD: Steve and I received an email this morning from Mr. Dougan the resolution is authorizing the County Chairman or County Manager to enter into an agreement with Virigina Tech University for the installation of temporary bat monitoring equipment at the entrance to the Barton Hill Mine property at no cost to the county upon providing insurance and approval from the County Attorney.

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that to the floor.

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #191 - AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VIRIGINA TECH UNIVERSITY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TEMPORARY BAT MONITORING EQUIPMENT AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE BARTON HILL MINE PROPERTY AT NO COST TO THE COUNTY UPON PROVIDING INSURANCE AND APPROVAL FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Brassard, seconded by Ms. Reusser and duly adopted.

MCNALLY: Questions, concerns?

TYLER: Why is this a county issue?

MCNALLY: County property, correct?

BRASSARD: County property.

MCNALLY: Any other questions? All in favor, opposed – carried. Anything else from the floor?

BRASSARD: A resolution of condolences to Joseph Rodriguez's family. Coonrod is what we called him he was a town councilman for twelve years in the Town of Moriah.

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that to the floor.

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #192 – OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Brassard, seconded unanimously and duly adopted.

STANLEY: Could I get a resolution of condolence to the family of Lee Torrance.

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that to the floor.

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #193 – OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF LEE TORRANCE.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Stanley, seconded unanimously and duly adopted.

WOOD: I just want to offer extremely heartfelt gratitude to Mike Mascarenas and Laura Carson for a matter of about two, three days of solving a three-month-old county issue with county tax collection issue. They took care of it and it was remarkable how communication can move things along. That's it.

MCNALLY: Thank you.

MASCARENAS: Thank you Meg.

MCNALLY: Anything else?

REUSSER: I would just like to announce that there's a gathering today at 1:00 at the Cobble Hill Golf Course in recognition of Hannah Neilly from Essex County Community Resources. She'll be leaving her job shortly and I know a lot of us have worked with her and have had amazing results from her so a gathering at 1:00 at Cobble Hill for those who would like to come and say goodbye to her.

MCNALLY: Thank you. Anybody else. If not, we are adjourned.

As there was no further discussion to come before this regular board meeting it was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors