



Tioga County Worksession Minutes

December 18, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Legislators Present:

Legislator Aronstam
Legislator Brown (arrived 10:02 a.m.)
Legislator Bunce
Legislator Ciotti
Legislator Flesher
Legislator Monell
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey
Legislator Standinger

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Roberts

Guests:

Matt Freeze, Reporter, Morning Times (departed 10:15 a.m.)
Jo Ellen Rose, District 2 Legislator (departed 10:15 a.m.)

Staff present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Tom Cline, Public Defender (departed 10:04 a.m.)
Jackson D. Bailey II, County Administrator (arrived 10:12 a.m.)
Linda Parke, Personnel Officer (departed 10:49 a.m.)
Camille Mattison-Corneby, Benefits Manager (departed 10:49 a.m.)

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Resolution Discussion: Chair Sauerbrey reported there are two (2) resolutions for today's Sixth Special Meeting for Legislature consideration.

- ***Create and Fill a Temporary Part-Time Assistant Public Defender*** – Public Defender Cline reported the Public Defender's Office is trying to find a solution for a personnel shortage. As of January 1, 2026, there will only be one full-time Assistant Public Defender and a handful of part-time Assistant Public Defenders trying to cover 13 village and town courts, as well as County court in addition to their other duties. Mr. Cline reported he has been in contact with State ILS repeatedly trying to receive approval to convert one full-time position into two part-time positions, but ILS explained that they do not favor part-

time positions because it is too hard for them to track. ILS prefers full-time positions. Mr. Cline reported they are taking the option of two part-time positions into consideration knowing that it is difficult to attract full-time attorneys.

Mr. Cline reported the resolution before you today is to provide a temporary solution to cover the necessary courts while State ILS has time to consider the option of part-time positions. Mr. Cline reported this resolution is just for the month of January 2026. Mr. Cline reported that if State ILS grants permission to split the full-time position into two part-time positions, he has at least one if not two attorneys interested in filling these positions.

Legislative Clerk Haskell reported this resolution is written that this temporary position will be abolished as of February 1, 2026.

- **Appoint County Legislator** – Legislator Monell reported the committee interviewed three candidates to fill the District 3 Legislative position that Legislator Roberts will be vacating as of January 1, 2026. After the interview process, one of the candidates decided to remove himself from further consideration. Legislator Monell reported the committee unanimously decided that the gentleman that they selected was the better candidate.

Chair Sauerbrey called the **Sixth Special Legislature Meeting of 2025** to order at 10:06 a.m. for Legislature consideration of the two resolutions presented.

Special Meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m. with regular Worksession immediately following.

2026 Organizational Meeting: Ms. Haskell reviewed the Organizational Meeting agenda and reminded the Legislators that the 2026 Organizational Meeting will be held on Friday, January 2, 2026 at 9:00 am in the Hubbard Auditorium. Ms. Haskell reported the Legislature photo will be postponed until a later meeting and Legislators will be notified in advance of the date.

Legislator Aronstam will lead us in the prayer, pledge, and voting process.

Ms. Haskell reported County Clerk Klett will be in attendance to swear in the newly elected and appointed officials including Legislators Aronstam, Brown, Cantella, Ciotoli, Monell, and Rose. Ms. Haskell reported she invited District Attorney Martin, County Treasurer Roberts, Coroner Lewis, and Coroner Olsen to attend and be sworn in. Additionally, the Legislature will be appointing the County Administrator, County Attorney, Clerk of the Legislature, and Public Defender for a three-year term. The annual standard resolutions will be presented for adoption.

NYSAC 2026 Legislative Conference: Ms. Haskell reported conference registration is now open for March 16-18, 2026 NYSAC Conference in Albany, NY. Ms. Haskell reported NYSAC anticipates the hotel will sell out, therefore, encouraged anyone interested in attending to let her know so reservations can be made.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli, the December 4, 2025 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items: Currently, there are none.

Other: None

Executive Session: Legislators Aronstam, Brown, Bunce, Ciotoli, Flesher, Monell, Sauerbrey, and Standinger were in attendance along with Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Administrator Bailey, County Attorney DeWind, Personnel Officer Parke, and Benefits Manager Mattison-Corneby. Motion by Legislator Flesher, seconded by Legislator Bunce, to move into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations at 10:15 a.m. Motion carried.

Personnel Officer Parke and Benefits Manager Mattison-Corneby departed the Executive Session at 10:49 a.m.

Motion by Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Flesher to adjourn Executive Session at 11:03 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Haskell

Legislative Clerk