

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**March 25, 2025**  
**Board of Supervisors – County of Hamilton**  
**Lake Pleasant, New York**

Mrs. Laura A. Abrams, Clerk  
Board of Supervisors of Hamilton County  
Lake Pleasant, New York 12108

Dear Clerk:

WHEREAS, the undersigned, we the majority of the members of the Board of Supervisors of Hamilton County, do hereby request you to call a Special Session pursuant to Section 152 of the County Law, to be held at the Chambers of the Board, in the Town of Lake Pleasant, in said County on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. for the purpose of awarding the Big Brook Bridge Project and for any other business that may come before said Board.

Arietta _____	Chris D. Rhodes
Benson _____	ABSENT
Phillip C. Snyder	
Hope _____	Steven M. Tomlinson
Indian Lake _____	Brian E. Wells
Inlet _____	ABSENT
John Frey	
Lake Pleasant _____	ABSENT
Betsy A. Bain	
Long Lake _____	Clay J. Arsenault
Morehouse _____	Anthony Fernandez
Wells _____	Beth Hunt

Also present: Lisa Johnson-Deputy Public Works Superintendent

Public Comment: No one present

Reports of Standing/Special Committees:

Mr. Rhodes: Stated that they are still working on the NIPAs (Notice of Incomplete Permit Application) for Hope and Piseco. He had heard from Alison Webbinaro, Governor's Representative for North Country Region. She had reached out to the APA and met with Barbara Rice, APA Executive Director and Keith McKeever, APA Director of Information. She followed through with research on Hamilton County's issues with emergency communications towers. She figured out that the APA is trying to build a defense case with all NIPAs to avoid litigation from environmental groups, which we all knew. He stated maybe there should be some protection or exemption when it comes to emergency communications to protect from that litigation hold up. He met with Sheriff Abrams to discuss shelters for the tower sites and going out to bid for those. He got an update on the grants. They are being managed, closed and used accordingly. C&S, contracted engineers, are still working on the bid package for the towers. They need soil borings

for each site which is contingent on the weather. When they get them, they will be able to finalize the bid package.

Mr. Wells: Stated they need to take communication towers out of the cell tower policy that they use, he had spoken with Ms. Rice about it. They should be separate. If they ever wanted to put cell receivers on an emergency tower there would probably be push back, but still, they need to speed up the process. Mr. Rhodes stated that with the towers, say for Arietta, Verizon is committed to getting on there but it's empty space. The tower must be that certain height to get their separation between transmit and receive and they are just going on empty space. They are not creating the tower for a cell, and it can be argued. Attorney Jacqueline Murray, contracted APA lawyer, had an actual case study that cellular phones are emergency communication. He stated that Mr. Wells was right and that was one of the things that Mr. Delaney said, they shouldn't have applied for both together, but the County was trying to be forthright and open. It is in the vacant area of the towers. There has got to be some kind of protection to get these up. They further discussed an article regarding Protect the Adirondacks and stated that was what the APA was up against.

Mr. Fernandez: Stated that he attended a PAC meeting and Dr. Rider did a nice job running the meeting. Everything seemed fine. Everybody was happy with the way things were operating. He thinks that the Deputy Director started yesterday. He also stated that they used another cabin on a temporary basis. Mr. Rhodes asked if the Public Health Director had moved out of his cabin yet. Mr. Fernandez didn't think so. Ms. Hunt confirmed that they only have 6 months. Mr. Fernandez stated that he thought if they had to, they could probably extend it. Mr. Rhodes stated that there was something in there for that. Mr. Fernandez stated that he was going to bring the Public Health Director to the next committee meeting and possibly the Deputy as well.

Mr. Tomlinson: Stated that there are a few resolutions on the agenda today and asked if there were any questions about what they went over during the Committee meeting. He will be attending the Intercounty meeting on Thursday. He met with Tracy Eldridge, Highway Superintendent, in Indian Lake and toured the facilities along with the Highway Garage. They looked at projects that Mr. Eldridge wanted to take on; the storage building for Public Health and Public Works, the renovations at the Highway Garage along with some alterations in the other buildings. He thought it was a great tour.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 133-25**

#### **AWARD OF BID FOR BIG BROOK BRIDGE PROJECT**

**DATED: MARCH 25, 2025**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, Hamilton County DPW solicited bids for the replacement of the Big Brook Bridge located on County Route 4, (Big Brook Road) in the Town of Indian Lake, and

WHEREAS, four (4) bids were received as follows –

1. Birdsall Excavation & Construction, LLC. -	\$1,547,783.50
2. Luck Brothers -	\$1,630,710.00
3. BP Excavation -	\$1,658,882.88
4. Ing. Civil Inc. -	\$2,134,400.00

and

WHEREAS, Greenman –Pedersen, Inc. consulting firm for Hamilton County has reviewed the said bids recommends that the award be made to Birdsall Excavation & Construction, LLC., of Clarksville, NY, and

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent has sent the approval recommendation to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for their approval, be it

RESOLVED, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors hereby award the bid for the Big Brook Bridge Project to Birdsall Excavation & Construction, LLC., 15 Tower Lane, Clarksville, NY 12041 in the amount of \$1,547,783.50 contingent on NYSDOT approval, be it further

RESOLVED, when Hamilton County receives approval from NYSDOT the Board of Supervisors hereby authorize the Chairman of the Board to enter into an agreement with Birdsall Excavating & Construction, LLC., for the said bridge project with the approval of the County Attorney, and the County Treasurer, Highway Superintendent and Clerk of the Board be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Rhodes and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, TOMLINSON, WELLS, ARSENAULT, FERNANDEZ, AND HUNT

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER, FREY, AND BAIN

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 134-25**

#### **AUTHORIZING PURCHASE FOR 2025 SHERIFF VEHICLE**

**DATED: MARCH 25, 2025**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office is in need of a new pickup for 2025, and

WHEREAS, 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 3500's are available to purchase under NYS Contract, and

WHEREAS, the Fleet Coordinator has received a written quote from Mangino Chevrolet for a 2025 Chevrolet 3500 Crew Cab with a service body for a delivered price of \$74,503.00, and

WHEREAS, the Fleet Coordinator recommends the purchase of the said pickup for use by the Sheriff's Office, be it

RESOLVED, that the Fleet Coordinator is hereby authorized to order one (1) 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 pickup for the Sheriff's Office as mentioned herein for a total of \$74,503.00 delivered from Mangino Chevrolet of Amsterdam, NY under NYS Contract PC68994, FAN#856351, BID 587150, be it further

RESOLVED, that \$74,503.00 be transferred from the Unappropriated General Fund Balance in accordance with Section 366 Subdivision 1 of the County Law to Account No. A3110.0202 Automobile to cover the cost of the vehicle and the County Treasurer be so authorized and the Sheriff, Fleet Coordinator and the Clerk of the Board be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Rhodes and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, TOMLINSON, WELLS, ARSENAULT, FERNANDEZ, AND HUNT

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER, FREY, AND BAIN

**RESOLUTION NO. 135-25**

**AUTHORIZING COUNTY FLEET COORDINATOR TO PURCHASE AUTOMOBILE  
FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT 2025**

**DATED: MARCH 25, 2025**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, the Community Services Department is in need of replacing a 12-passenger van and the County Fleet Coordinator does recommend the replacement of said vehicle, and

WHEREAS, because of the issues with having drivers available for this style van the Fleet Coordinator recommends the purchase of a Chevrolet Tahoe because of its 8 passenger seating capabilities, and

WHEREAS, Chevrolet Tahoe's are available from Mangino Chevrolet under NYS Contract pricing, and

WHEREAS, the Fleet Coordinator recommends the purchase of one (1) new Chevrolet Tahoe for use in 2025 as follows per NYS Contract PC68994, NYS Bid Assist FAN #856351, Bid 587150 Vehicles:

(1) 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe - \$63,995.00

be it

RESOLVED, that \$63,995.00 be transferred from Federal Salary Sharing currently in the unappropriated general fund in accordance with Section 366 Subdivision 1 of the County Law to Community Services Account No. A4310.0201 Automobile, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Fleet Coordinator is hereby authorized to order one (1) 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe for Community Service mentioned herein for a total of \$63,995.00 delivered from Mangino Chevrolet of Amsterdam, NY and the Fleet Coordinator, County Treasurer and Community Service Director be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Hunt and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, TOMLINSON, WELLS, ARSENAULT, FERNANDEZ, AND HUNT

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER, FREY, AND BAIN

After the following resolution was placed on the floor, Mr. Tomlinson stated that they had a great Zoom meeting with CPL. The Chairman stated that the President/CEO was knowledgeable, friendly and easy to talk to. Mr. Rhodes asked when they were going to start the process. Lisa Johnson, Deputy PW Superintendent, stated it would be ASAP. Mr. Rhodes asked if they had a timeline. Mr. Tomlinson stated that they are ready to go. He and Ms. Johnson further discussed the process.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 136-25**

#### **AUTHORIZATION FOR CONSULTING FIRM FOR COURTHOUSE FIRST FLOOR RENOVATIONS - BUILDINGS**

**DATED: MARCH 25, 2025**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, the DPW Superintendent has met with the Public Works Committee to discuss hiring a consulting firm to facilitate the renovations for the first floor of the courthouse including Treasurers Office, Board of Supervisors Board Room and the hallway between these two spaces, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent received two (2) proposals from consulting firms for services for the first floor courthouse renovations as follows –

- CPL, 30 Century Hill Drive, Suite 104, Latham, NY 12110 – Fee \$62,000.00
- LaBella Assoc., 4 British American Blvd., Latham, NY 12110 – Fee \$83,400.00

and

WHEREAS, the consultant firm will develop architectural design, bid specifications, pre-construction meeting and other related engineering items for the said renovations per the proposal received, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent recommends moving forward with hiring CPL of Latham for this renovation project, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Superintendent to hire CPL and for the Chairman of the Board to enter into an agreement with CPL per proposal received with the County Attorney's approval and this will be a charge to the 5-Year Project Plan, Account No. A1620.0414 and the County Treasurer, DPW Superintendent and Clerk of the Board be so advised.

Seconded by Ms. Hunt and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, TOMLINSON, WELLS, ARSENAULT, FERNANDEZ, AND HUNT

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER, FREY, AND BAIN

**RESOLUTION NO. 137-25**

**AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR SHERIFF VEHICLE 2024 CHEVROLET TAHOE TO  
GM FINANCIAL**

**DATED: MARCH 25, 2025**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 82-25 authorized the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe SSV for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$52,500.00 delivered from Whitmoyer Buick-Chevrolet, 1001 E. Main St., Mount Joy, PA 17552 under NYS Contract PC69180, and

WHEREAS, said vehicle has been delivered, and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County has been advised by GM Financial that payment for said vehicle is to be made to GM Financial not Whitmoyer Buick-Chevrolet, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay GM Financial, Attn: Howie Ravitz, 220 E. Las Colinas Blvd. Suite 500, Irving, TX 75039 in the amount of \$52,500.00 from Account No. A3110.0202 Automobile for Whitmoyer Buick-Chevrolet Invoice FTRR210024 and the County Treasurer, Sheriff, Fleet Coordinator and the Clerk of the Board be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Fernandez and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, TOMLINSON, WELLS, ARSENAULT, FERNANDEZ, AND HUNT

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER, FREY, AND BAIN

**RESOLUTION NO. 138-25**

**REQUEST TO EXTEND THE ONE PERCENT (1%) INCREASE IN COUNTY SALES TAX**

**DATED: MARCH 25, 2025**

**BY MR. RHODES:**

WHEREAS, the County of Hamilton continues to face increased costs due to unfunded mandates, and

WHEREAS, the County of Hamilton is also facing an increase in costs to retain and recruit qualified employees, and

WHEREAS, the County Highway infrastructure is not adequately funded through CHIPs, and

WHEREAS, all of these factors make the County's financial situation unsustainable without the increase to the County Sales Tax, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors hereby requests Senator Mark Walczyk and Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Hamilton County's elected representatives in the New York State Legislature, to cause to be introduced in the Senate and in the Assembly, a bill to allow Hamilton County to extend, by Local Law or Resolution, the additional one percent (1%) sales tax, which is not subject to preemption, for the longest period of time allowable by amendments to the New York State Tax Law Section 1210, and any other sections of law which are necessary to fulfill this purpose, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors requests that Senator Mark Walczyk and Assemblyman Robert Smullen make every reasonable effort to secure prompt passage of said legislation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Senator Mark Walczyk and Assemblyman Robert Smullen.

Seconded by Ms. Hunt and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, TOMLINSON, WELLS, ARSENAULT, FERNANDEZ, AND HUNT

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER, FREY, AND BAIN

**RESOLUTION NO. 139-25**

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF NYS LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING COUNTY  
RECORDING TAX PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 11 OF THE TAX LAW**

**DATED: MARCH 25, 2025**

**BY MS. HUNT:**

WHEREAS, the County of Hamilton continues to face increased costs due to unfunded mandates, and

WHEREAS, the County of Hamilton is also facing an increase in costs to retain and recruit qualified employees, and

WHEREAS, Section 253 (j) of the Tax Law authorizes an additional county recording tax of Twenty-five (\$.25) Cents per One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars of principal debt secured by a mortgage on real property within the County, which mortgage tax is distributed in conformance with the statutory authority contained in Section 261 of the Tax Law, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to request the New York State Legislature to adopt Home Rule legislation so as to authorize Hamilton County to enact a local law imposing the extension of the aforesaid additional tax authorized in Section 253 (j) of the Tax Law, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors hereby requests the New York State Legislature adopt Home Rule legislation so as to authorize Hamilton County to enact a local law extending the aforesaid additional tax, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to Senator Mark Walczyk and Assemblyman Robert Smullen.

Seconded by Mr. Rhodes and adopted by the following vote:



AYES: RHODES, TOMLINSON, WELLS, ARSENAULT, FERNANDEZ, AND HUNT

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER, FREY, AND BAIN

Other Reports:

Mr. Wells: Stated that the Local Government Review Board is meeting tomorrow in Warrensburg. The discussion will be on cell towers and APA procedures.

The Chairman stated that he thought most of the Board had heard that John Hendrickson had designated the Town of Long Lake as the sole beneficiary of the net proceeds of the sale of Whitney Park. The estate is going to manage the marketing and the sale of the property. They found out about this gift on February 27<sup>th</sup>. It will likely be years before the town receives any money. In the meantime, he is working with the Town Board, financial advisors and bond counsel so they are prepared to accept this money in a responsible, efficient, intelligent and respectful manner.

The Chairman stated that Mr. Tomlinson had discussed them doing a tour of the Indian Lake County Buildings. They saw Lynette Greene, Community Services Director, and she told them she currently has 4 employees out of her 6 available positions. After Noni Irish, Community Services Clinical Supervisor leaves she will be down 3 employees. Mr. Eldridge explained where the renovations were going to take place. They then went to Probation and spoke with Amy Granger, Probation Director, and John Boya, Probation Officer. Things were going well in their department. They stopped to see Roberta Bly, DSS Commissioner, she was happy with how the carpet looked. He thanked Chris Gallagher, Indian Lake Buildings Custodian, for doing a great job. They walked around Public Health with Kristen King, Public Health Principal Account Clerk. They met with Courts and heard problems they are facing. There are no public restrooms in the entire Indian Lake complex, which is a problem. He stated that if there is someone there for court, they have to send them to the gas station. Mr. Tomlinson stated that in the municipal building, there aren't ADA compliant bathrooms. The Chairman stated that it's something they have to think about. Ms. Hunt stated that Public Health is blocked off, you must be let in.

The Chairman stated that he received a call from the Chief of Operations for Long Lake EMS. He mentioned a few concerns. The Chairman spoke with Sheriff Abrams to set up a meeting. Long Lake EMS, Fire, Sheriff's Office and himself met to discuss the issues. It was a good meeting. Everyone was happy with how it went and left it to leave communication open if they are having problems.

The Clerk of the Board stated that the new IT contract is official April 1<sup>st</sup> but Perry Lovell, C&L Enterprises, will be in this week. He is attending CAD meetings in Fulton County, and she has scheduled him to meet with the Indian Lake offices Thursday morning. He is starting in Public Health. They have a large project. She further stated that the advertisement goes through March 28<sup>th</sup> for the position and she's hoping they are interviewing the first or second week of April. The Board discussed possible office space for the IT Department.

Mr. Fernandez asked about grand jury, has anyone given any thought about what we are going to do with the grand jury location? The Clerk of the Board stated that the next Grand Jury is scheduled at the Lake Pleasant Firehall on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Fernandez asked if that was how they are going to handle it from now on. The Clerk of the Board stated that the DA was holding them in Indian Lake. Mr. Tomlinson stated that the Courts want to move to Lake Pleasant. The Chairman stated that it wasn't just Judge Coffinger, it is the entire office. Mr. Fernandez stated that they can't reach an agreement with the Judge to use the court room for Grand Jury. Mr. Tomlinson stated that the Judge would like to meet with Mr. Eldridge to discuss renovations. Mr. Fernandez stated that the County has a court room that is empty most of the time, if it is scheduling, then they should deal with that. The Chairman stated that they will hear more when Judge Coffinger comes to talk with the Board.

Mr. Rhodes asked who would do the interviews for IT. The Clerk of the Board stated that Mr. Lovell would be sitting in, the Chairman, Personnel Officer and herself. Mr. Fernandez asked if they had any applicants. The Clerk of the Board stated that they have 2 but only 1 meets the minimum qualifications.

Mr. Rhodes asked why the Board of Elections office is so large. The Clerk of the Board stated that they were originally going to store the machines in their office. Mr. Rhodes stated that they could get a couple more offices with the space there and they further discussed. They discussed putting another office where Planning and Tourism's storage room is with an entrance in the hallway. Mr. Tomlinson stated he was shocked by how much room there is upstairs in both offices. Mr. Wells stated that they had discussed moving Courts there but there was an issue with security.

As there was no further business, motion to adjourn by Mr. Fernandez, seconded by Mr. Tomlinson. Carried.