

**STEUBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

*Wednesday, January 7, 2026*

*9:30 a.m.*

*Legislative Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Annex Building  
Bath, New York*

**\*\*MINUTES\*\***

**COMMITTEE:** K. Michael Hanna, Chair                      Hilda T. Lando, Vice Chair                      Shannon Logsdon

**STAFF:** Jack K. Wheeler    Christopher Brewer    Tim Rosell  
Lisa Rodbourn    Curtis Warner    Michele Kuhn  
Mary Myers Shearing

**LEGISLATORS:** Kelly H. Fitzpatrick    Justin Eberlin    Jeffrey P. Horton  
Nicholas D. Pelham    Frederick G. Potter    Debbie Shannon  
Joseph Tobia    Scott J. Van Etten

**ABSENT:** Robert V. Nichols    Michael Volino

**OTHERS:** James Johnson, Executive Director, Steuben County Industrial Development Agency  
Jill Staats, Deputy Director, Steuben County Industrial Development Agency  
Eddie Van Stine, Public Information Specialist  
Brian O’Neal, WLEA (Zoom)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Hanna called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2025, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MRS. LOGSDON. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.**

**III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS**

A. Planning

1. **NYS DOT Mass Transportation Capital Project Agreement** – Ms. Myers Shearing requested authorization to enter into an agreement with NYS Department of Transportation for the Mass Transportation Capital Project Agreement. This capital project will cover mobility management and the purchase of buses. The term is January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2029, and the total amount is \$4,443,676.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked do we own the buses and given the results of the State Comptroller’s audit, is it okay for us to put this into a capital project rather than a reserve? Mr. Wheeler stated these funds go directly to TransDev and we do not put the money into a capital project. When the money comes in, we allocate it directly to the public bus system for the County, outside of the cities of Corning and Hornell. The public bus system is funded almost exclusively by Federal DOT and State DOT. We budget \$50,000 for local costs each year. Planning acts as the intermediary for these funds and we contract with the transportation provider, TransDev. Transportation costs are increasing and are becoming increasingly complex to manage. Mr. Wheeler stated he expects this board will be having more discussions about this in coming years.

Mrs. Logsdon asked are these buses only transporting between the Bath, Corning and Hornell? People are questioning how far they go. Do they come out near Wayland? Ms. Myers Shearing stated the website is

ridesteuben.com and she believes the routes are in Bath, Corning and Hammondsport. Mr. Hanna asked how do the routes get expanded? Ms. Myers Shearing stated it is pretty much based on population. Mr. Wheeler stated he just looked it up and the routes are Bath-Corning-Bath, Village of Bath and Hammondsport. The Bath-Corning route also includes Chemung County. Mrs. Logsdon stated she recently sat in on a meeting with Wayland-Cohocton School District and other individuals and they were questioning what to do about it. Ms. Myers Shearing stated we are hoping to get more information out of the transportation study that the NYSDOT is conducting. Mrs. Lando commented we have talked about and studied this and nothing ever happens. We do have it in our Comprehensive Plan, but I don't know if there will ever be a solution.

**MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NYS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE MASS TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL PROJECT AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,443,676 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MRS. LOGSDON. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.**

**IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

A. Steuben County Industrial Development Agency

1. **Activities Update –**

a. *Annual Report* – Mr. Johnson distributed copies of the 2025 Annual Report. During 2025 we had 62 active projects which resulted in 6,681 jobs. Those jobs generated \$790 million in payroll. Last year those projects reporting \$39 million in new investments that generated \$12.4 million in revenue to the taxing entities that those projects are located in, including \$2.4 million in direct revenue to the County. Mr. Johnson stated during 2025 we assisted our legacy manufactures including Alstom, HP Hood, Corning, Bel Gioioso and we continue to watch those facilities grow and expand. We have also helped a number of newer and smaller businesses including Momentum of New York, AT&T Energy and others to grow and expand throughout the County.

Mr. Johnson stated the partnership that we have with the County and the continued efforts help us advance community development and infrastructure projects throughout the County.

b. *Main Street, Wayland* – Construction is underway on the reconstruction of a major section of Wayland's Main Street. We were able to help the community receive a Restore New York Grant, and those properties are being redeveloped. They are now enclosed and John Palmer is doing a phenomenal job.

c. *Curtiss School Redevelopment* – In 2026 there will be major redevelopments at the Curtiss School in Hammondsport. They have their contracts in place and are working on their financing and all approvals are in place. They have started some roof work. They will be starting construction in 2026 on 24 residential units.

d. *Park Grove Realty, Town of Erwin* – Mr. Johnson stated the Town of Erwin gave final approval for the Parker Realty project for 90 residential units. The Town of Erwin collaborated with the County and applied for and received \$1 million in State Infrastructure funding which will be used for the expansion of water and sewer infrastructure.

e. *New York Forward Awards* – Steuben County is the only county in the region that has received back-to-back New York Forward Awards. Last year we received an award for the Village of Bath and this year we received an award for the Village of Hammondsport/Town of Urbana. We will see a number of those projects, including the Curtiss School, get underway in the coming year.

f. *Village of Canisteo* – Mr. Johnson stated the Village of Canisteo received a planning grant from Empire State Development. The Village will use those funds to prepare an economic development strategy in preparation of planning for funds like New York Forward and Restore New York in the future. We are excited to get underway with that project and those efforts.

g. *Key Indicators in the County* – Mr. Johnson stated we continue to see our unemployment rate hover near the 4 percent range. When you get below 5 percent, businesses struggle to find talent and we continue to look for creative ways to elevate people and increase the labor market. In addition to the unemployment rate, the median household income increased by 3.2 percent last year; so, we are seeing income increase throughout the county. The successes we saw in 2025 are a testament to the commitment, readiness and collaboration of our team and our partners, so again, thank you for your continued support.

Mr. Johnson stated we look forward to the coming year and we remain focused on creating new opportunities. However, that is not without challenges. We have talked about transportation, opioid addiction, homelessness and other issues. This is not a challenge that we face alone. New York State is a tough state to do business in. Recently we participated in an economic blueprint with the New York State Economic Development Council. The Business Council showed that 72 percent of the business base in New York State is not happy, and they do not think New York State is a good place to do business. This blueprint is available online and he stated he is happy to share it with anyone that is interested. This blueprint shows the State some of the things we need. One of the simple things is that there are over 4,000 pages of regulatory regulations in the state; some dating back over 100 years or more. There are simple ways that we can work with the business community statewide and in Steuben County to help make our state more friendly.

h. *Alstom Freight Engine Project* – Mr. Johnson stated there has been a policy shift in Washington relative to renewable energy and that is directly impacting Steuben County. In the past year \$2 billion of renewable energy projects will be placed on hold until 2028, or maybe further out because of the regulatory and policy environment in Washington, D.C. We have received word from the Federal Railroad Authority that they would like Alstom and Norfolk Southern to take a hard look at this project and see if there are ways to remove the battery component of that. This project was engineered to be a diesel-battery hybrid. We are currently working through that now and we will have more to report out in the coming weeks and months.

Mr. Johnson stated even with the current regulatory environment; we remain very optimistic for 2026. We are working with several manufacturing prospects that are exploring growth in the county. We are also looking forward to work with Signify in the continued cleanup and future redevelopment of the Philips site. Another item that we will continue working on in 2026 is the Small Business Roundtable. These have been held throughout the County. We will also be holding a manufacturing exchange on Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at Corning Community College. We have partnered with Chemung County and the Chemung County IDA to bring manufacturers from around the county together.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

A. *Small Business Roundtable* – Mr. Hanna announced the next Small Business Roundtable will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at The Main Place in Hornell.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MRS. LOGSDON. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.**

Respectfully Submitted by Amanda L. Chapman, Deputy Clerk, Steuben County Legislature

**\*\*NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR\*\*  
Wednesday, February 4, 2026  
9:30 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office  
NO LATER THAN NOON  
Tuesday, January 27, 2026**