

REGULAR MEETING
Morning Session
Wednesday, January 28, 2026
Legislative Chambers

The County Legislature of the County of Steuben convened in Regular Session in the Legislative Chambers in Bath, NY on the 28th day of January 2026, at 10:00 a.m. and was called to order by the Chair of the Legislature, Kelly H. Fitzpatrick, at 10:25 a.m.

Roll Call and all members were present.

Mr. Van Caesele provided the Invocation and Mr. Volino led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Fitzpatrick asked Joyce Allen-Sullivan to come forward. Ms. Allen-Sullivan is an employee in the Department of Social Services. She presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation and a pin in recognition of her 20 years of service to Steuben County.

Chair Fitzpatrick asked Stephanie Easterbrook to come forward. Ms. Easterbrook is an employee in the Department of Social Services. She presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation and a clock in recognition of her retirement following 34 years of service to Steuben County.

The Clerk of the Legislature read the names of the following individuals who were unable to attend and receive their recognition:

Scott Sprague, Risk Manager – 10 years
William Jefferds, Public Works – 10 years
Jamie Percival, Social Services – 20 years
Colleen Eason, Social Services – 20 years
Adam Buck, Public Works – 20 years
Judith Hunter, County Clerk – 30 years
Veronica Olin, Republican Commissioner of Elections – retirement with 30 years

Chair Fitzpatrick opened the floor for comments by members of the public.

Wayne Wells, Cameron, stated he wants it known that he supports Sheriff Allard and his position. That being said, in a democracy, government policies and actions should be embodied by the majority of the people. He stated that he is in favor of removing illegal criminal immigrants, however, it must be done with due process and in a humane manner. When ICE killed two Minnesotans performing their constitutionally guaranteed rights of free speech, they were also killing the rule of law. The Miller-Trump regime is a traitorous betrayal to democracy and the rule of law. No real American patriot should encourage, cooperate or tolerate the Nazification of Stephen Miller's ICE. Mr. Wells asked for two minutes of silent reflection to honor the slain Minnesotan Renee Good and Alex Pretti in an act of ICE criminality for what America is becoming under Trump.

Barbara Blank, Beaver Dams, stated she is concerned about what is happening in our Country and the support that law enforcement did not get in Minnesota. She is concerned that we don't want a similar situation to happen in New York. She stated she supports law enforcement doing what they can in a humane way to apprehend criminals who have been judicially indicted and holding them here; that is not a problem for her, however, we do need to proceed with caution and make sure that we are getting accurate information.

Joan Rosen, Town of Corning, stated the last time we renewed the contract to work with ICE was in June/July. Many of us did not find out about that contract until after the fact. Legislator Lando

was the only one that voted no, and I thought that was wonderful. That contract passed and now we have a new contract that pays \$130.00 for the prisoners we take in that are criminals, rapists and child molesters; that is what they have told us. In the past I felt that ICE and INS did their jobs and went after people who crossed into the country illegally. More people were detained and deported during the time of President Obama and President Biden, than what is happening under President Trump. If we are taking people in whom ICE says are criminals, if we say yes to that, then we are going along with what they are doing. She stated she believes that ICE has a ceiling, and they are looking to arrest 100,000 immigrants; currently they are up to 75,000 in a short period of time. After this weekend, having witnessed the two killings in Minnesota, the game has changed and it is completely different. This contract was drawn up before we saw the new ICE in action. We cannot trust this administration to send us who we want to come.

Linda Shock, Town of Corning, stated she is a member of the Corning Town Council. I don't like that ICE officials are covering their faces. Do we even know who they are when our law enforcement is on the scene? Do they have to show identification?. Are you going to be there for every interaction? People in my community are very nervous. This is the new ICE, and things could get really bad. If they do get bad, can we back out of this contract? We are living in a blue State that the federal government has designated a terrorism organization. It is very frightening.

Bill Mattingly, Erwin, stated he urges the Legislature to rescind the June 2025 contract with ICE and to carefully review any new or renewed agreements with federal law enforcement agencies. The Trump administration has demonstrated their contempt for the law and their intent to turn our government into an authoritarian regime with federal agencies like the DOJ, FBI, DHS and ICE acting as mere arms of the dictatorship. The Trump administration sent masked and militarized ICE agents to many cities across the nation, including Minneapolis, against the wishes of the state officials in those states and under false pretenses. Recently Renee Goode and Alex Pretti, both U.S. citizens, were shot and killed, both victims. They were immediately defamed before any investigation of the incidents took place and videos of those claims were bald-faced lies. Recently the DHS circulated a memo stating that agents could forcibly enter homes with only administrative warrants. That is directly counter to the black-letter law of our Constitution. Mr. Trump was democratically elected as was Adolf Hitler. Let's not make the same mistake and let democracy die. This is not a red or blue issue. He called on all of us to resist these now authoritarian federal agencies; the battle for our democracy is being fought right here. Do we really want to invite federal agencies to our County? Do we want our deputies, whose salaries are being paid for by Steuben County residents, to be under the direct control of ICE?

Lauren Spaulding, Painted Post, stated she is concerned about the actions of ICE across the country. She stated she is here to exercise her civic duty to share some of her thoughts. There is a debate that seems to be happening in our nation right now about the morals and values that people feel in their hearts when they see the American flag. This debate is not new, and disagreement is part of the very fabric that makes our nation. Our nation was born in protest, rebellion and revolution. Our Constitution was radical in its inception and our nation never once has been perfect. Rather, it is a goal that we are striving toward, a more perfect union. We live this promise by engaging in hard conversations, listening to one another and acknowledging the sacrifices of those that expose the imperfections we need to address and taking actions to create change when it is necessary. I would like you to take heed of the actions of ICE in other parts of the nation. I am scared, confused, angry and sad. Please listen not to respond, but to understand. I am afraid everyday of what may happen when I am shopping with my children at Walmart and ICE is there. As has been mentioned, it is out of our hands. ICE has proven time and again that it doesn't matter if you are a naturally born citizen of the United States. They are untrained and reactive. They cover their faces and use fear and coercion to intimidate Americans into submission. When ICE comes to our community, what would you like the members of our community to do? The simple answer would be to do nothing and to trust. What happens when it is our community members and we know that they are legal citizens and their protest is being ignored? This is something that is happening right now

across the country. How do you want your communities to respond to injustice? In each moment I question what I would have done in this historical moment. Would I have been a bystander who chose self-preservation over moral action, or would I have been an upstander who did the right thing in the face of fear and unknown risk?

Mary Lisi, Bradford stated this issue is very important to me. I understand that our County has a long-standing record of cooperating with federal law enforcement agencies. I have nothing against that at all, and that is a good thing. I am very pleased to be allowed to exercise my right to free speech, as many in Minneapolis have not been allowed to do. It is naïve to believe that ICE would not use the same tactics here that they are around the nation. I would love it if this County would reject the arm of federal law enforcement called ICE. We are all afraid. We cannot be naïve to think that this will not happen to our families or friends. You passed a resolution in June and in honor of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, I would humbly ask that you rescind that resolution. Please do it in their honor and in the name of public trust. We are here because we trust that you will do the right thing. There are many counties and municipalities around the country that have already done so. I don't want even a hint, even a smell of ICE in my county. I don't want anything to do with them, and I hope you can understand what I am saying. We want to trust you to do the right thing, and we don't want to live in fear.

Debora Ackley, Hammondspport stated for everybody here that is standing up for our country and for the God, who will harm you if you are eager to do good? Even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats, do not be frightened, but in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. For the Legislature and everyone else, Mark 8:36, what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, but lose his soul? We don't want to lose our soul for the extra \$30 in the contract. Being undocumented is a civil offense, not criminal. Immigrants, whose only offense is trying to make a living, are being denied rights by the Constitution which guarantees undocumented immigrants due process, free speech and protection from discrimination. It should be highly illegal for ICE to use masked attacks and mistreatment on anyone. The agent's actions are criminal, even against citizens that are standing up to do the right thing. Criminals shouldn't get to harm people whose only offense is a civil offense and trying to stay alive.

Tiffany Ackley-Gammer, Hammondspport, stated she has concerns regarding ICE as a user agency in the Jail. A jail that houses an ICE detainee is effectively an ICE detention center. I believe ICE should be removed from this agreement. ICE has the authority to enforce US Immigration Laws. Sections 1226 and 1357 of Title VII empower designated immigration officers to question individuals about their status, detain individuals, and make arrests with or without warrants. This does not require suspicion of wrongdoing. There was a Supreme Court ruling on September 8, 2025, that gave ICE agents the ability to profile based on one's job, race or accent. I do not currently believe the promise of liberty and justice for all is being honored. I respect Sheriff Allard's stance of local law enforcement working to protect citizens from ICE, however, as the militarization of our nation is turned inward, on our own people, in our own borders, I do not believe local law enforcement has the power to stand up against the federal government. All the evidence we have seen of ICE acting outside of constitutional principles, not respecting First and Second Amendment rights, or honoring people's Fifth Amendment rights, has proven time and time again that the rogue agents that are committing these crimes are the rule, not the exception. Without citizens taking videos and holding ICE accountable, these things would never have come to light.

John T. Brown, Corning, stated he has two Legislators representing him; Joe Tobia and Hilda Lando. Mrs. Lando is concerned about losing money and Mr. Tobia is not concerned about that. I don't think money is the issue. I think what we need to do is show our resolve that we are against ICE and what they are demonstrating in municipalities across the country.

Roe Hemingway, Erwin, stated I'm very impressed. I think the discussion here today is correct and aligned with our values. I have great respect for the body in front of me, as well as my colleagues, neighbors and friends. Thank you for helping me learn how democracy works.

Peter Gordon, Caton, stated he is concerned about what is going on with ICE. This is not the INS; it is a new situation. We are a very rural county and geographically huge. Population-wise, we are not like Minneapolis, but I am disappointed about what I have heard about the vote in June/July. That agreement with ICE that we have is what I am concerned about. I am not concerned about the contract for an additional \$30 per day to house inmates. I respect Sheriff Allard and law enforcement. Do we have the law enforcement staff to accompany ICE if it does get worse? I am encouraging the Legislature to reconsider the contract in the future or rescind the contract. The tactics of ICE are so concerning, and I want to speak up and express my displeasure. I am very displeased with the federal government and ICE. I appreciate what you do for Steuben County and the residents.

Doris Cochran, Cameron, stated I am the proud daughter of a WWII POW at Buchenwald Concentration Camp. Most of you probably know of him. He has been on boards, town boards, school boards; every board you can think of and did everything he could to help this county. I am representing him because at 18 years old, he went and got on a plane to bomb the Germans, because the people in Germany at that time believed what the government said. There were not communities like this that had the opportunity to say no. He raised us to stand up for the majority of people who were not as fortunate as we were. It's called humanity. This is a racist issue. Are you willing to bargain our liberty, our humanity and our right to take care of each other? We are in a town with several beautiful churches, and the hypocrisy is amazing to me; you can go to church and welcome your neighbor and then crucify me on the Steuben County website last night on Facebook. I've been told that I am an immigrant protector and you know what, you are right. I fought in the Vietnam War and protested for the right to vote at 18 because my friends were dying and didn't have the right to vote and I march for Women's Rights. If you are not willing to stand up against this, you are not willing to stand up against anything.

Bruce McClaren, Corning, stated I do think ICE is wrong. I think the Sheriff and Sheriff's Office are doing a wonderful job and they are great. We don't have any control over ICE coming into the County and I find that disturbing at the very least. If so many people in the County have an issue with ICE operating here, how is it that we have no control over whether they come in. We can all agree that what ICE is doing is not the way it should be done, and I find it concerning that we have no control.

Lynn Ricotta, City of Corning, stated I would think the people here have so many questions about the contract, about what goes on in the Jail, about how detainees are brought here and what happens to them. Before any of this goes through, I would say why didn't you have a public meeting to inform county residents about what is happening. I would urge you to do so before this contract is ratified. I understand it is time sensitive, but why didn't this happen before. What strikes me is the argument that we have always done it this way; this contract has been in place for many, many years and that is the way we have always done it, and we should continue to do it. That is the same reasoning they used to continue the Jim Crow laws and segregation. This should not be a money issue. It is a moral issue. Working with ICE in any capacity is complicity with the Trump administration and its goal of making this a country a white-only country; that is what it boils down to. I would urge you not to ratify this contract and to go back and rescind the agreement to work with ICE.

Rick Edwards, Corning, stated in his work he serves Painted Post, Horseheads and Elmira, so he is very invested in the success of Steuben County, and of America in general. He reminded everyone of a quote from a Supreme Court Justice who simply said that dissent is patriotic. If our founding fathers were not willing to dissent against a King of England, we would indeed still be British. If

there is no due process, even for citizens asserting their First Amendment rights to protest, or more recently on the Second Amendment right to carry a firearm or to face your accuser; that means if ICE shoots and kills you, they are your judge and executioner, but yet you don't even know who they are. For the Sheriff to say that he can't stop ICE from coming here, maybe that's true. Maybe that's what they said in Minneapolis, however, the County can assert its autonomy. Perhaps we could expressly and explicitly forbid ICE detainees from coming into our Jail.

Marshall Hyde, City of Corning, stated bringing this resolution only days before the contract needs to be signed, approved or renegotiated is not transparency, and it is not respectful to the Legislators or the public. I hope you all will vote to table this agreement for further consideration. That would give you time, for example, to read the 2020 Georgetown Immigration Law Journal article that studied 400 of these contracts. If the County could simply uncheck Box 19, everyone would feel some relief or at least feel that we were not complicit in giving support to a lawless, unaccountable entity. I would urge you to do the right thing and remove ICE from this agreement. I understand the previous contracts with the County and the Marshall Service have included ICE, but the past is not prologue. Law enforcement has a challenging and often nuanced job, so I can understand the motivation for agreements between agencies and have no problem with the Marshall Service. For resource sharing, mutual support, I've got your back. Again, what should be obvious to everyone now is that ICE today is not a good faith actor and not capable of nuance. No one in the Sheriff's Office or any other law enforcement professional would behave as ICE has behaved in the past many months. ICE agents have no accountability and have been told they have absolute immunity; they have literally been encouraged to act illegally and with impunity. ICE is a dangerously flawed entity, currently unrecognizable as law enforcement.

Louise Richardson, Erwin, stated I am concerned with the lack of transparency and the haste with which these decisions are being made. I serve on a local not-for-profit board and when we are asked to vote on anything of significance, we are presented with the details at the meeting a month prior to the vote so we have time to review the issue at hand, review the impacts and ask questions. I find it troubling these consequential matters are being presented to the Legislature at the last minute and rushed through without time for deliberation and public disclosure. Just because it has been a long-standing agreement, does not mean it is a good idea. After the County's hasty approval of the 287G agreements, constituents are wary. What should have been a deliberate and conscious act of policymaking, subject to transparency, was treated as routine business; a routine business transaction. The Sheriff says he is happy to sit down with anyone to explain what his department does and why they do it. I recommend a town hall meeting be held where he can hear and address the concerns of constituents. This public comment period is not sufficient. I suggest that he listen to the people he was elected to serve with respect and not dismiss us as misguided and self-serving. Additionally, I will say and own up to being the person who set in motion something that got a lot of the people in this room here. I was appalled, as appalled as any of you, to see on social media that people were saying that you were proposing an ICE detention center, and it's like the worst game of telephone ever. I did my best last night to try to dispel that. Just listen to the people.

Jackie Halifax, Bath, stated I am not a paid agitator, and I endorse everything that has been said. It was not too long ago that ICE and Border Patrol were legitimate agencies, and we did business with them. They are not legitimate today and we see that with our own eyes. They cannot be trusted. We cannot stop them from coming into the County and despite the Sheriff's best efforts, I don't think he can control them. Please rescind your vote and do not be complicit with ICE in any way that we may or may not live to regret. Please change the contract to make it clear that you will house federal detainees, except those taken into custody by ICE or Border Patrol.

Charity Jones, Hammondsport, stated this is an insult to our intelligence to imply this facility would not be used to detain immigrants or otherwise just brown people. The need to diffuse the truth of what will happen proves the problematic nature of the proposal. This is not a preventative measure, but spineless. The issues I see are not the lack of prisoners or detainees. I see a lack of small business, an underfunded education system, and not enough infrastructure or social programs to

take care of struggling citizens. Bath has been receiving grants to improve the lives of people that live here and make the town palatable for tourists. Bath is also relying on federal contracts for this facility. Only one of those boosts to the local economy is a recurring investment and we should focus on reinvesting into the people, not focusing on a political fad. Jumping on the Trump bandwagon will not bring future prosperity. The feds did not vote you in. You are here to protect us, not them. This is exactly how we get a small Minneapolis. If you are bending to whoever applies the most pressure, us or the administration, we will not let you rest. We have lived here without ICE, and it is not necessary.

Robert (Bob) Walker, Corning, stated I am a retired engineer, but I am here as a person of faith saying I'm shocked and dismayed to see what is happening in our country. For clarity, I was no fan of Trump in his first administration, but this is special. I reject that it is business as usual. In my career as an engineer, I worked in a lot of manufacturing businesses and was exposed to a large number of contracts. I can tell you it's really dangerous to write contracts with people who are unreliable or you don't trust. The danger is you think they are going to do what the contract says, but they don't; they do whatever they want, and it is your business to sue them to get what you agreed to. This is Trump's MO and has been his whole life. I have friends who are immigrants, my mother was an immigrant as she was displaced person from Europe after WWII, and I am an immigrant. When people start taking it out on immigrants, I take that personally. I agree with the comment earlier that immigrants are not here to do anything evil. They are not here to be criminals. They are trying to make a better life and it's really hard. They don't need to be hassled by ICE or anyone else. I view this as mostly a moral issue.

Catherine Anderjack, Bath, stated this is a long-standing agreement and one of the issues is that we are not in the same territory as 30 years ago. This administration does not abide by our laws or our Constitution. They have invaded another nation for its oil; it blows up boats and people without congressional approval. It has abolished and dismantled our agencies that have served the American people. People in our country have higher healthcare costs or no insurance. They have food insecurity and women have lost the right to their own bodies. Our national parks and monuments are being invaded for their minerals, our education department is being dismantled. Our true history is being distorted and rewritten. Scientific research that will advance us as humans is being gutted. The Supreme Court is being bought, sold and paid for. The Department of Justice is not complying with the mandate to release the Epstein files. ICE kills American citizens and there is no due process. They are making a database on the protesters and so it is hard to believe the authorities, the government. We want to and we need to stick with our communities and support each other, and I believe we will.

Molly Aranda, Campbell, stated I have nothing but respect for the Sheriff and deputies. Any interactions I have had have always been courteous, professional and respectful. We are the friends we keep, and we need to keep that in mind. I believe we have lost trust in ICE and in our federal representatives. It is time to put our foot down and take a stand. I would be surprised if the Sheriff and his deputies' thought ICE was doing a bang-up job every single time. It is not right. We need to make a stand. This is not okay. We are not okay. When people see their inhumanity, they speak up and law enforcement is smacking it down. That is not okay, not legal and not constitutional. Please, let's not stand by and just watch. The lawsuits alone with bankrupt the country. We are not in normal times; we are in the thick part of the history books. We were all here. What did we do? What did we not do? It's no longer an opinion on immigration. This is about standing up for humanity, standing up for the Constitution, and standing up for what is right.

Liv Lovejoy, resident of Chemung County, stated she is here on her own accord as an individual. I serve this region, and I am very proud of where I am from, and I take deep pride in it. I am terrified by what ICE has wrought on our country as a whole, and most recently in the Twin Cities. This shows us what our future could look like if we give an inch in our communities. If we give an inch, they will take a life, and a life. We need to make it clear that ICE is not welcome in any

capacity. They signed an agreement in July to train with ICE and carry out certain duties of ICE like questioning immigration status. I am not comforted anymore by my neighbor deporting people and being violent to my neighbors in the street than I am to a mass thug being brought in to do the same actions. I urge everyone here to rethink this and to stand firm. Everyone has said such great things already and I think it's very clear that we do not want ICE here in any capacity. Is \$30 more worth your neighbor's life. Is it worth a torn and terrified community? It is clear we are a united front, and we will defend our neighbors. We hope that you will stand with us if it comes to that point.

Katianna Penman, Corning, stated I agree with a lot of the words spoken here today and I'm so thankful for all of you coming and standing up for us. I believe that any agreement with ICE is a losing one and any agreement with ICE is too much cooperation. If we give them an inch, they will take a mile. What we choose today will set the tone. If you pass this, we are telling them that we are okay with what they are doing. I am deeply upset that we are even here today, and that we have been given 3 days to put our two cents in on the matter.

Jacob Lowe, Painted Post/Corning, stated people are currently being taken in every part of the country that can be reached; whether you are on an island or in the middle of nowhere. There are people like Jose Barco, a Purple Heart veteran, who was taken. There have been 475 people taken, who were legally here on a visa. You have Liam Ramos, somebody who just five days ago was taken by ICE; a five-year old boy that nobody even thought was an option, that you could just whip away. Box 19 on this agreement is a problem, because the distance will come here. We don't want that. ICE itself is a problem; they have become a problem. They are not what they were 8 years ago. They are entirely different. They are an unjust entity that needs to be looked at as they are. They are not the federal government we want, and they are not what we stand for. There are many, many other people in this country that have had their lives completely ruined, taken, beaten. There have been riots all across the country. Do we really want that here or anywhere close to here?

Sue Boseman, Hammondsport, stated I feel compelled to be here. Because we are a nation built on immigration, I believe we must continue to strive to create a society that values immigrants as vital contributors to our nation. A place where everyone is afforded an equal opportunity to thrive socially, economically and culturally. I think just about everyone in this room has come from ancestors who were immigrants to this country. According to the American Immigration Council, as of late January 2026, roughly 73,000 people are currently incarcerated in ICE facilities. That population includes roughly 67,000 single adults. Approximately 74 percent of those currently detained have no criminal records, no criminal convictions. I thought the plan for ICE was to catch drug traffickers, rapists and violent criminals. What is going on? Clearly, not that. The number of detainees has increased by 84 percent compared to the same time in 2020 when the population was under 40,000. This figure surpassed 70,000 for the first time in its 23-year history. In recent months, immigration officers detained people seeking asylum, people working in their communities for years; some undocumented and some with temporary or legal residency. Due process is under attack.

Laurie Placa, Cohocton, stated this morning she was watching Anderson Cooper's interview of the Pink Coat Lady; the lady who filmed Alex Pretti's death. Murder, at the hands of ICE agents. This is her quote regarding the attitude and behavior of the agents: "They are rested in calm anger. I think because of the absolute protections that they have been given, they feel nothing but confident about what they are doing, and that this is some type of video game. It feels like we are a joke, that our civil rights are a joke, that our Constitution is something to be laughed at." In this context, ICE, its current iteration, is disregarding the First and Second Amendments and the Fourth and Fifth Amendments relative to due process and undue search and seizure. ICE is abusing, assaulting and killing those of us who dissent. We all want safe borders and illegal immigration enforcement, but in a reasonable, legal and constitutional manner. I would ask that you not renew this contract and uncheck Box 19. We don't have a problem cooperating with legal agencies. We elected you

to take care of the County, take care of us and keep us safe. That includes all of us, immigrants as well.

Timothy Dunlap, Schuyler County, stated I come here as a neighbor and not because this is a federal issue, but because it is a local issue. If this same question came up in the Schuyler County Legislature, I would ask that you come and visit my County and voice your opinion. We have had 250 years of democracy with a Constitution that theoretically works. We have three branches of government: Executive, Judicial and Legislative. The executive branch is off the rails and the judicial branch, the Supreme Court, has lost their way. That leaves it up to local politics. I ask you respectfully to rescind any previous agreement regarding ICE and distance yourself as far as possible from any ongoing agreement.

The following comments were submitted by email:

Tiffany McMillan, Corning (received January 27, 2026) – It has come to my attention that there will be a legislative meeting to vote on entering into an agreement with the US Marshall Service to create an ICE detention center in our area. I am unable to attend the meeting, but I wanted to share my thoughts. I am opposed to this for many reasons. I believe it will affect the safety and well-being of both our local law enforcement and the average citizen. The past few weeks have shown us that ICE’s actions pose a risk of harm to US citizens, and I question whether their presence would cause more danger than it prevents. I feel comfortable around my neighbors, on the street, in public and private places. That is a privilege that I would not jeopardize for anything in the world, and I fear that ICE could threaten it. That is to say nothing of the dangerous criminals they allege to transfer. I do not see the benefit to having ICE agents and a detention center in our area when our police force is fully capable of keeping the peace, and everyday citizens look out for each other and care about our community. We have nothing to gain but stress and risk from inviting something like this into our community. I don’t want to risk the good thing that we have here. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to share my thoughts. I hope that they will be taken into consideration and contribute to discussion on this topic.

Jessie Smith (received January 27, 2026) – I am writing to make a comment on agenda item #13 for tomorrow’s Regular Session meeting. I live in the Syracuse area and am unable to attend the meeting in person. Please tell legislators to vote NO on #13 “Authorizing the Sheriff’s Office to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the United States Marshall’s Service for the Housing, Safekeeping and Care of Federal Prisoners”. We do not need more ICE detention centers in New York State. In order to keep our immigrant neighbors safe, the Sheriff’s Office should NOT cooperate with this initiative. Thank you for recording and passing along my comment.

Caroline Bolton, Odessa (received January 27, 2026) – I am writing as a resident of the Southern Tier who lives in Schuyler County and works in Tompkins County, to express my absolute disgust regarding Resolution No. 13, which seeks to renew and increase the per-diem rate for federal detainees at the Steuben County Jail. It is fundamentally wrong to treat human beings as revenue streams to balance a county budget. By raising the rate to \$130 per day, the County is creating a sick financial incentive to keep beds filled with people – many of whom are caught in an immigration and legal system rooted in systemic racism. A jail should not be a “for-profit” hotel for the federal government. The fact that the County is rushing to lock in this three-year contract specifically to bypass pending State legislation (like the Dignity Not Detention Act) shows a total lack of transparency and moral leadership. People are not worth money, and our region should not be complicit in a system that “rents out” human lives for \$130 a day. I urge the Legislature to vote NO on Resolution No. 13 and to stop viewing detention as a business opportunity.

Gabrielle McMillan (received January 27, 2026) – I am writing as a constituent and community member to urge you to oppose any collaboration with ICE including establishing an ICE detention center in Steuben County. ICE and the DHS has shown on multiple occasions – especially the

recent violence toward, and the killing of citizens – that they do not care for human life or dignity. To work with ICE is to be a collaborator in an affront against humanity. I fear that bringing ICE into our community will only bring violence and pain to our friends and neighbors and will force our community members to be complicit in the crimes that ICE commits. I beg you not only to reject any and all collaboration with ICE, but also to make clear how you plan to protect Steuben County from ICE’s violence. Do not create a “detention center” (in reality, a concentration camp) here. Please.

Chair Fitzpatrick thanked everyone who came in and submitted their comments. There being no further comment, she declared the opportunity for public comment closed.

Motion adopting the minutes of the previous meeting(s) made by Mrs. Lando, seconded by Mr. Pelham and duly carried.

Mr. Nichols stated that he would like to congratulate Legislator Van Etten as he has been inducted into the New York State Skeet Shooting Hall of Fame. He also has been President of the New York State Skeet Shooting Association for several years.

RESOLUTION NO. 009-26

Introduced by K. Fitzpatrick.

Seconded by P. Van Caesele.

RECEIVING AND ACCEPTING THE JANUARY 26, 2026, COMMUNICATIONS LOG AS PREPARED BY THE STEUBEN COUNTY MANAGER’S OFFICE.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following communications were received, accepted and filed by the County of Steuben, and **referred to the appropriate Standing Committee and/or Department Head for information and/or action**, to wit:

December 11, 2025

Steuben County Republican Committee – Re: Appointment of Bryan Housel to the position of Republican Election Commissioner of Steuben County to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Veronica Olin. ***Referred to: filed with the Deputy Clerk of the Legislature, Rochelle Casselbury.***

December 19, 2025

NYS Public Service Commission – Re: Notice requesting comments and announcing virtual public statement hearings for the Steuben-Chemung Area Transmission Enhancement Project (Case #25-T-0246). ***Referred to: AIP Committee; and Marie Myers Shearing, Planning Director.***

December 23, 2025

NYS Public Service Commission – Re: Order approving multiple compliance filings, subject to conditions issued and effective December 23, 2025 on the Baron Winds LLC project (Case #15-F-0122). ***Referred to: AIP Committee; and Marie Myers Shearing, Planning Director.***

December 24, 2025

Harris Beach Murtha, Attorneys at Law – Re: City of Hornell Industrial Development Agency RP-412-a form for property located at 430 Canisteo Street, in the City of Hornell, N.Y. ***Referred to: Finance and Administration Committees; Mitchell Alger, Commissioner of Finance; Larry Roach, RPTSA Director; and Timothy Rosell, County Attorney.***

Harris Beach Murtha, Attorneys at Law – Re: Notification of the termination of the PILOT agreement between the City of Hornell Industrial Development Agency and FCM Management, LTD for property located at 6270 Ice House Road, in the City of Hornell, N.Y. ***Referred to: Finance and Administration Committees; Mitchell Alger, Commissioner of Finance; Larry Roach, RPTSA Director; and Timothy Rosell, County Attorney.***

December 29, 2025

United States Senate – Re: Notification of the deadline for the FY2025 Battlefield Restoration Grant is Thursday, January 8, 2026. ***Referred to: A.I.P. Committee; and Griffin Bates, County Historian.***

January 2, 2026

NYS Sheriffs’ Association – Re: The option to continue to participate in the programs negotiated by the Association or select NYS other vendors once the agreements expire for the Jail Inmate Phone System and the Expedited Bail by Credit Card Program. ***Referred to: Finance and Public Safety & Corrections Committees; Timothy Rosell, County Attorney and Sheriff Allard.***

Harris Beach Murtha, Attorneys at Law – Re: The Steuben County Industrial Development Agency and Walgreen Eastern Co., Inc. tax agreement and RP-412-a form for property located at 321 West Washington Street, Bath, N.Y. ***Referred to: Finance and Administration Committees; Mitchell Alger, Commissioner of Finance; Larry Roach, RPTSA Director; and Timothy Rosell, County Attorney.***

January 7, 2026

NYS Public Service Commission – Re: Virtual public hearings set for the proposed transmission line is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026 @ 2:00pm and 6:00pm on the Steuben-Chemung Area Transmission Enhancement Project (Case #25-T-0246). ***Referred to: AIP Committee; and Marie Myers Shearing, Planning Director.***

January 9, 2026

Harris Beach Murtha, Attorneys at Law – Re: Steuben Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation annual meeting and accountability materials. ***Referred to: Jack Wheeler, County Manager; Timothy Rosell, County Attorney; Mitchell Alger, Commissioner of Finance; and Rochelle Casselbury, Clerk of the Legislature.***

Vote: Acclamation – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 010-26

Introduced by W. Thew.

Seconded by F. Potter.

AUTHORIZING REVISIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

WHEREAS, the *Steuben County Administrative Code*, Part VI: Contracts, Travel, Training/Conference Attendance, Tuition Reimbursement, requires the Law Department to maintain standardized contracts for the procurement of goods and services, “boiler plate” contracts, that include inter alia standardized insurance requirements as developed by the Office of Risk Management,

WHEREAS, *Steuben County Administrative Code*, Part VI, subsection 5, Standardized Contracts, permits at the discretion of the Law Department, County Manager, and Department Head the ability to modify the “boiler plate” language in the standardized contracts.

WHEREAS, after a review of the current standardized contract used by Steuben County and its application to the different types of contracts entered into by the County and its vendors, the Law Department with consultation with the County Manager, propose that Steuben County’s Standardized Contract Form be modified, a copy of which is attached.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature hereby approves the use of the standardized contract form, a copy of which is attached.

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to all County Commissioners and Department Heads, the IT Department, and the County Manager.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 011-26

Introduced by J. Horton and S. Van Etten.

Seconded by P. Van Caesele.

APPROPRIATING \$67,000 FROM THE RESTRICTED PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS RESERVE FUND TO THE SHERIFF’S JAIL EQUIPMENT PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Steuben County Sheriff has a bid in the amount of \$327,000 for upgrading the Fire Alarm System at the Steuben County Jail; and

WHEREAS, the Steuben County Sheriff is requesting a transfer of \$67,000 to be made from the Restricted Public Safety Building Repairs and Renovations Reserve Fund to the Jail Equipment Project for the upgrading of the Fire Alarm System.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Legislature hereby authorizes the Steuben County Commissioner of Finance to transfer the sum of \$67,000 to the Jail Equipment Projects for the Fire Alarm System; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Finance and the Steuben County Sheriff.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 012-26

Introduced by J. Horton and S. Van Etten.

Seconded by F. Potter.

APPROPRIATING \$9,000 FROM THE RESTRICTED PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS RESERVE FUND TO THE SHERIFF’S JAIL MAJOR EQUIPMENT FUND.

WHEREAS, the Steuben County Sheriff has a bid in the amount of \$25,000 for replacing the countertops in the Jail Booking area in the Steuben County Jail; and

WHEREAS, the Steuben County Sheriff is requesting a transfer of \$9,000 to be made from the Restricted Public Safety Building Repairs and Renovations Reserve Fund to the Jail Major Equipment line for the upgrade of the countertops.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Legislature hereby authorizes the Steuben County Commissioner of Finance to transfer the sum of \$9,000 to the Jail Major Equipment line for the upgrading of the Jail Booking countertops; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Finance and the Steuben County Sheriff.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 013-26

Introduced by J. Tobia and S. Van Etten.

Seconded by R. Nichols.

APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO THE 2025 BUDGETS FOR TANF AND SAFETY NET ASSISTANCE.

WHEREAS, Steuben County is mandated to provide Temporary Assistance for families and singles; and

WHEREAS, these funds are needed for expenses due to increased Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Expenditures and Safety Net Expenditures due to increases in the number of open cases for Services and rising homeless costs; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Steuben County modifies the 2025 Steuben County Budget as follows:

Appropriations:

610900 543503	TANF Assistance Payments	\$ 160,000
610900 543504	Emergency Assistance (Families)	\$ 20,000
614000 5445100	Safety Net Assistance	\$ 1,500,000

Revenues:

610900 446090	Federal Aid TANF	\$ 180,000
614000 43640000	State Aid - Safety Net	\$ 435,000

Local Share \$1,065,000

RESOLVED, certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Finance, County Manager and Deputy County Manager.

Mr. Van Etten asked, is this coming out of the 2025 budget? Mr. Wheeler explained we are closing out the 2025 budget year. If there are any additional expenses, those will be rolled over into the 2026 budget.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 014-26

Introduced by N. Pelham and S. Van Etten.

Seconded by H. Lando.

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM 2025 BRIDGE PROJECT FUNDS TO BRIDGE UNASSIGNED.

WHEREAS, Public Works has surplus of \$533,230.80 in various 2025 Bridge Projects; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to transfer the \$533,230.80 to the Bridge Unassigned account to fund future projects; and

WHEREAS, said transfers will not increase the Public Works Department budget; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee and Finance Committee recommend said transfers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Commissioner of Finance is authorized to transfer as follows:

- Decrease Bean Station: 512000.6428 by \$129,938.10
- Decrease Hardscrabble: 512000.6431 by \$151,950.78
- Decrease Cunningham Creek: 512000.6427 by \$80,963.69
- Decrease CR 2: 512000.6429 by \$27,565.00
- Decrease CR 11: 512000.6430 by \$142,561.23
- Decrease CR 21: 512000.6432 by \$252.00
- Increase Bridge Unassigned: 512000.6400 by \$533,230.80

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Public Works and the Commissioner of Finance.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 015-26

Introduced by: N. Pelham and S. Van Etten.

Seconded by J. Tobia.

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM BRIDGE UNASSIGNED TO 2026 BRIDGE PROJECT FUNDS.

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department needs \$966,000.00 to fund various 2026 Bridge Projects; and

WHEREAS, the Bridge Unassigned account has funds available to fund the 2026 Bridge projects; and

WHEREAS, said transfers will not increase the Public Works Department budget; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee and Finance Committee recommend said transfers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Commissioner of Finance is authorized to transfer as follows:

- Decrease Bridge Unassigned: 512000.6400 by \$966,000.00
- Increase Sonora Road: 512000.6434 by \$245,000
- Increase CR 46: 512000.6435 by \$225,000.00
- Increase Magee: 512000.6436 by \$120,000.00
- Increase CR 74: 512000.6437 by \$90,000.00
- Increase Five Corner Road: 512000.6439 by \$286,000.00

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Public Works and the Commissioner of Finance.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 016-26

Introduced by N. Pelham and S. Van Etten.

Seconded by R. Nichols.

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM REPAIR/MAINTENANCE COUNTY SALT STORAGE TO SALT BUILDING CAPITAL PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the salt storage buildings at the Woodhull and Bridge Shops are in need of roof replacement;
and

WHEREAS, the Salt Building Capital Project account does not have sufficient funds to cover said repairs;
and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to transfer \$39,904.23 from the Repair-Maintenance Salt Storage account; and

WHEREAS, said transfers will not increase the Public Works Department budget; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee and Finance Committee recommend said transfers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Commissioner of Finance is authorized to transfer as follows:

- Decrease Repair-Maintenance Salt: 14200.541805 by \$39,904.23
- Increase Salt Building Capital Project: SALTB.6251 by \$39,904.23

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Public Works and the Commissioner of Finance.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 017-26

Introduced by N. Pelham and S. Van Etten.

Seconded by W. Thew.

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF UNUSED 2025 PUBLIC WORKS FUNDS TO THE 2026 PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET.

WHEREAS, due to circumstances outside of Public Works control, they were unable to complete some 2025 scheduled projects; and

WHEREAS, there is a surplus of \$955,319.55 in the 2025 Rip Rap: Ditches, Slopes budget item; and

WHEREAS, Public Works requests that these funds be rolled over into the 2026 Rip Rap: Ditches, Slopes budget item; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee and Finance Committee recommend said transfers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Commissioner of Finance is authorized to make the following transfer:

- Decrease 2025 Rip Rap – Ditches, Slopes: 511000.544223 by \$955,319.55
- Increase 2026 Rip Rap: Ditches, Slopes: 511000.544223 by \$955,319.55;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Public Works and the Commissioner of Finance.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 018-26

Introduced by N. Pelham and S. Van Etten.

Seconded by J. Tobia.

AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE “DISASTER REPOSE–FLOOD RESPONSE 8/2024” CAPITAL PROJECT.

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2024, Tropical Storm Debby caused widespread damage from flooding throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has been making emergency purchases to quickly reconstruct the flood damaged infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is necessary to continue to make said repairs; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Finance Committees recommend transferring \$192,097 from the Flood821 Capital Project to the Flood824 Capital Project Account.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Commissioner of Finance is hereby authorized to transfer \$192,097 from the Flood821 Capital Project to the Flood824 Capital Project Account; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Manager, Commissioner of Finance, and the Commissioner of Public Works.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 019-26

Introduced by S. Van Etten.

Seconded by H. Lando.

AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER TO THE ASSIGNED COUNSEL PROGRAM.

Pursuant to Section 2.07 of the Steuben County Charter.

WHEREAS, the Steuben County 2025 budget for the Assigned Counsel Program contains insufficient funds to cover expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has approved this transfer from the Undistributed Fringe Line to cover the 2025 expenditures.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Commissioner of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to adjust the following accounts in the 2025 budget:

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS:

Undistributed Fringe Line (900000-588000) – (\$750,000)

Family Court (117003-542403) + \$300,000

Felony (117003-542401) + \$250,000

Misdemeanor (117003-542402) + \$200,000

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Manager, the Assigned Counsel Administrator and the Commissioner of Finance.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 020-26

Introduced by J. Horton.

Seconded by F. Potter.

AUTHORIZATION TO CONVERT MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATE OF NEED (CON) TO A PERMANENT OPERATING AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2024, the Steuben County Legislature passed RESOLUTION NO. 090-24 “Authorizing the provision of Ambulance and Advanced Life Support Services and Declaring the need for a County Ambulance Service Certificate”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority conferred upon the County, the County has the authority to provide for general ambulance services, pre-hospital emergency medical treatment, and transportation of sick and injured persons within the boundaries of the County; and

WHEREAS, the provision of ambulance and emergency medical services to the residents of the County is an appropriate matter for concern and deliberation by this Legislature; and

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the County Legislature that existing ambulance providers in the County are encountering difficulties in maintaining staffing necessary to provide the level of emergency medical care that is required throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Steuben County Emergency Medical Services has proven public need by operating within Steuben County since July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to declare and obtain a municipal certificate of need (Muni-CON) pursuant to Public Health Law Section 3008 (7)(a) authorizing the County to establish or operate an ambulance service for the benefit of the residents and visitors of the County now and on a permanent basis.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Legislature hereby declares that “public need” exists for the provision of ambulance and advanced life support services in the County; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Legislature authorizes the County Manager to prepare and execute such documents as may be necessary to assist and to affect the County’s efforts to establish and provide for the provision of ambulance and advanced life support services in the County and to obtain municipality-owned and permanent operating authority on behalf of the County now and into the future; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the County Manager, the Director of Public Safety, and the Commissioner of Finance.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 021-26

Introduced by J. Horton and S. Van Etten.

Seconded by W. Thew.

AUTHORIZING THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES MARSHALL'S SERVICE FOR THE HOUSING, SAFEKEEPING AND CARE OF FEDERAL PRISONERS.

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office will accept and provide for the secure custody and care of Federal inmates; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office will be reimbursed at the negotiated per diem rate of \$130.00 for the housing of Federal inmates; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office will keep Federal inmates in accordance with all state and local laws, standards, regulations, policies and court orders applicable to the operation of the Jail; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office will provide reimbursable Federal inmate transportation services to the appropriate United States Courthouse in Rochester, New York; and

WHEREAS, the term of this agreement shall be for the anticipated period of three years to commence February 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect unless terminated by either party with written notice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Steuben County Legislature authorizes the Sheriff to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement upon approval from the County Attorney; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Sheriff and the County Attorney.

Mrs. Lando stated I would like to thank everyone for coming and there was a number of people that I invited to attend. I am from an immigrant family; my father came over when he was 12 years old. They burned a cross on my father and mother's yard when the Italians moved into Irish Hill. I understand that and I am in agreement with most of what you are saying, not everybody, but with most of you. This has gone crazy, and I understand that. A lot of you are my friends and I hope that we can still be friends when this is all done. However, I was elected to serve you, but I was also elected to serve the County. This is not an easy decision. This is not about ICE. The ICE contract was decided last year. You heard the Sheriff explain the resolution during the Special meeting held just prior. We can choose who we want to come into the Jail. We can ask the Sheriff not to accept ICE prisoners. If we don't pass this resolution, there is still going to be a contract. If I say yes to this contract, we will get more money. This has nothing to do with ICE.

Mr. Volino stated I am not opposed to this agreement. There is a clause in there that if either party is not happy with it, they can exit at any time. I do want to be principled here and up until last month, I was sitting on that side with the residents. In the past the Legislature has moved a resolution directly from a committee meeting to the full Legislature in the same day. I have not liked it when they have done that in the past and I do not think that is transparency. I think this is a matter that clearly the residents have concerns about. I think it is a matter that could be tabled and discussed next month. I question if there hadn't been a snowstorm on Monday, would the residents have even known about this. I will be voting no.

Mr. Van Caesele stated I responded to a lot of comments that people sent me by email, and I really appreciate everybody coming and being involved. Nobody wants to see what is happening in Minnesota; it's disgusting, and we definitely don't want that brought here. I can guarantee

everyone on this Legislature does not want that happening here. I know with the support of the Sheriff's Office we will never see anything like that in this area.

Ms. Shannon stated I am in agreement with Mr. Volino, and I am in favor of perhaps restricting this contract to remove Box 19. I was not here in July to vote on the original ICE contract; however, I am sitting in this chair because the majority of the people voted for me to represent their voice. For that reason, I do believe, with the deepest respect of our Sheriff and law enforcement, which I want to see funded to the gills, that we could table this and restructure this contract in a way that removes mention of ICE and specifically only focuses on the US Marshall involvement. I will be voting no.

Mr. Tobia stated I stated my opinion earlier and the one thing I did say is that if there is ever a connection to ICE, I'm voting no. I know some of you are connected to family that have to sometimes deal with ICE. I worry every day about my daughter, who lives in Texas, that they are going to try to take her away because she is Korean. So, when it comes to ICE, I have a special little anger inside my heart with that, and I don't want them near here or anyplace else. It may be the wrong reason for my no vote, but it is how I feel, and I think that the majority of people from Corning here want a no vote as well. I have to respect my constituents and what they want.

Mr. Thew stated we have heard from many of you, and I probably am not on the same side politically as most of you, which is fine, and I'll talk with any of you. What I have heard from most of you is that you are concerned with the illegal or bad behavior that we are seeing from ICE. This contract has Steuben County, specifically the Sheriff, in the driver's seat on whether or not we take any ICE prisoners whatsoever. I would be willing to discuss the rescission of the previously approved contract and I think that should be on the docket moving forward. That being said, the contract as is, we can decide whether to or not to work with ICE and I don't think ICE is the crux of this contract. I am going to vote yes on this contract. I am fully in favor that if there is a violation of law, the person that violated it and the organization that oversees that person should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. I am voting yes, but I hear your concerns.

**Vote: Roll Call – Adopted. Yes – 6845; No – 2513; Abstained – 0; Absent – 0
(No: Legislators Potter, Shannon, Tobia and Volino)**

RESOLUTION NO. 022-26

Introduced by K. M. Hanna.

Seconded by F. Potter.

ACCEPTING SECTION 5311 FEDERAL MASS TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL PROJECTS AND FUNDING.

WHEREAS, the Planning Department is responsible for the administration of grants, contracts, and finances related to the county-wide public transit system; and

WHEREAS, Steuben County has been approved for grant funds by the New York State Department of Transportation pursuant to Section 53 Federal Programs, Title 49, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, Steuben County has been awarded funds pursuant to a Mass Transportation Capital Project Agreement, Comptroller's Contract No. C006039, between the County and the New York State Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the amount of reimbursement of Project Eligible Costs actually incurred, shall not exceed \$4,443,676.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Commissioner of Finance is authorized to accept the funds up to \$4,443,676 for Mass Transportation Capital Project Agreement Comptroller's Contract No. C006039; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Planning Director is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the County of Steuben to sign Comptroller's Contract No. C006039 for such 5311 funds and to progress and complete the above-named project; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Planning Director is authorized to sign any contracts or agreements between the County of Steuben and any third-party subcontractor necessary to complete the public transportation project, subject to the approval of the County Attorney; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be distributed to the Planning Director and the Commissioner of Finance.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 023-26

Introduced by W. Thew.

Seconded by J. Tobia.

ELECTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 25-YEAR OPTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE RETIREMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY LAW, SECTION 89-P, FOR CERTAIN CORRECTION OFFICERS.

Pursuant to Retirement Law §89P.

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee of the Steuben County Legislature has requested to participate in the 25-year option of the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law, Section 89-P, for certain Correction Officers; and

WHEREAS, the Collective Bargaining Agreement anticipates enrollment under Retirement Law §89-P for Correction Officers; and

WHEREAS, the Correction Officers are currently enrolled in a 30-year retirement plan; and

WHEREAS, the employees' enrollment in a 30-year plan make them outliers within the state for correctional employees and places the County at a disadvantage for recruitment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Legislature of Steuben County hereby elects to provide the pension benefit under New York State Retirement and Social Security Law, Section 89-P, to individuals currently titled as "Correction Officer" and any future employees titled as "Correction Officer"; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the NYS and Local Retirement System, Attention, Thomas DiNapoli, State Comptroller, 110 State Street, Albany, NY 12244, Personnel Officer, Sheriff, and the Commissioner of Finance.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 024-26

Introduced by W. Thew.

Seconded by D. Shannon.

RECLASSIFYING ONE PART-TIME COUNTY HISTORIAN POSITION TO ONE FULL-TIME COUNTY HISTORIAN POSITION, MANAGEMENT GRADE F, WITHIN THE COUNTY MANAGER’S OFFICE.

Pursuant to Article 5 of the County Law of the State of New York.

WHEREAS, there is a need to reclassify one part-time County Historian position to one full-time County Historian position within the County Manager’s Office; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Officer, County Manager, and Administration Committee have approved the recommended change.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, effective with the adoption of this resolution, the following position in the County Manager’s Office is hereby reclassified as follows:

FROM: One (1) Part-time County Historian, Management Grade F (\$26,712 -\$41,777)
TO: One (1) Full-time County Historian, Management Grade F (\$53,424 – \$83,553).

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 2026 Management and Salary Plan is hereby amended to reflect the above stated change; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Personnel Officer, the County Manager, County Historian and the Commissioner of Finance.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 025-26

Introduced by W. Thew.

Seconded by J. Tobia.

AMENDING THE MANAGEMENT SALARY PLAN TO ADJUST COUNTY HISTORIAN FROM MANAGEMENT GRADE D TO MANAGEMENT GRADE F.

Pursuant to Section 204 of the County Law of the State of New York.

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee has approved ratifications to the Management Salary Plan; and

WHEREAS, the title County Historian shall be adjusted on the Management Salary Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Officer, County Manager and Administration Committee have approved the adjustment in said title; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, effective with the adoption of this resolution, the following adjustments are hereby made to the Management Salary Plan:

- a. County Historian from Management Grade D (\$44,161– \$69,050), to Management Grade F (\$53,424– \$83,553); and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Manager, County Historian, Personnel Officer, and the Commissioner of Finance.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 026-26

Introduced by W. Thew.

Seconded by R. Nichols.

APPOINTING THE REPUBLICAN COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS OF THE COUNTY OF STEUBEN FOR A TERM COMMENCING FEBRUARY 1, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 3-204 of the Election Law of the State of New York.

WHEREAS, Joseph Sempolinski, Chair of the County Committee of the Republican Party of the County of Steuben, has in pursuance of law, made, signed, and filed with the Clerk of the County Legislature, in proper form, his certification that Bryan Housel, residing in Corning, County of Steuben and State of New York, is a suitable and qualified person to be appointed as a Commissioner of Elections.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, Bryan Housel, residing in Corning, Steuben County, New York, be and is hereby appointed as Commissioner of Elections in and for the County of Steuben for a term of two (2) years commencing February 1, 2026, and terminating December 31, 2027; and be it further

RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the above-named appointee, Bryan Housel, 244 Dwight Ave., Corning, NY 14830; Joseph Sempolinski, LOB 548, Albany, NY 12248; the County Clerk; the Personnel Officer; and the Steuben County Board of Elections.

Mr. Tobia asked what exactly is the role of the Republican and Democratic Commissioner of Elections? Mr. Wheeler stated they are the department heads. Under State Law, the County has to have a Republican and Democrat election commissioner. In our organization, they are also the department heads for the Board of Elections.

Mr. Thew stated they coordinate getting all of the votes tallied. If you are running for a position, you would go to them to get information related to how to fill out a petition and things like that. Mr. Van Etten commented it is important to understand that everything in that office has to be balanced between the two parties. Every clerk position has to have a corresponding one in the other party.

Ms. Shannon asked we are just appointing a new Republican Commissioner? Mr. Wheeler stated correct. Vicky Olin is retiring and the County Republican Party nominated Mr. Housel and upon their recommendation, the resolution comes to the Legislature for a vote.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

Motion combining Resolutions #19 - #22 and waive the reading made by Mr. Thew, seconded by Mr. Tobia and duly carried, with Mr. Schu being absent for vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 027-26

Introduced by Ms. Fitzpatrick.

Seconded by Mr. Thew.

FILLING VACANCIES ON THE STEUBEN COUNTY CONFERENCE & VISITORS’ BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Pursuant to Section 12.19 of the Steuben County Charter.

WHEREAS, the Steuben County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 056-93 on October 25, 1993, authorizing and directing the creation of the Steuben County Conference & Visitors’ Bureau and establishing the appointment of voting members on the Board of Directors as staggered three (3) year terms, with the exception of one member who shall serve a one (1) year term; and

WHEREAS, the term for some Board members expired December 31, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the following individuals as recommended by the Steuben County Manager, are hereby appointed as members of the Steuben County Conference & Visitors’ Bureau Board of Directors for the terms as indicated, and shall hold office until reappointed or a successor is appointed and qualified to wit:

VOTING MEMBERS

Accommodations

TERMS

Katherine Phelps, Conference Services Manager, Radisson Hotel Corning	01/01/26 – 12/31/28
Rachel Beiler, Owner, Mountain Rose Horse Farm & Vacation Rentals, Savona <i>(filling unexpired term of Brett Bixby)</i>	01/01/24 – 12/31/26
Shelly Krellner, Sales Manager, Hilton Garden Inn, Corning	01/01/25 – 12/31/27

Attractions

Regina Wagner, Corning Museum of Glass	01/01/26 – 12/31/28
Joe Hope, Weis Vineyards, Hammondsport	01/01/24 – 12/31/26
Nate Basch, Director of Events, Corning’s Gaffer District	01/01/25 – 12/31/27

Community-At-Large

Jordan Harris, Winemaker, Point of the Bluff Vineyards, Hammondsport	01/01/26 – 12/31/28
Chris Walters, Executive Director, The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes	01/01/25 – 12/31/27
Tess McKinley, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County	01/01/24 – 12/31/26

Chamber of Commerce Representative

Christina Morgan, Representative, Hammondsport Chamber of Commerce	01/01/26 – 12/31/26
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County Manager Designee

Marie Myers Shearing, Planning Director	01/01/25 – 12/31/27
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County Legislators

K. Michael Hanna, District 5	01/01/25 – 12/31/27
Hilda T. Lando, District 2	01/01/24 – 12/31/26

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the above-named appointees shall serve without compensation, other than necessary expenses, upon presentation of receipts, related to the fulfillment of their duties on the Steuben County Conference and Visitors’ Bureau Board of Directors; and be it further

RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the above-named appointees and the Executive Director of the Steuben County Conference and Visitors' Bureau, Inc., 1 West Market Street, Suite 201, Corning, NY 14830.

Mr. Thew stated on the appointments to the Conference & Visitors' Bureau, it seems that essentially all of the members are either Corning or Hammondsport residents. Is there a particular reason we do not have individuals from outside those two townships? Mr. Wheeler stated I do know that they certainly try to reach out to other areas when they are polling for board members. We have had conversations over the years to try to diversify the board. Availability to attend meetings is also key. If you know of anyone from different areas that may be interested, you can send their names our way and we will pass them on to Mr. Peterson.

**Vote: Acclamation – Adopted. No – 571; Absent -643
(No – Legislator Pelham; Absent – Legislator Schu)**

RESOLUTION NO. 028-26

Introduced by K. Fitzpatrick.

Seconded by Mr. Thew.

APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE STEUBEN COUNTY LAND BANK CORPORATION, A NEW YORK LAND BANK.

Pursuant to Article 16 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

WHEREAS, the Steuben County Land Bank Corporation was established July 25, 2016, by Resolution No. 126-16; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) members who shall, pursuant to Article III, Section 2 (c) of the By-Laws of the Steuben County Land Bank Corporation, be appointed by the Chair of the Steuben County Legislature for two (2) year terms; and

WHEREAS, the “Municipal Representative” of the Board of Directors shall, pursuant to Article III, Section 2 (f) of the By-Laws of the Steuben County Land Bank Corporation, be appointed by the Chair of the Steuben County Legislature and confirmed by a majority vote of the Steuben County Legislature as well as the governing board of the Municipal Representative’s municipality consenting to his/her appointment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the following individuals as recommended by the Chair of the Legislature, are hereby appointed as members of the Steuben County Land Bank Corporation for a term of two years commencing January 1, 2026 and expiring December 31, 2027:

1. Hilda T. Lando, Steuben County Legislator, District 2
2. Scott J. Van Etten, Steuben County Legislator, District 13
3. Jack K. Wheeler, County Manager
4. Mitchell Alger, Commissioner of Finance
5. Mark L. Ryckman, Corning City Manager, Municipal Representative
6. John Buckley, Hornell City Mayor, Municipal Representative
7. John V. Malter, Wayland Town Supervisor, Municipal Representative

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the members shall serve without compensation except for necessary expenses, upon presentation of receipts, related to the fulfillment of their duties on the Steuben County Land Bank Corporation; and be it further

RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the above-named appointees, the County Auditor, the County Manager, and the County Attorney.

**Vote: Acclamation – Adopted. No – 571; Absent -643
(No – Legislator Pelham; Absent – Legislator Schu)**

RESOLUTION NO. 029-26

Introduced by K. Fitzpatrick.

Seconded by Mr. Thew.

APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE STEUBEN AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

WHEREAS, by resolution dated July 28, 2011, the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency adopted certain amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Steuben Area Economic Development Corporation to reflect that the sole member of the Corporation shall be the County of Steuben acting by and through the Chair of the Legislature of the County; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to appoint the Board of Directors of the Steuben Area Economic Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the By-Laws of the Steuben County Area Economic Development Corporation authorize that the number of Directors of the Corporation shall be seven (7); and

WHEREAS, the Directors of the Corporation are appointed to serve three (3) year staggered terms, excepting one appointee who shall serve a term of one (1) year.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the following persons as recommended by the Steuben County Manager are hereby appointed as members of the Steuben Area Economic Development Corporation for the terms as indicated and shall hold office until reappointed or a successor is appointed, and has qualified to wit:

January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026

Sarah Creath, Principal, BCK Partners, Inc., 27 East Market Street, Corning, NY 14830

Mike Davidson, Davidson’s Furniture, 161 Main Street, Hornell, NY 14843

January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026

Kelly H. Fitzpatrick, Chair, Steuben County Legislature, 6342 Robie Road, Savona, NY 14879

January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027

Mark R. Alger, County Resident, 109 Rumsey Street, Bath, NY 14810

Dean Strobel, General Manager, BelGioioso Cheese, 8600 Main Street, Campbell, NY 14821

January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028

Michelle Caulfield, Superintendent, Corning-Painted Post School District, 165 Charles St., Corning NY 14830

Anthony Russo, Southern Tier Provisions, 6683 Route 54 S, Bath, NY 14810

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the members shall serve without compensation except for necessary expenses, upon presentation of receipts, related to the fulfillment of their duties on the Steuben Area Economic Development Corporation; and be it further

RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to each of the above-named appointees; James C. Johnson, Executive Director, Steuben County Industrial Development Agency, 7234 Route 54 N, Bath, NY 14810; Chelsea Robertson, Executive Director, Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board, 8 Denison Parkway East, Suite 301, Corning, NY 14830; Counsel to the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency; and the County Auditor.

**Vote: Acclamation – Adopted. No – 571; Absent -643
(No – Legislator Pelham; Absent – Legislator Schu)**

RESOLUTION NO. 030-26

Introduced by K. Fitzpatrick.

Seconded by Mr. Thew.

APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE STEUBEN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

Pursuant to Section 12.19 of the Steuben County Charter and Section 895-I of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York.

WHEREAS, the By-Laws of the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency authorize as many as seven (7) members to serve on the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Board members are appointed to serve three (3) year staggered terms, excepting one appointee who shall serve a term of one (1) year; and

WHEREAS, the term has expired for various board members.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the following persons, as recommended by the Steuben County Manager, are hereby appointed (reappointed) as members of the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency for the terms as indicated and shall hold office until reappointed or a successor is appointed, and has qualified to wit:

January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026

Sarah Creath, Principal, BCK Partners, Inc., 27 East Market Street, Corning, NY 14830
Mike Davidson, Davidson’s Furniture, 161 Main Street, Hornell, NY 14843

January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026

Kelly H. Fitzpatrick, Chair, Steuben County Legislature, 6342 Robie Road, Savona, NY 14879

January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027

Mark R. Alger, County Resident, 109 Rumsey Street, Bath, NY 14810
Dean Strobel, General Manager, BelGioioso Cheese, 8600 Main Street, Campbell, NY 14821

January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028

Michelle Caulfield, Superintendent, Corning-Painted Post School District, 165 Charles St., Corning NY 14830
Anthony Russo, Southern Tier Provisions, 6683 Route 54 S, Bath, NY 14810

RESOLVED, certificates of appointment, as required by law, shall be filed with the Secretary of the State of New York, by Harris Beach Murtha, Counsel to the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency; and be it further

RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to each of the above-named appointees; the County Planning Director; James C. Johnson, Executive Director, Steuben County Industrial Development Agency, 7234 Route 54 N, Bath, NY 14810; Chelsea Robertson, Executive Director, Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board, 8 Denison Parkway East, Suite 301, Corning, NY 14830; Counsel to the Industrial Development Agency; and the County Auditor.

**Vote: Acclamation – Adopted. No – 571; Absent -643
(No – Legislator Pelham; Absent – Legislator Schu)**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Pelham, seconded by Mr. Thew and duly carried.