REGULAR BOARD
Monday, October 5, 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, Timothy Follos, Kenneth Hughes, Mary Lamphear, Tracie McGill, Stephen McNally, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Cathleen Reusser, Matthew Stanley, Davina Thurston, Michael Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Meg Wood.

Department heads present: Laura Carson, Michael Diskin, Judith Garrison, Krissy Leerkes, Mary McGowan, Jim Dougan, Mike Mascarenas, Josh Favro, Dan Manning, Heather Sheehan and David Reynolds.

Also Present: Assemblyman Matt Simpson, Dan Kelleher and Mary Jane Lawrence.

MCNALLY: I will call the regular board meeting to order, please stand for the salute to the flag. Roll call please. Good morning. Today I would like to introduce our guest, Assemblyman Matt Simpson.

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: Good morning I didn't realize I was going to be on first but that's okay. It's a beautiful drive up here I will tell you it's the best time of the year to be in the Adirondacks. I have another meeting after this up in Lewis but I thought I would stop by and talk about a meeting that I attended a couple of weeks ago in Albany that was hosted by Protect the Adirondacks it was held at the Times Union and the discussion was around the 39-30 conservation legislation that was passed a couple years ago in session. If you're unfamiliar with that legislation it's a goal to conserve 30% of the state's land and water resources by year 2030, right now we are at about 23% of the way towards the goal of 30%.
It was interesting because the panel was moderated by Gwendolyn Craig from The Explorer and what concerned me was there weren't any local government representatives there so these discussions are happening are more kind of like an update to where we are, what we need to do, some of the challenges and what's important to know is that there will be an impact without local government voice in these discussions in terms of how that land moving forward or those resources are conserved whether local governments, county governments and school districts are kept whole. The Adirondacks while we conserve is certainly good to our economy and our region, our tourism and I don't think there's any local government, county government or school district withstand any more loss of revenue to provide the services that they need so, I sat in the audience and I really wished I had a seat at the table to talk about those because there is legislation that is being drafted, it's being amended, it's being proposed probably in this next session that will incentivize property owners I believe it's 50 acres or more to potentially make a decision to conserve their property and some of the legislation of wording that is tied to that would require essentially a wild wilderness classification forever for that property in other words, it's not like the 480a where it's a managed program with DEC and you can eventually work yourself out of that program should you not want to enroll in 480a so that's some of the concerns that I have that I don't want to see local governments, county governments or school districts be left out of that discussion because I think they need to – we have a real challenges every single year to maintain our budgets and provide the services that our residents expect and it's not getting any easier. I was a town supervisor. I felt those impacts and it's the balance between what we can

conserve, what we can hold aside and provide opportunity for affordable housing. I think this could potentially if not done correctly could compete with affordable housing and property values so it's not bad news it's just a kind of an update that – this happened a couple weeks ago and I just the thing that stuck out to me was there wasn't local government there representation and I spoke to the organizer, I spoke to the executive director and I said, we need to have discussions in communities, we need to educate people what is happening because it's a state effort and we know how sometimes that works. I was just talking to Jim O'Bryan about the energy programming, renewable energy and how communities are disadvantaged because they weren't prepared for the state push towards renewable energy and it's creating a lot of issues within small communities. I'm ready for session it's going to start somewhere around the first week in January and I'm sure It's going to be another intense session. I don't think our issues have gotten any better at the state level as far as the budget we were almost two months late last year. I'm going to go on the record and say that I think it will be another late budget, could be even later from some of the preliminary information that I'm seeing and some of the issues that are still unresolved so, with that I just also wanted to make myself available if there's any questions or concerns that you have. I've enjoyed in the off session visiting with all of you and hearing about the projects and things that are happening in your communities there are a lot of good things happening so kudos to all of you for the work that you do. With that, is there any questions?

HUGHES: Good morning Mr. Simpson, thank you for being here. Quick question, you had mentioned you spoke to the leadership of Protect the Adirondacks did they indicate that they had invited local government officials and officials declined to attend because Protect the Adirondacks has often been a controversial organization with some of the decisions and ideologies that they have that become somewhat controversial I didn't know if invitations had gone out and were declined or if invitations just didn't exist at all?

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: I don't believe there was invitations. I happened to see it in the press that this was happening maybe on the Adirondack Explorer website or social media.

MCNALLY: AATV did not.

HUGHES: Did not receive an invitation?

MCNALLY: No, we did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: And that is really the crux of the issue. We have advocacy groups like Protect or any other advocacy group I'm not just singling out them but they have a mission, they a sole mission and you know, local government is impacted by every single advocacy group that I meet with, everyone that you meet with and it's your jobs and my job to balance that with the best interest of communities and the people we represent and I did mention and make that clear that I think there needs to be follow up. I was very how do you say, very forward about putting out the fact that there was no, not even in the audience they were advocates and people that had a vested interest in seeing more property in New York State and it's not just effecting the Adirondacks it's the entire whole of New York State so don't feel like the focus is all on you but Essex County has such a large percentage of state land that you all need to be aware that this is out there and when it includes private property owners and decisions that they make and I believe they have all the rights in the world individual rights to do what they want with their property there could be impacts from the way legislation is crafted to allow them to do that.

O'BRYAN: Mr. Simpson you talked about incentives and drafting of bills moving forward, I would just say if somebody that is in that 480a exemption, my family is if they could make it somewhat simpler I mean it gets to be very difficult when you're looking at the requirements and then if you opt to get out of it early, penalties are so steep so people look at why would I put this away as green space and that's why we did it was to allow acreage to be put back into green space because of forest and things of that nature but I just if they can figure out how to simplify you know, looking at 480a's and learning what has been the problems with landowners I think you would get more landowners in this process.

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: Yeah several years ago I believe the Chairman was involved in it, we worked with environmental groups, local government and to try to come up with a 480b you know some changes that would –

MCNALLY: Twenty-five acres.

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: Would have benefitted the program, a little different requirements and unfortunately it kind of blew up because you know, when the state is deciding the value of the land and the assessment of the land it becomes difficult to protect school districts and local governments taxing entities that really rely on fair taxation. You know when somebody else receives a benefit somebody else has to pick up the difference there's a lot of that.

MENSER: Good morning Mr. Simpson, in my mind if they are going to a community and telling a property owner that you can take advantage of this system and your property becomes tax exempt or a much lower rate than that community needs to be made whole by the state in place of that.

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: That is exactly the point I am making is any legislation going forward to support this program and the legislation that I've seen tends to do that but I don't know if it has enough language in there to protect for increasing values that I've seen where state owned properties are not kept up with the same value increase as other properties within those communities and your assessors could probably show you incidents in that.

MCNALLY: This is not exactly accurate but right now currently the state owns 42% of the Adirondack Park with another one or two percent easement and as far as state ownership it would be better than these 480 exemptions these 480 exemptions that we, the people get the 80% tax breaks where do you think that money comes to make up the difference? It comes from local government but the state were at least all of it we get taxes on it, it may not be what we desire for taxes so you know my feeling on this is I'm not opposed to 30% of the state being protected but I think 42% of the Adirondacks is plenty enough go to Long Island, go to Buffalo start getting into their properties.

TYLER: Here I go again, when I first got into office eleven years ago it was $30 million dollars tax exempt property in Westport, $51 million this year. Where's it going to end? It's never going to end.

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: One key statistic or a number is that to meet that 30% goal we are about 2.3 million acres short for the entire state.

TYLER: Give them Manhattan.

WILSON: I will follow what Steve is saying and ask for some guidance here. I think it's an allowable goal protecting open space and protecting our water sheds but I think that decisions that acquire land need to be tied to local government needs and an example in the Town of Keene we need floodplain protection, we do not need more recreation land we've got plenty of that but we really do need to protect floodplains so that our communities and our homes and our roads will survive these big storms we are getting. Do you have some specific guidance of where to start with that having to get involved with this?

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: Well I think definitely through the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages this should be a high priority because it's the end of 2026, we've got three years left to meet that goal you know I think there's going to be a lot of effort. This forum would not have happened if it weren't for the push for that but also myself and Senator Stec we will be on top of this, this is why I'm bringing it to you because I just do not want things to happen without your knowledge too many things are being communicated from Albany to local governments so they can prepare and the situation I mean when I look at these and meet with supervisors there's so many needs in your communities, infrastructure, wastewater all of these things that are primarily fundamental responsibilities and programs like this compete with keeping our communities safe, clean drinking water with opportunity to grow and expand and be a great place to live.

WILSON: Thanks for bringing this to us.

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: It's a high priority and you know when I talk about silos this is a great example of how something is happening in Albany part of state legislation is passed, it's moving forward, there's discussions happening with DEC, environmental groups, hopefully local government groups and you know we can have an impact on how this is accomplished so we all need to be engaged. I was trying to think of something I wanted to bring that was relevant and couldn't think of anything more relevant than this knowing Essex County.

MCNALLY: Well thank you Matt. In all fairness, all we ask is a seat at the table on some of these decisions that affect our local communities and that is not what happens with the environmental lobby. You cannot go to Albany and go to the capital without running into the lobbyist from Protect, the Council, we don't have that ability to go to down there and catch every Assemblyman and Senator on their way through the corridor every day but I believe we deserve a seat at the table I've sent out a couple emails, I have not heard a word about why we weren't invited to this but I will and I believe I'll talk to JoePete and Matt and Chris they are on the AATV board, this is something that we surely need to address at our AATV meeting in Lake George. Anything else Matthew?

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: No, that's it and I'm looking at it as an opportunity if we can get this right we all benefit from conserving, we all want the recreation and the open spaces that we have we just want to have the correct balance it can't be lobsided and negatively impacting our communities putting communities at a further disadvantage from other areas.

MCNALLY: Alright well thank you very much. Anything else for Matt? We appreciate you coming up today Matt.

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: Thanks. You guys have a great week.

MCNALLY: Next time bring some good news.

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: Well, I try it's a tough place the State of New York.

MCNALLY: Thank you. On to resolutions please.

RESOLUTION #194 – AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AWARD BIDS, ISSUE CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS OR PURCHASE ORDERS.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Hughes, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2853 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

RESOLUTION #195 – OF APPRECIATION TO HANNAH NEILLY FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE FOR ESSEX COUNTY IN THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES DEPARTMENT.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Stanley, seconded unanimously and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #196 – DESIGNATING THE REGIONAL OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM (ROOST) AS THE TOURISM PROMOTION AGENCY FOR THE 2027 I LOVE NEW YORK MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Brassard, seconded by Mr. Stanley and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #197 – AUTHORIZING THE APPPOINTMENT OF JESSICA PERKINS TO THE ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD ALCOHOL SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR A TERM EFFECTIVE JULY 8, 2026 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. O'Bryan and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #198 – AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Barber, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2853 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

RESOLUTION #199 – AUTHORIZING THE ESSEX COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT FOR BID/RFP FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.
This resolution was moved by Ms. McGill, seconded by Ms. Reusser and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #200 – AUTHORIZING CONTRACT AMENDMENTS/CHANGE ORDERS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Barber, seconded by Mr. Tyler, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2853 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

RESOLUTION #201 – AUTHORIZING COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A STIPULATION WITH LAKE PLACID CLUB LODGES OWNERS' ASSOCATION, INC. VOIDING AND RENDERING OF 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.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Preston, seconded by Mr. Brassard, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2853 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

RESOLUTION #202 – GRANTING JOSEPH PATRICK MCCORMACK AND ELIZABETH ANN MCCORMACK A PERMANENT 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.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Reusser, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2853 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

RESOLUTION #203 – 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.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Stanley, seconded by Ms. McGill, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2853 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

RESOLUTION #204 – RECOGNIZING LONG-TERM EMPLOYEES OF ESSEX COUNTY.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded unanimously and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #205 – OF APPRECIATION TO DOUGLAS C. MEYER, DIRECTOR OF CRISIS SERVICES OF MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN ESSEX COUTNY FOR 19 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF ESSEX COUNTY.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded unanimously and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #206 – OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF MARY F. SPRAGUE.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Brassard, seconded unanimously and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #207 – OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF GEORGE ONNI.
This resolution was moved by Ms. Reusser, seconded unanimously and duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #208 – 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.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. O'Bryan, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2853 votes
NOES: 0 votes

ABSENT: 0 votes

GARRISON: Resolutions from the floor –

MANNING: You have in your packet I believe a resolution of the County of Essex to make SEQRA determination relative to decommission and transfer of the Fish Hatchery site. On your desks I gave you all a packet you should see a rather thick packet which has the first resolution we want to pass in its place that resolution states, resolution of the County of Essex to declare lead agency status pursuant to the state environmental quality review act (SEQRA) relative to the decommission and transfer of the fish hatchery site. This is basically a second resolution in the SEQRA process, the first one we passed in August on August 3 indicated our intent to be leading agency after that what happens is we send out notices to involved agencies that might have jurisdiction and we have thirty days, they respond or don't respond that's been done. We did get responses from the Adirondack Park, the DEC and Department of Health so that's been done so this resolution basically states that we are assuming the role of lead agency so again, the County of Essex to declare lead agency status pursuant to the state environmental quality review act (SEQRA) relative to the decommission and transfer of the fish hatchery site if I can have a motion, a second –

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

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #209 – OF THE COUNTY OF ESSEX TO DECLARE LEAD AGENCY STATUS PURSUANT TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA) RELATIVE TO THE DECOMMISSION AND TRANSFER OF THE FISH HATCHERY SITE.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. O'Bryan, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2853 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

MANNING: Okay in that packet also you'll see that I have given to you the state environmental quality assessment form parts two and three. This is the process whereby this board takes a hard look at the project and makes a determination as to whether there is any environmental adverse environmental impacts. The form consists of approximately twenty sub categories, we've reviewed all twenty the impact of the land, the impacts of surface water, impact on geological features, impact on flooding, impact on ground water, impact on air and climate all twenty of these and Community Resources have taken a look at this and it has been determined their opinion is that there is no impact to the environment so, we are going to authorize by resolution the execution of this. The proposed project just for your edification the decommissioning of the fish hatchery itself, the restoring of the natural features of the fish hatchery, then the State of New York is allowing us to transfer this property under the current letters patent to the Town of Crown Point and as my understanding will be used for parkland. So, Essex County as lead agency has determined by these forms that there's little or no negative impact on the environment which leads to the next resolution in the packet, which is a resolution of the County of Essex to make SEQRA determination relative to the decommission and transfer of the fish hatchery site basically this resolution comports with what I just told you and you are issuing a negative declaration that there is no adverse or environmental impacts to the decommissioning of the system and then just formal transfer of the property, the 41 acres.

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

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #210 – OF THE COUNTY OF ESSEX TO MAKE SEQRA DETERMINATION RELATIVE TO THE DECOMMISSION AND TRANSFER OF THE FISH HATCHERY SITE.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Barber, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2853 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

MCNALLY: Congratulations on your new baby Mr. Menser.

MENSER: Not yet.

MANNING: They have to accept it first but we're getting there. There's another resolution placed on your desks, it's a resolution urging the New York State Attorney General to ensure the newly enacted laws relative to short term rental units are enforced in accordance with statutory requirements. As you know last year the State of New York enacted short term rental unit local laws basically passing down to the counties and in some cases the towns the ability to set their own laws regarding short term rentals and in that legislation there was mandates by the state which we have incorporated into our local occupancy tax relative to short term rentals and the Airbnb's of the world, VRBO's and other platforms that represent individual landowners in the short term rental properties, back when this all started I think it was in 2016, we entered into an agreement only with Airbnb to report the income to us since then everybody has reported and Mike can kind of bolster what I say but what we're getting from most of these professional platforms is just a lump sum amount of money, back when we entered into the agreement with them I think in 2016, the I wanted to kind of go after them but all the other counties and the board at the time decided look, you know don't look a gift horse in the mouth we're getting money that we never got before so we're not going to ask them to itemize it. Now, it's a completely different animal as you know short term rentals has ballooned. The law, the state law mandates that everybody when they report that they report the name of the owner, the address of the owner, the weeks or days of stay, the amount of money and in some cases if there's many units the units so what's happening still with some of these platforms is they are just giving us a lump sum so that's in violation of the state law. I took that language and put it into our occupancy tax, it's in violation of occupancy tax and I also put in our occupancy tax I think it's in the state law, that if they don't comply then we are yanking their registration and they can't rent anymore and then after that there are monetary penalties and it can also be a misdemeanor so this needs to be pressed upon the Airbnb's of the world so we're asking the State Attorney General to look into this and to put some pressure on these platforms. And you may be asking why is it taking so long for me to kind of give you this news, it's my understanding that none of the counties are having any luck and Mike can elaborate on this or having any luck in getting some of these platforms to give anything but the amount of money. Mike and I and Laura Carson had a phone conference with Deckard and they sort of reinforced all of that. So this resolution was brought to me by Mike. It's my understanding that most of the counties in the State are doing this. I do know Jefferson, Suffolk and Oswego maybe Mike one of those have already sent this type of resolution we just kind of tinkered with it a little bit so this came from Mike and I think the conversation with Deckard they were going to do I can't remember what they called it, some sort of a custom report for us we were going to I think rejigger our application form, a place on the form for the property owner not

the application form but the remittance form for the property owner to place on it or even on both, what platforms they are using and how much money they get in total from platforms although this is kind of an armful then Deckard will have this custom report where they can confirm what the platforms are telling Deckard verses what the property owners are telling Deckard and that will sort of be a finger in the dyke right now but what we really need is those platforms to comply with the law. I know that's a lot. All this resolution says, is hey, Attorney General please look into this. The state law says we may petition the Attorney General if there is no response.
MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #211 – URGING THE NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ENSURE THE NEWLY ENACTED LAWS RELATIVE TO SHORT TERM RENATL UNITS ARE ENFORCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.
This resolution was moved by Mr. Stanley, seconded by Mr. Wilson and duly adopted.

MCNALLY: Questions?

STANLEY: I'm glad Mike, I'm glad you guys brought this to this board because this is an ongoing issue that it's not only from the county understanding and knowing how much money they should have from occupancy tax and sales tax but it's also trying to have our property owners reconcile their own rentals and making sure that they are being paid not to say that anybody is stealing from anybody but if a short term rental booking agency is giving us a lump sum but they are not giving us who or what properties they are coming from how do we know, how do they even know that they are paying the right amount? So, I think it's something that definitely needs to happen. Attorney General definitely needs to follow up on this because there's no point enacting legislation in the state, county or town if we don't follow through and make sure those things in that law are actually enacted its' pointless.

HUGHES: Is NYSAC or the County's Treasurers Association involved in knowing about this?

MANNING: Yes. NYSAC actually sent out in September a proposed resolution and everybody has kind of stolen from it and used it so some of the verbiage from here comes from the NYSAC resolution.

HUGHES: I think this is really great because a lot of times the private industry moves ahead and the county and local governments realize what's working and what's not working and then we get involved sometimes after the fact and we play catchup so I agree with Mr. Stanley I agree with this resolution it's important to know where the money is and get those details that are so important to the local individual but also the counties and the towns so that we can move forward appropriately and make sure that there is a full reconciliation and there's parity.

MCNALLY: As the short-term rentals continue you're going to see more players on the field besides the VRBO's, the Airbnb's

HUGHES: There's 90 or 100, there's a ton. More than you think.

MCNALLY: So we need to move this.

HUGHES: Agreed.

MANNING: Mike, do you want to say anything that I left out?

MCNALLY: Mr. Diskin.

DISKIN: Dan is right, this resolution was passed at the NYSAC conference a couple weeks ago and that's where I picked it up from. We also found out from Deckard that Oswego County and Jefferson County also passed this same resolution, several other counties are looking at it. My intention next week we have an Association of County Treasurer's meeting next Friday the 16th my intention is to bring that up as a resolution and ask the Association to pass the same resolution and I will bring a copy of that resolution to everybody that's there that they can take back to their home counties and hopefully piggyback on this. Who knows if we get enough pressure from the counties and the county legislative boards maybe the Attorney General will act on it and maybe she won't. We don't know. She's been very vocal to stay out of it, she doesn't want to get involved with this that's part of the reason why they pushed it down to the counties when they talk about registrations prior to this originally legislation said the state was going to get involved with it and they didn't want anything to do with it so they passed it down to counties but hopefully we will snowball this if we can.

HUGHES: I suspect the pressure on the other side is fairly considerable so it's important there's a unified front conversation on our side and come to an agreement in the middle.

DISKIN: The other thing on the registrations to align in what Dan is telling us Suffolk County and there's one other county I forgot which one it was developed – Erie County have or already in the process of developing a new form of remittance and on that remittance form is going to be lines that the owner has to say how much they paid from VRBO, how much went to Airbnb, how much went to the third one which is Other platforms because those are the two big ones the other ones they've lumped together, how much you took in directly by person and then that's going to be totaled and summed up even though they did not pay them they are going to have to report how much they took and done for work to Airbnb we can take that then and summarize all the reports we get that month and add together and see if Airbnb and see if it adds up and that's part of the reason we are changing the form.

MCNALLY: Anybody else? Thank you Michael. It's like any law enforcement is going to be the big issue and I don't believe the state is going to enforce this I think it's going to come down to the counties to enforce this and at what cost is that going to be at the counties and who is going to do it? Alright, all in favor, opposed – carried.

GARRISON: One more from the floor, everyone has a copy on their desks of the resolution. We need to amend resolution #181 of 2026 dated September 8, 2026, it's authorizing a one-time surplus sales tax distribution to the eighteen towns we failed to include on the original resolution the account the numbers for the Building Capital reserve for the radio and public safety building projects so it is listed in there now and that is the amendment for that.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, it was a clerical error.

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

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #212 – AMENDING RESOLUTION 181 OF 2026 DATED SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 AUTHORIZING A ONE-TIME SURPLUS SALES TAX DISTRIBUTION TO THE EIGHTEEN TOWNS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF $2,755,025.00, PER THE ATTACHED CHART, TO BE BASED SOLELY ON EQUALIZED ASSESSED VALUE, 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. Brassard, seconded by Mr. Hughes, and adopted *as amended*, upon a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2853 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

MCNALLY: Questions?

FOLLOS: We will get some guidance I've been asked by town board, will we get some written guidance about how we should report and how we spend it?

MASCARENAS: Yeah I will get you something out by the end of the week. It's going to be very similar to what you do with occupancy is what I anticipate in terms of the capital expenditures those one-time things. It's not going to be all inclusive it never is because things pop up that are hey, does this qualify, hey, does this qualify but the process for determining eligibility and qualification will be the same as that so I'm not going to put a monkey wrench into any of your current processes so yeah, I can get you something out pretty quickly based upon what we already use for occupancy.

FOLLOS: Thank you.

HUGHES: It might be easier to say what we can absolutely not use it for.

MCNALLY: Mr. Brassard is going to give us a list.

BRASSARD: Just don't use it to buy down your levy.

MCNALLY: Just quickly, thirteen years on the board this is something that is unpreceded to get the opportunity for the county to give back to the towns for projects that actually make a difference in our town and you know, is there a possibility that we will see this check again next year or the year's to come? You know what will make that more probable is that if people spend the money the way it is supposed to be spent so that falls right on us and our town boards to do what's right with this. This is a basically a gift to our taxpayers and it's our responsibility to do what's right with that money.

MASCARENAS: Ms. Carson I get an awful lot of questions I know we had to clean this up based on you trying to get it paid out last week, this Thursday, the following Thursday? What's it look like?

CARSON: The checks are literally in their mailboxes, today out here.

MASCARENAS: Okay I had somebody ask me the question this morning.

MCNALLY: I only got one do I get more than one check?

CARSON: Starting on Thursday with all the complaints by the postal service and the delays and some of them are taking three weeks if not longer to reach people we made the executive decision that all the checks for the towns will now be put in the town's mailboxes out here and just bypass the post office.

MCNALLY: Any other questions, concerns on this? If not, roll call please.

GARRISON: Resolution carries as amended. Thank you.

MCNALLY: Any other resolutions from the floor?

MASCARENAS: Yes during Buildings and Facilities committee we don't have it written up so the board members would like me to ask Mr. Manning to get an appraisal done on the Jehovah Witness Building up in Lewis, former Cornell Cooperative Extension. It doesn't mean the board is making the decision to sell it simply means we are determining the value and make that determination on whether or not we are going to sell that building at another time.

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

GARRISON: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #213 – AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO OBTAIN A REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL OF THE JEHOVAH WITNESS BUILDING LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF LEWIS. This resolution was moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Reusser and duly adopted.

MCNALLY: Questions, concerns?

HUGHES: We RFP for an appraiser?

MANNING: Yes.

MASCARENAS: Yes, Mr. Manning handles that, he's got a handful he works with.

HUGHES: Okay.

MCNALLY: All in favor, opposed – carried. Anything else to come before the board?

MENSER: Not a resolution but it is something we need to take into consideration right now everybody pays highway tax when they buy gasoline, electric vehicles do not buy gasoline and they don't pay the highway tax for that the state is well overdue in trying to make a change to that.

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON: So there was as part of the push EV's requirement for New York State to do a study on the impacts to basically the CHIPS program and all the programs that are effected by highway tax and funded by fuel tax so we don't have a report yet. I will carry that message to Albany though.

MENSER: Appreciate it.

MCNALLY: Anything else? Reminder, 12:00 there's the CAT's presentation and luncheon at the Twin Valleys.

MASCARENAS: Yes, another reminder those of you that want to stick around ROOST is here they are going to do their budget presentation. We are going to congregate up in the DSS room where we spent last week so if you want hear what ROOST has got to say about the 2027 budget please join us following this meeting immediately which is why they so kindly got here quickly within five minutes.

MCNALLY: We are adjourned.

As there was no further discussion to come before this regular board meeting it was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors