

Legislative Committee
September 3, 2025

Attendees

Committee: Allen Hinkley, Lisa Driscoll, Eric Wilson, Timothy Kelso, Art Merrill
Staff: Haley Gransbury, Maria Kelso, Judith Garrison, Joe Ermeti, Eric Northrup, Penny Bishop

Mr. Hinkley called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Upon a motion by Mrs. Driscoll, seconded by Mr. Kelso, the draft minutes of the August 6 committee meeting were unanimously approved.

County Clerk Haley Gransbury reported that her office has been approved for a Local Government Records Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant of \$74,874 to digitize mortgage books, and by the end of the year, they should be available online. The vendor will come to the County and physically take the books offsite to scan and digitize the books. She will apply for the second phase next year. Her office is currently working in house on digitizing deeds. They are also working on the naturalization documents. They have documents from the 1700s up to 1946. The vendor is counting the records and will give her a quote to have them done next year. In reply to Mr. Merrill, Mrs. Gransbury explained that the more recent records will be scanned first as abstractors and attorneys need to go back 40 years. They plan to start with 1998 and go backwards.

Mrs. Gransbury announced that the Margaretville DMV office won the NYS Donate Life Registry Enrollment competition. She explained that all DMV offices in New York State are encouraged to enroll people to be an organ donor. They handled a lot of enhanced drivers licenses and Real IDs but she didn't imagine they would do that much. Obviously, that's what got people to register as donors. April is the donor recognition month, and the State Donate Life Coordinator Jason Wright contacted her and let her know that the Margaretville DMV office won the New York State Donate Life Registry Enrollment competition. She said there will be a recognition ceremony in the Margaretville office in September, and an invitation would be extended to all the Supervisors.

The County Clerk said she is working on their budget and does not expect any large increases. She reported that she has hired two new DMV employees. Both will be trained at the Delhi DMV.

Board of Elections Commissioner Maria Kelso reported they have been working on their budget and stated that the Even Year bill will most probably go into effect in 2026. She questioned if the election expenses should be doubled for 2026 due to extra ballots needing to be printed. She indicated that a lot of expenses were offset in the past with grants. They will look into applying for another Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) grant, however, these grants are for specific criteria and none are applicable to their needs at this time. She cannot say they will have any new grants for next year. Ms. Kelso said there will be four propositions on the ballot this year. Ms. Garrison stated the State proposition for a constitutional change regarding the Olympic

Sports Complex in Lake Placid is posted on their website. The post includes the full version, an abstract, and the formal short version for the ballot. Ms. Kelso stated they have not received their personnel worksheet and she cannot complete the salary and fringe portion of their budget. Mr. Merrill confirmed the Personnel Office is still working on them. Ms. Garrison stated propositions had to be reported to them by August 3. On September 11, the state will certify the election ballots so they can send overseas ballots out on September 19. She said October 25 is Golden Day, the first day of early voting, the last day to register to vote in the election, and the last day to submit applications for absentee ballots.

Eric Northrup from the District Attorney's Office reported that there were 267 traffic diversion agreements which generated \$66,750 revenue for the month of August. The town with the largest portion was Hancock at \$16,500. He stated the total revenue this year is \$247,750. Mr. Northrup stated they are working on their budget. He announced a new part-time attorney, Rachael Collins, will start on Monday, September 8. Mrs. Gransbury stated Mrs. Collins would need to submit her Oath of Office to the County Clerk's Office for filing.

Public Defender Joe Ermeti reported that a potential new hire was not able to find adequate housing in Delaware County and declined to start. He would begin a new search to fill the position.

Clerk of the Board Penny Bishop presented a training authorization request for the new Assistant Clerk of the Board to attend a workshop session for notary public training. She stated that her budgets are complete to the best of her ability without having the Personnel worksheets. She said department budgets are due September 16 but many budgets are delayed due to not having Personnel worksheets. A budget review meeting was scheduled for September 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

Mrs. Driscoll made a motion to enter into executive session for negotiation of salaries and budgets. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, motion carried.

Committee reconvened in regular session.

Upon a motion, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.