

SCHOHARIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
5th REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 19, 2023

Called to order by Chairman Federice at 9:02 am.

Roll call: Fourteen Supervisors and County Attorney West present. Mr. Laraway, Mr. Skowfoe, Mr. Tavenner, and Mr. VanWormer excused.

The Salute to the flag was done and Pastor Jeff Kelly gave the invocation.

Mr. Skowfoe arrives at 9:05 am.

Motion #134 by Ms. Terry, seconded by Ms. Hait, to approve the April 21, 2023 minutes. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway, Tavenner, and VanWormer.

PUBLIC HEARING - 2023 Ag District Open Enrollment

Motion #135 by Mr. Luniewski, seconded by Ms. Terry to open the Public Hearing on the 2023 Ag District Open Enrollment. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway, Tavenner, and VanWormer.

Chairman Federice asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Hearing none, he stated he would leave the hearing open for some time and close it later in the meeting.

Mr. Kossman advised there had been one addition from the enrollment.

Motion #136 by Mr. Leavitt, seconded by Mr. Rosa to take Resolution 64 out of order. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway, Tavenner, and VanWormer.

County Attorney West read Resolution 64.

RESOLUTION NO. 64

TITLE: Resolution In Opposition of the Transportation of Foreign Migrants to Schoharie County

OFFERED BY: Donald Airey Who moved its adoption.

SECONDED BY: Earl VanWormer, III Member Rules & Legislation Committee

WHEREAS, The United States of America is experiencing an unprecedented influx of foreign migrants at the Southern Border, including some that may be undocumented, that has been allowed to continue absent effective Federal Government action(s) to control and process these foreign migrants in accordance with existing laws and regulations, and;

WHEREAS, Self-proclaimed, self-designated and unprepared "Sanctuary Cities", including New York City (via MIH 2016 Resolution), are experiencing an influx of thousands of these same foreign migrants as at least a partial result of said designation as "Sanctuary Cities"

which has caused an extreme demand for housing and other social services support for these foreign migrants and;

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has issued an “Emergency Order” which includes the potential for the transporting of large number of foreign migrants to rural, upstate communities, including Schoharie County and;

WHEREAS, Schoharie County, with a small population of approximately 29,000 residents, has been and is currently experiencing its own, pre-existing crisis to house and support its own Homeless population and other underserved residents of the County in need of social services support due to a lack of housing availability, administrative capacity and other required resources, and;

WHEREAS, Schoharie County has initiated a Homeless Committee to explore solutions to the already critical need for housing and support of the existing Homeless population which are currently, in some cases, being transported to neighboring Counties due to a lack of housing and support options within Schoharie County itself and;

WHEREAS, the importation of foreign migrants would exacerbate an even greater crisis in Schoharie County that could not only jeopardize the health, safety, security and welfare of new foreign migrants due to already overburdened services, capacities, facilities and resources, but also to the existing in-County homeless population and residents and;

WHEREAS, the State of New York is better positioned and equipped to utilize State-owned and operated facilities and services, inclusive of the State’s far greater resources outside of Schoharie County which has extremely limited resources the recently issued Governor Hochul Emergency Order would unfairly impose upon Schoharie County and;

WHEREAS, the Governor and the State of New York has failed to provide transparent and supported plans to upstate, rural counties, including Schoharie County, as to how foreign migrants will be housed and served after any temporary housing and services provided by the State terminates and expires and; now, therefore, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors opposes the transportation / importation of undocumented foreign migrants to Schoharie County due to the extreme risks posed to the public safety and welfare of the migrants, the existing Homeless and at-risk underserved residents of Schoharie County and the related exponential risks to the public-at large while overwhelming County administrative social services capacity, first responder and emergency services resources in-general.

Motion #137 by Mr. Airey, seconded by Mr. Rosa to amend Resolution 64 by removing the word “undocumented” in the resolved. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway, Tavenner, and VanWormer.

Motion #138 by Mr. Rosa, seconded by Ms. Hait to adopt Resolution 64 as amended. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway, Tavenner, and VanWormer.

Chairman Federice – read the State of Emergency Declaration. NYSAC has a legal team crafting a template for State of Emergency Declarations that is meant to have a better chance than just

not doing it. I used the material provided by NYSAC and tweaked some of the language. I plan on signing the declaration later today.

Mr. Tavenner arrives at 9:09 am.

Mr. Skowfoe – I don't disagree with the declaration, but don't you have to renew it 5 days at a time?

Chairman Federice – that is the law; it must be renewed every 5 days. An emergency order is attached showing the regulatory process. We may want to tweak it or make changes. It will be posted on the website and given to the State.

Mr. Rosa – thank you for doing this so quickly.

Chairman Federice – as an update on SUNY Cobleskill, I was given a heads up on Monday from DHSES that the State plans on going to Cobleskill, other colleges in the state, psychiatric hospitals, and other state-owned facilities to house homeless people. They are checking on facilities for housing and accommodations they can provide. I met with 6 other County regional leaders on the phone and some questions came up like, what happens at colleges when students return in August, what will happen to the people being housed? The state said we need farm workers; we already have them. In our County the bigger farms have local labor that have been working at them for many years. Some other areas may need workers, but what are you to do with them when the season ends? The County has no room for them. By law, for the first 150 days up to 6 months, they are not supposed to be working so what will happen to these people. If they start working, does that mean they are free to go on their way and seek shelter? We have a big heart; we saw that with the Richmondville warming center wanting to help people, our people who were in need. I have heard that the State has come out and said they will improve the amount of reimbursements up to 50% if they have it in their budget. This is the same State that wasn't going to give us the Medicare money that was earmarked for us by the Federal government. This is the same State that has taken away our ability to assess renewable energy projects for what they are worth and the same State that has given the Power Authority the right to use eminent domain on renewable power projects and force us against our will and our ability. I don't care what they offer, I am opposed to taking their reimbursements.

Mr. VanWormer arrives at 9:20 am.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Old Stone Fort – Melinda McTaggart, Dan Beams, Gabby Goldswor & Joanna Case

Ms. McTaggart – good morning, everyone. It is indeed a pleasure for me and my crew, which I will introduce momentarily, to have an opportunity to come see you all and tell you what we have been doing at the Fort and what we plan to do this year at the Fort. I'm going to let those folks talk about the nuts and bolts, but I wanted to draw your attention to what you find on your desks. This is just a preliminary draft of what we've got.

Today, when we finish with you, we are going back to the Fort and put the finishing touches on the Boy Scouts of America Camporee, which will bring about 250 young men and family and parents to us over the weekend.

The New York State Association of County Clerks will take a tour with us on Monday. We are very busy and very happy to bring just a snippet of what we are up to. This is already out of date; there are some good things coming down the way.

I would like to introduce a new Trustee, who is Joan Wissert from Middleburgh. She has been a wonderful addition for us.

I am going to turn it over now to Joanna Case, Gabby Goldswor, and Dan Beams to tell you a little bit about what we have been doing.

Joanna Case – I'm going to draw your attention to the other flyer I dropped on your desk. This is a new project we are starting at the Fort to collect oral histories from people in the County, young and old. If you have stories to tell, please reach out. If you know anybody who has stories to tell, please e-mail or call us and give us some contact information. I am really excited to start that project. I think it is something that will move us forward. We are opening on May 27th and there will be a new exhibit on Governor Bouck. This year marks his 180th anniversary of becoming Governor. Mike West has very graciously loaned us documents from his collection, which really enhanced it. Please come visit us after May 27th to see that.

Gabby Goldswor – I am the site administrator, and this is Dan Beams, our curator. We have been working heavily in outreach this season. Some of the things we have been doing are visiting Marchand Manor, an assisted living facility in Sharon Springs twice a month and have 15 to 20 people who join us. I like to do all hands-on activities like cooking, butter churning, heirloom planting, home-made sauerkraut, and making rhubarb ice cream. They really enjoy music so the next time we go we will bring Rich Sherman to play music and sing; they all join in and we have a good time.

Dan Beams – they sing along, and it is one of the things they mentioned to me that they really enjoy. They like us to come dressed up in period wear. A lot of the stuff is Tory stuff they are familiar with and have done before. We also introduce things they haven't done before to keep them mentally and physically active. I learn as much from them as they do from us.

Gabby Goldswor – they are familiar with some of these cooking practices, grew up on farms and share their recipes.

Dan Beams – we want to work with them on oral history as well with all the vast things they have done and experiences they have had. Some of them have been born and raised and worked in Schoharie County. That is another venue we can potentially pursue.

Gabby Goldswor – we also did the Maple Festival for the first time in a long time. It was very successful and fun. We saw about 1,500 to 2,000 people and had hands on activities such as doing laundry with washboards, writing exercises, calligraphy, quill pens and ink, and chalk and chalkboard. We will also be doing the Cobleskill Fair all week this year. We have also been doing outreach through Facebook with cooking demonstrations using our beehive oven and our

open-hearth fireplace, which we are very fortunate to have. Making seasonal items like stinging nettles jam, soup, fiddle head fern quiche and more ice cream. I also contacted SUNY Cobleskill and hope to do some cooking programs with them. We did Schoharie Days at Schoharie School with about 360 kids participating in butter churning and apple pressing.

County Attorney West – Dan, you know what I want you to talk about, the weapons. Not everybody knows.

Dan Beams – There were a series of thefts at the Fort in June of 1971, and there was a whole slew of militaria artifacts taken from the Fort. Investigations were done, State Police and Sheriff's Department were involved, but nothing was recovered through those particular efforts. We got a call in 2018 from a detective around the Philadelphia area. They had found one document from the Schoharie County Sheriff's Department that linked our thefts and burglaries with ones they had been working on since 2009. There was a whole crew that cased different historical societies and museums from Pennsylvania to Missouri and up to Maine. They knew what they were looking for, found what was there, how to get in, go back and break in and take what they wanted. Through efforts in the District Attorney's office in Pennsylvania, detectives and others, they were hot on the trail and found out we were linked. This gave them another avenue of stuff to pursue. The detectives came to Schoharie around 2019 and we went over everything we had, including photos. They already had a suspect in custody but were trying to leverage more information out of him. They had raided his house and found a secret area in his attic loaded full of stuff and they were trying to leverage as many things on the indictment as to where the other stuff was. The detectives are by no means finished but they have taken the suspect to court and got some of the information they were looking for and through those efforts they were able to return four guns stolen in 1971 back to us. One particular musket tells a story; it was manufactured in Concord Massachusetts and potentially used there during the Lexington and Concord conflicts and at some point, ended up here. It had somehow got into the collection of the Museum of the American Revolution, from Valley Forge over to that museum. We agreed to keep it on loan down there on exhibit with our name on it, on loan from the Old Stone Fort Museum and Historical Society. It transcends Schoharie County and tells a bigger story - the origins of the revolution. We are working with curators down there to keep it on loan for the foreseeable future. The other three pieces will be coming back at some point; a Civil War musket, and a couple other revolutionary pieces will be coming back. There should be other good things that come out of this, like good press and collaborations.

County Attorney West – it is my understanding that musket was one out of two known muskets that were actually created by the gentleman who owned the farm where they had the clash of the British and the Americans in Concord.

Dan Beams – according to one of the historians out in Concord, he has only found one musket made by this particular man.

County Attorney West – it is valued at over \$50,000.

Dan Beams – every item that was being repatriated needed an appraisal. I assume this may be a low-ball insurance value for it. The actual value - not only for the rarity of the piece but also

the history it represents - that is probably a low number.

Ms. Terry – I just want to say I am so glad you haven't lost your front key to the Fort.

Dan Beams – it is just a copy that goes everywhere with me.

Ms. McTaggart – thank you to Dan Crandell and the DPW staff for setting our new National Register marker at the Fort that was provided by the Pomeroy Foundation. We will be doing a little ceremony unveiling it.

County Attorney West – you have something coming up in your town as well.

Chairman Federice – the Town of Conesville purchased the Peter Couchman house. It is a slow process, but ultimately the goal is to make it our Town Hall and Courtroom with a heavy emphasis on it as a repository for all our historic artifacts and documents and making them available to the public versus what we have today, which is cramped storage and not the best storage situation. We are looking for grants to restore the building and we did get a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation for an historic marker commemorating Peter Couchman and the history of the building. He was quite a colorful fellow. He was a Town Supervisor, an Assemblyman, and when he wasn't an Assemblyman, he got the deed from the State and was using it as an armory. In the 1870s he deeded it over to Schoharie County and it has been with us since then and serving a good purpose now. That is Peter Couchman's tie to the Old Stone Fort. He went out to the Dakotas in the early 1880s, still staying a Conesville resident, and became an Indian agent. They loved him because he was honest and forthright and defended them when they needed it. It was supposed to be a short term, but they kept asking him to stay and he stayed for 20 years. During that time, he was involved in the Constitutional Convention for the territory of South Dakota to become the state of South Dakota. On the first election there he ran unsuccessfully for Lieutenant Governor. When he returned on the train, he had an escort all the way to Conesville by several of the Sioux Nations that wanted to see him home safely and he lived out his days here. We are going to have a dedication ceremony in June for the sign that the Pomeroy Foundation gave us and then tours before and after the restoration. The engineer that looked at it said the building had good bones. Today we have 2 x 4s and this has 6 x 6 beams and is solid. It is a challenge but will be fun putting it back together.

Josiah Brown, NY Sherpa & Cassandra Harrington, Destination Marketing Corp.

Ms. Harrington – I am Cass Harrington, President and CEO of Destination Marketing Corporation. We represent Schoharie County and as you recall, a year and a half ago we enlisted Josiah to help us figure out how to better manage our visitor economy here in Schoharie County. We have a draft of our report, and we are working through the final delivery of that. Josiah has come in today to give us a specific Board of Supervisors update on the project itself, that is nearing completion. Very soon, within the next couple weeks we will have a much longer full roll out of the results of the study as well as participation and feedback from those who are in attendance. Thank you for having us.

Mr. Brown – it is good to be back; I have missed this beautiful Route 30 corridor I've been on so many times during this project. Normally at the end of a project like this we will do a 2 to 2 ½ hour presentation because there is a lot of nuances we have gone through. We deliver the

report and then come in and try to explain all of the nuances of the report. We have truncated this down to what may come back to your desk, that is the essence of the three main points I want to talk about in the report. We are in very interesting, opportunistic times for Schoharie County.

I am known as the New York Sherpa in the tourism industry and have traveled about 800,000 miles in the nineteen years across rural counties in the state working to promote travel and tourism. I have really gone the opposite direction of my colleagues in consulting; they work on large cities. I work to specialize in rural counties and communities not just in New York, but across America. I live in Delaware County and sat on the New York State Tourism Industry Association for years.

Challenges vs. Opportunities - The report will not deliver any earth-shattering realities; your results are very common for rural communities but are immediate in the need to be addressed. The visitor economy and the stewardship of it is going to be one of the leading indicators of success. How well you are growing the visitor economy is a leading indicator. All the challenges are also opportunities.

Generation Shift – people grow up in an area and take family vacations, but when they become 50-60, closer to retirement, they begin to travel more extensively. The tourism industry was first built on family vacations and then focused on older people. Millennials have changed the visitor economy more than any other generation. They are a demographic that traveled 4 to 5 times per year and are a generation that influenced other generations to travel more into rural, more remote spaces. This group liked craft beverages, walking trails, hiking trails and beauty and outdoors and camping. Once the millennials had children, they started to settle down in places they loved to visit and looked for a work, live, play balance of community. How we keep our own people in the area in which they were raised is by building assets in the community that are here for the residents as well as the visitors. After COVID this generation changed to wanting more open spaces, clean air, less crime, etc. giving rural areas more opportunities now than they ever had.

Statistics - 2009 – 2019 – 243,800,000 visitors (+18%); economic impact of \$117 billion; direct spending \$67.6 billion; state and local taxes \$8.5 billion; 938,800 jobs; 1 in 10 jobs in New York; 3rd largest industry (6th)

Economic Development – work, live, play and family; love where you live and work there. Working from home is an option now. If you build a place where business has to be, you'll build a vibrant place where people want to visit, and economic development will happen. This is the life cycle of the industry that all starts with a visit.

Quality of Place – healthcare, technology, community, and manufacturing; all these companies are looking for quality of place.

Population – one of the leading indicators we look at. Schoharie County is either 5th or 6th least populated county. In looking at the trend, it is a concerning trend, and the challenge, the downward hook at the end in 2020. The opportunity to stabilize and fix that is right in front of you to whatever level you deem acceptable. The good news is that if you look at the age

distribution, you have not gone behind that curve when compared to New York and the rest of the United States, so now is the time.

Role of Destination Marketing - the most important role of Destination Marketing is to build a brand. Other important roles include marketing and selling of a destination, championing events, connecting public and private, and conducting opportunities.

Tourism Industry – pride of place, employment, youth employment and training, small business success, beautification funds, tax relief and community stability. Visitors bring investment. It starts with a visit; they fall in love with the place, and they become residents and business owners. This then brings in tax revenue, jobs, new companies and businesses and capital improvements.

The Process – initial visit “Secret Shopping”, stakeholder interviews, discovery, and analysis. What the assessment is meant to deliver to you is “what does your visitor status economy look like today and what are the next best things to do”. We spent more time in this destination than any project I have worked on because we were simultaneously helping you build photo and video assets.

Branding – tourists do not travel by county. We looked at the County by corridors, a Route 20 Corridor, the Interstate I-88 Corridor, the Route 30 Farm Stand Corridor, the Blenheim/Gilboa/Conesville is in the Northern Catskills Corridor, and the Route 10 Corridor of Richmondville/Jefferson/Summit. The County has to tell a story to the visitor and that is the first challenge Destination Marketing has to overcome; branding the County. Many other counties have the same problem.

#1 –The visitor economy is something that needs to be assessed as a specific industry; just getting visitors is not the entire industry; there are specific indicators and techniques. Embrace this industry reality like a new type of industry. From that, you can grow and build.

#2 – Branding is the most important asset of a destination and gives you the ability to win visitors and investors. The power of a brand is that it has an ability to win people. Example: the brand “Hollywood” is very powerful. You need to move past just the county name and create a simple brand and a simple tag line that people will remember.

#3 – Arrangement with Destination Marking – promoting two counties under the same organization is rare. One of the biggest issues smaller rural communities face is they don’t have enough money or manpower to create and deliver their message. In this case, you have an office of four people that is in tune with state and national norms and agency level work coming out for two counties. They can go out and win bus tours and international visitors to come into the County. Go to conferences and talk to a hundred bus operators. That is much more difficult out of a county office than it is for a tourism company. This arrangement is an extraordinary benefit for the County.

You will get the full report. I hope you will read the full report, to really see what the position is today with visitor economy and where to go. I see a future of really beginning to talk and gather information about how we grow and steward a visitor economy. We have to grow a

visitor economy in order to grow and attract our youth back and to attract new minds here to stabilize the community, but we have to do it in a way that it is very sensitive to the residents.

CORRESPONDENCE AND RESOLUTIONS FROM TOWNS & OTHER COUNTIES

Chairman Federice – are there any questions or comments on the public hearing? There being none, we need a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion #139 to close the public hearing on the 2023 Ag District Open Enrollment made by Ms. Terry, seconded by Mr. Luniewski. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

Mr. Kossman – there will be a resolution on this at the June meeting.

SELECT COMMITTEE AND GOAL REPORTS

County Buildings Security – Ms. Hait

We met with Otsego County so they could see what we had done for Social Services and got quite a few good ideas from them that we will hash over at our next meeting, which is scheduled for June 27th at 9 am at OES.

Economic Development & Tourism Strategy – Mr. Luniewski

We are waiting on Korsah for a law that is out there we wanted to track down and present to the Board, on Alicia Terry for a motion to see where Economic Development fell, if under the County Administrator, and on a report from the Occupancy Tax Board on the agreement with Destination Marketing Corporation who are meeting on May 23rd. We will meet after May 23rd.

Chairman Federice – the Promissory Note discussed at the Monday Board Meeting has been signed, sealed, and delivered. We have a process for the next 60 days to come to agreement with the owner of the hotel site to structure incentives within the mortgage.

County Attorney West – he completed the purchase and called me that night and thanked us all for our assistance.

Homeless Strategy – Mr. Rosa

We are looking at other opportunities in case the old PSF building doesn't become viable and will not meet again until the GPI report is completed. One thing I want to inject in here is with Hochul's mandates and emergency dictatorship, something we are not paying attention to, even though we did put an emergency order in place and resolution, I don't think the County understands, or maybe it hasn't gotten out there yet, just how many people we are talking about coming into our County, coming into our State, illegal aliens, illegal migrants. According to Hochul, 4-5,000 per week from New York City into Upstate New York. Now let's use the 4,000 rather than 5,000 and let's say there are only 50 counties available, because some of the bigger ones are pushing back pretty hard, that is roughly about 400 per year in the County, 1/7th of our population over a period of time. Under the circumstances, we have 22 homeless families that we are taking care of – that we are struggling to take care of, costing roughly from \$1.5 - \$2 million per year. Imagine just doubling that. That could be a week. It doesn't end

there, 2.76 million people in 2022 came across our borders, 5,000 per day, no medical, no checking in to see what they have. This is a stress and strain on all of us, our tax payers, our hospitals, all our services. We have to put numbers to this. We can't just put a resolution out there and say they are not coming, because it is possible the State will overrun us, and they will be here anyway. Already in New York City they are putting them in high schools in gymnasiums, and in some high schools parents have actually got them removed, but where do they go – they are coming to us. Be prepared because it is going to get ugly. It is a lot of people and we are struggling to take care of our own taxpayers, our own veterans. Recently in Newburg, they kicked homeless veterans out of a hotel because they were going to get paid more for the migrants, illegal aliens. A wedding venue, 30 days before their wedding was cancelled because they want to fill the hotel up with illegal aliens. Under the circumstances, this is what we have coming. I wanted to make sure you are all aware and anybody watching or listening should spread the word because it is time we do something about this. This is absolutely ridiculous, we are not prepared for it.

Mr. Tavenner – are they really illegal if we open the door and let them in?

Mr. Rosa – they are illegal because they came across the border without doing their due diligence.

Mr. Tavenner – I am just unhappy with the illegal term.

Mr. Rosa – there are people that have done their paperwork and have waited years to come here to the U.S.

Mr. Tavenner – I feel the same way, but the fact remains that some senile old man opened the door and let 6 million people in.

Mr. Rosa – you are right.

Mr. Tavenner – but they are just people.

A lively discussion continued on the matter.

Chairman Federice – the problem is with the gatekeeper. We need to make our concerns known, make a lot of calls and push back the best we can.

Mr. Airey – GPI was onsite Monday and Tuesday of this week. Thank you to Dan and Jamie for accommodating them. I will push hard for the report but may not have it by next month.

Mr. Leavitt – no matter what they are referred to it is still an increased burden. The State has already asked for \$4 billion from the Feds so far. The State doesn't say the amount of reimbursement they will give.

Mr. Tavenner – their first act when they enter the country is to break the law. I have a lot of sympathy for them.

Chairman Federice – I think the frustration is, not necessarily with the people but with the gatekeepers that say, hold on, we have a process here but come on in anyway. We are the victims of it, so we have to push back, we have to make our concerns known.

Ms. Hait excused at 10:32 am.

Law Enforcement Merger – Mr. Leavitt

LaBarge is sending out questionnaires and we will be meeting on May 25th for an update.

Ms. Hait returns at 10:36 am.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mr. Luniewski

Motion #140 by Mr. Luniewski, seconded by Mr. Weinhofer to authorize the Commissioner of Public Works to sign letters of agreement for architectural and engineering services on the Courthouse ceiling and exterior repairs and painting and repairs to the old Health Department building so that contracts can be drawn up for the Chairman to sign. Voice vote carried.

Excused: Laraway.

Motion #141 by Mr. Luniewski, seconded by Mr. Vroman to support increasing the amount paid to towns for plowing and sanding beginning in January 2024. This will be discussed during the budget process. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

Motion #142 by Mr. Luniewski, seconded by Mr. Hampel to fund a new vehicle for Probation for transporting inmates by appropriating \$55,000 from Fund Balance A.599.0000 to their Vehicle Appropriation line A.3140.2412. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

Motion #143 by Mr. Luniewski, seconded by Mr. Haslun to approve entering into a contract with VHB for the provision of GIS services to the County with an initial 7-month contract from June 1 through December 31, 2023, and reviewed annually. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

Motion #144 by Mr. Luniewski, seconded by Mr. Leavitt to approve the purchase of Adobe Pro software for the Treasurer's office at a cost of \$118.41 with yearly renewal at \$250.00 to be used for completing deeds. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

Motion #145 by Mr. Luniewski, seconded by Mr. Hampel to approve the April Wladis Law Firm invoice for the EWP Streambank project in the amount of \$11,862.50. Voice vote carried. Opposed: Skowfoe, Excused: Laraway.

Mr. Skowfoe – how do we justify a projected increase in the fund balance of another \$8,268,565?

Mr. Luniewski – as mentioned last month, vacant employee lines equated to \$3 point something million, fringe when positions are fully funded, according to Korsah, puts us up to \$4 million, the last four is \$1 million from the tax sale and the rest from sales tax revenue. Next month, because this has happened a number of years in a row, I will make a motion that going

forward if positions are not filled with an actual individual, those funds sitting in a personnel line at the end of the year will be applied to reduce taxes - not set aside to reduce taxes - but to actually reduce taxes versus blowing up the budget because we have \$2.5 million sitting in personnel lines that are vacant. That will be much better and eliminate that fund balance growth.

Chairman Federice – I like the idea, but I want to ask CJ, how many open positions you have right now.

Ms. Smith – 64 open positions.

Mr. Skowfoe – do we need all of them? Is there any work not being done?

Ms. Smith – I am working with Korsah on consolidating positions.

Mr. Skowfoe – is work not happening?

Ms. Smith – work is happening, but overtime is higher.

Mr. Rosa – it is not for lack of trying.

Chairman Federice – it is an everywhere problem.

Mr. Airey – I like Alex's idea. Jobs are getting completed but we need to look deeper. Departments are overtaxed. What enhancements are we missing? It is our duty to serve the public.

Mr. VanWormer – are we not competitive salary wise? Is there a lack of trained people?

Mr. Vroman – one reason is people would rather sit at home and make more money. A popular restaurant in the area had to close its dining room because they can't get people.

Ms. Smith – with the recent 5% raise along with the change to 40 hours in DPW is a significant raise. In a month or so, DPW's vacancies should be reduced.

Ms. Wollaber-Bryan – a lot of people are now able to work from home.

Economic Development – Ms. Terry

No motions. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24th at 4 pm. Farr Technology will be giving a presentation on the Broadband Study they have done for the County to prepare us for the funding that will be available through the State and Federal government; all are invited to attend.

ARPA – Ms. Terry

Motion #146 by Ms. Terry, seconded by Mr. Tavenner to proceed with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project recommendations made by the joint Economic Development and Finance Committees on May 17, 2023, as follows:

Project approved for immediate ARPA funding:

- Tri-County Landfill Leachate \$199,412.85
- Animal Shelter Improvements \$ 45,000.00

Project budget increased for:

- Route 7 Shovel Ready. Increase original \$200,000.00 project award by \$800,000.00 for a total project cost of \$1,000,000.00

Total new ARPA Funds awarded: \$1,044,412.85

Voice vote carried. Opposed: Manko, Excused: Laraway.

Buildings & Purchases – Mr. Weinhofer

Motion #147 by Mr. Weinhofer, seconded by Mr. Rosa to allow the Middleburgh Rotary Club to host a 5k Run/Walk on a portion of Clauverwie Road on May 26th from 7-8 pm. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

Motion #148 by Mr. Weinhofer, seconded by Mr. Luniewski to allow Humana to set up a table in the vestibule one day per week from 9-3 pm. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

Extension, Agriculture, Conservation – Mr. Luniewski

No motions. Everything is in the minutes.

Highway – Mr. Tavenner

Motion #149 by Mr. Tavenner, seconded by Mr. Weinhofer to accept the recommendation of the Commissioner of Public Works to award the annual County bid for vendors and materials as received from the lowest responsible bidders on May 4, 2023 at 10 am. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

Motion #150 by Mr. Tavenner, seconded by Mr. Haslun to accept the recommendation of the Commissioner of Public Works to accept the bids received for the replacement of the High Street Bridge over Bear Gulch Brook and to award the project to ING Civil, Inc. of Watervliet, NY as the lowest qualified and responsible bidder in the amount of \$1,979,800.00. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

Transportation – Mr. Rosa

No motions were made at the May 2, 2023 meeting but I would like to make the following motion that was just requested. Basically, it is for Boy's State. American Legion supports Boy's State to bring eight individuals out so that over the course of four days they learn about government, civics, and history. They all get elected into their positions and get to create a form of government and work it as we do here.

Motion #151 by Mr. Rosa, seconded by Mr. Tavenner to allow the use of two vans from Public Transportation to transport passengers to Morrisville College to participate in the American Legion Oratory Competition. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

Historical, Planning, Promotion, Youth & OFA – Ms. Manko

Motion #152 by Ms. Manko, seconded by Ms. Terry to authorize the Chairman to sign the Annual Plan with New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA). Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

Motion #153 by Ms. Manko, seconded by Mr. Luniewski to schedule a Manufactured Home Replacement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public hearing for 9:00 a.m. at the June 16, 2023, Schoharie County Board of Supervisors meeting. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

There will be two vacancies on the Schoharie County Planning Commission at the end of June. If anyone in your town is interested, please contact Zach Thompson.

Mr. Nickle - Former members need to have been off the Commission for a full term of three years before being on again.

Law Enforcement – Mr. Leavitt

No motions. Everything is in the minutes.

Public Health – Mr. Rosa

No motions. Everything is in the minutes.

Rules & Legislation, Elections – Mr. VanWormer

No meeting.

Management & Policy Review – Ms. Hait

The next meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2023, at 2:30 pm in Room 360.

Energy – Mr. Airey

No meeting. I am working with committee members to schedule a meeting for the third or fourth week in June. There are issues with some projects moving forward.

Human Services - Mr. VanWormer

No motions. Everything is in the minutes.

Radio & Emergency Services – Ms. Hait

No motions. Everything is in the minutes.

Flood – Mr. Airey

No meeting. The May meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24th at 5 pm. New York City Department of Environmental Protection will be presenting at the June Board meeting. I will need an Executive Session later in the meeting for developments in the streambank project.

Personnel – Mr. Vroman

Motion #154 by Mr. Vroman, seconded by Mr. Leavitt to grant permission to purchase Adobe Pro subscription for one computer in the Personnel Office at a cost of \$188 for the remainder of 2023 with an automatic renewal in subsequent years. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.

Solid Waste – Mr. Skowfoe

No motions. Everything is in the minutes.

Audit – Ms. Terry

No meeting. The May meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24th at 3 pm. We will be discussing the AUD and fund balance.

Ms. Terry – we need to take a look at our weighted voting. Some changes since the Supreme Court action in 1968 and one of those things is that in order to determine the weighted votes counties are now obligated to comply with what is known as the Banzhaf Index. To give you an idea of what that looks like in terms of a picture, they used a scatter diagram in the Livingston County report. What it is weighing is the voting power, based on the percentage of time that a representative may comprise part of a potential winning coalition. There are a lot of statistics behind that.

Mr. Tavenner – how did we get there from one man, one vote? Is it just math?

Ms. Terry – it absolutely is math, Alan. In essence, we are the chief elected in our respective towns, but the towns all have different populations, so our weighted voting system has been based on those populations. We have not had an outside entity take a look at our weighted voting in three decades. It is typically more of a home-grown process but in light of the fact that there is this requirement now to perform this analysis, I am suggesting or recommending that the County explore bringing on a consultant to work with us on this. I will use Otsego County as an example. While they have a Legislature, they still needed to perform the same analysis and the Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz performed that for under \$8,000 for Otsego County. I am not certain what Livingston County paid to have Center for Government Research (CGR), a private nonprofit firm, to do their report. My point is there are firms or organizations out there that specialize in this type of work. Delaware County has also hired the Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz to do theirs. Their Board of Supervisors is similar to ours and rely on weighted voting to comply with the 1968 Supreme Court mandate.

Mr. Tavenner – I don't understand any of this, excuse me. We have 16 towns they all have a population based on the 2020 census, you add up the people in those 16 towns and weight the voting that way. Why is this the process?

County Attorney West – that is what we have done the last two decades. We basically looked at Blenheim and they had 330 people – that is 33 votes. We took that position because Delaware County was doing that way back. The time before when we actually went through this process, I think it was between \$11 and \$14,000 in 1990. The gist of this whole thing is trying to figure out in the Town of Blenheim how they could influence any vote. The other thing you need to think about is the last time we really discussed this we had Camp Summit going and the college and we made the choice not to include either of those in the population. Because for example, if the college was included in that the votes in Cobleskill would have gone up to 6 or 700 votes which would have been a really large controlling factor. I don't know what Alicia's thoughts are on whether the college needs to be included in that or not in the calculated population.

Ms. Terry – technically, they are represented by Werner. To try to help Alan, I am going to try use words prepared by CGR. Essentially, when they talk about this Banzhaf Index explanation, a Banzhaf Index calculates the percentage of time a particular voter may be the critical voter that holds the swing vote during a voting situation. Different voters' groups group together in coalitions to reach the quota necessary to cast a vote. For example: for a simple majority quota or a 2/3rds majority quota, a particular voter is a critical voter or a swing voter if their number of votes that is their weighted votes is enough to make the difference in whether or not a particular vote passes or fails. There are many different coalitions that can be formed by different combinations of voters and each voter will only be critical to a portion of these combinations or possible coalitions. The number of combinations or coalitions in which a particular voter is the critical vote is divided by the total number of possible combinations or coalitions and this percentage becomes that voters Banzhaf Index. My point is it has been 30 years since we have had an outside entity look at this. While I am absolutely positively flattered that folks believe I have the skill set to accomplish this, I'm not foolish enough not to think that someone may question my motives, my math or my abilities with an Excel or Access spreadsheet. Particularly around the Banzhaf Index. It is my recommendation that the County, either through the County Administrator's office or the Clerk of the Board's office, seek a firm. I have identified at least two firms that can do it and probably more, that can do work on this. That way we have an independent, neutral third party to make that happen.

County Attorney West – they come up with different models, so it is not just “this is what you get”. They give different models, and you choose which model you want to use.

Chairman Federice – these models will be defensible.

County Attorney West – yes. I always look at it like this, what we have done for the last 20 years, we had a rational basis for what we did. 330 we gave you 33 votes. It is not a bad idea now that it has been 30 years since we have done this.

Mr. Leavitt – when I sit as Supervisor for the Town of Carlisle, I represent those 1,700 people. When I sit here on the Board of Supervisors, I represent all the whole County, not just those 1,700 people. I am a firm believer of one person, one vote because of the fact that when I make a vote, it is affecting everybody in the County as well as the 1,700 people in Carlisle. In a lot of cases, I have seen that because of the weighted vote it does not give fair representation throughout the County. I think a study is long overdue and we should take a look at how this is going to be done.

Mr. Skowfoe – I think John kind of took every word I had in my mouth. I feel the same way, we represent the whole County when we sit here.

Mr. VanWormer – I would echo what both of them said. I don't think it is rocket science. Alicia has come up with a couple of people who have already done it with contiguous counties to us. We can defend it and if they give us options, we can look at the options and select the one we feel is best for us. Alicia, while I think you could do this, I have no doubt in my mind, I think your idea is a good one and I think we should hire one of those companies.

Mr. Skowfoe excused at 11:08 am.

Mr. Hampel – I agree with John’s statements. When we sit here, we do represent the whole County, not just our constituents at our town level. The question I have is are these two entities you identified who have done this, do they use the same model?

Ms. Terry – yes, you are required to use the Banzhaf Index. In theory, anybody who does this work would arrive at the same result. I absolutely agree and concur with John and everyone else around the table but unfortunately in 1968 the U.S. Supreme Court didn’t.

County Attorney West – it is all about protecting the big towns from the small towns. Little Blenheim can control the day on a one man, one vote system.

Mr. Skowfoe returns at 11:10 am.

Chairman Federice – suggested having the County Administrator’s office pursue an entity to perform this task and bring it back to the Board with a cost and preferred entity next month for a motion.

County Attorney West – are we going to include the college in this?

Chairman Federice – the Census Bureau records people whoever they are, where they are on April 1st.

Ms. Terry – I think the best thing to do is to work with whoever we choose to engage with on this subject and make sure they understand this has been a point of discussion and make sure they understand how the calculations have been done in the past and rely on their expertise to guide us.

County Attorney West – if we include them, that means sales tax would be higher for that piece.

Ms. Stanton-Terk – I am very familiar with what Alicia just said and understanding all of your points, but the law is the law. You really have to decide one of two things; using the Banzhaf Index you need someone really skilled in statistics to do those figures and it is what it is. There are other counties that have based on population and some of them have 88 votes, some have 1,000 votes; it is just the way it is going to be. College students are there voluntarily. They are present in the Village of Cobleskill where they should be represented. Ten months out of twelve whether they vote or not doesn’t matter, they are still part of that population and members of our community. You have already pretty much decided you want to be one man, one vote and to John’s point, I don’t disagree with you. You just have to decide it is one or the other. If you don’t do the weighted vote, you will essentially become a Legislature.

Ms. Wollaber-Bryan – we are only one of nine counties still using weighted voting in the state.

Mr. Tavenner – one of those nine must have a college in it. This is not a unique situation.

Ms. Manko – this is an opportune time to recognize Alicia for her Community Leader Award that she received from the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Terry – NYSAC did a presentation on redistricting in 2021 and they indicated of the 57 counties in New York State 16 are governed by a Board of Supervisors and all require weighted voting. 41 counties have Legislatures.

County Attorney West – we have been down this road before in the thirty years I have been here, and it has always gone down in flames. As a Supervisor in your town, you are responsible for your town. In a Legislature, you would have other areas that you would represent. It was always felt that you had a better impact just representing your town rather than diluting and spreading yourself out.

Chairman Federice – if you have legislative districts, they are subject to redistricting every ten years.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 54

TITLE: APPROVING FIRST SEMI-ANNUAL MORTGAGE TAX REPORT OF 2023

OFFERED BY: Alex Luniewski Who moved its adoption.

SECONDED BY: Earl VanWormer, III Member Rules & Legislation Committee

WHEREAS, the County Clerk and the County Treasurer have filed the first semi-annual mortgage tax report with the Clerk of this Board, as required by Section 261 of the Tax Law, and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee of this Board has submitted the following report apportioning to the towns and villages within the county their share of such moneys, as follows:

TOWN	TOTAL TAX ALLOCATED TO TOWN	TAX APPORTIONED TO TOWN	TAX APPORTIONED TO VILLAGE
BLENHEIM	\$1,961.29	\$1,961.29	
BROOME	3,259.00	3,259.00	
CARLISLE	8,679.22	8,679.22	
COBLESKILL-VILL	51,265.31	34,962.05	16,303.26
CONESVILLE	9,751.35	9,751.35	
ESPERANCE-VILL	12,433.49	11,490.03	943.46
FULTON	9,490.07	9,490.07	
GILBOA	12,860.93	12,860.93	
JEFFERSON	9,604.29	9,604.29	
MIDDLEBURGH-VILL	19,776.92	15,873.83	3,903.09
RICHMONDVILLE-VILL	12,396.65	10,983.46	1,413.19
SCHOHARIE-VILL	23,667.96	19,916.38	3,751.58
SEWARD	14,539.17	14,539.17	
SHARON-VILL	12,767.74	9,498.29	3,269.45
SUMMIT	13,061.16	13,061.16	
WRIGHT	<u>15,364.49</u>	<u>15,364.49</u>	
	\$203,879.04	\$201,295.01	<u>\$29,584.03</u>

RESOLVED, that the above report be and it hereby is approved, and pursuant to Section 261 of the Tax Law, that the warrant of this Board be and is hereby issued for the payment to the respective tax districts of the amounts credited, and that the County Treasurer be and he is hereby directed to pay the respective tax districts the amounts so credited.

Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

RESOLUTION NO. 55

TITLE: APPORTIONMENT OF SALES TAX REVENUE SHARING AMONG RESPECTIVE TOWNS AND VILLAGES FOR 1ST QUARTER 2023

OFFERED BY: Alex Luniewski Who moved its adoption.

SECONDED BY: Earl VanWormer, III Member Rules & Legislation Committee

RESOLVED, that the Schoharie County Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to pay and distribute the 1ST Quarter of 2023 Sales Tax Revenue to the various Towns and Villages of Schoharie County, as follows:

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>MUNICIPALITY SHARE</u>
BLLENHEIM	\$ 13,983.78
BROOME	12,358.81
CARLISLE	22,585.06
COBLESKILL [V]	49,631.88
COBLESKILL [T]	25,932.48
CONESVILLE	12,116.72
ESPERANCE [V]	3,300.36
ESPERANCE [T]	15,983.35
FULTON	15,923.77
GILBOA	37,621.55
JEFFERSON	18,715.60
MIDDLEBURGH [V]	13,690.80
MIDDLEBURGH [T]	22,276.73
RICHMONDVILLE [V]	7,788.47
RICHMONDVILLE [T]	19,628.94
SCHOHARIE [V]	12,373.25
SCHOHARIE [T]	27,787.85
SEWARD	17,549.16
SHARON [V]	11,507.38
SHARON [T]	14,880.64
SUMMIT	14,530.53
WRIGHT	<u>21,720.87</u>
	\$411,887.98

Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

RESOLUTION NO. 56

TITLE: APPOINTING PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR

OFFERED BY: Earlin Rosa Who moved its adoption.

SECONDED BY: Earl VanWormer, III Member Rules & Regulation Committee

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Schoharie County Board of Health and with the approval of the New York State Department of Health Commissioner, Dr. Nicole Blanchard is hereby appointed to a [6] year term effective retroactive to May 15, 2023 and expiring May 15, 2029, as Public Health Director of the Schoharie County Health Department, pursuant to Section 351 of the Public Health Law, in the non-competitive class of Civil Service with a starting salary of \$90,978.00, and thereafter the salary each year to be fixed by the Board in it's Annual Budget, payable by the County Treasurer in the manner provided by Law.

Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

RESOLUTION NO. 57

TITLE: AMENDING THE BUDGET AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS

OFFERED BY: Alex Luniewski Who moved its adoption.

SECONDED BY: Earl VanWormer, III Member Rules & Legislation Committee

RESOLVED, that the Schoharie County Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to amend the 2023 Budget, and transfer the following amounts within said Budget:

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

<u>FROM:</u>	<u>TO:</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1. A.1990.4298 Contingent Account	A.1010.2205 Computer Equipment	3,646.59
2. A.1990.4298 Contingent Account	A.8020.4305 Printing	1,000.00
3. A.1170.4306 Misc. Expenses	A.1170.2101 Office Furniture	2,522.36
4. A.1355.1005 Tax Map Tech G09	A.1355.1004 RP Info Specialist	36,321.25
5. A.5630.4103 Gas & Oil	A.5630.4513 Building Maintenance	1,500.00
6. A.4010.4106 PH Director Contract	A.4010.1001 PH Director	67,249.00
7. A.4310.1024 Account Clerk Typist	A.4310.1050 Admin Support II	25,038.74
8. A.4310.1030 Account Clerk Typist	A.4310.1051 Admin Support II	28,176.00
9. A.3630.1027 Driver	A.3630.1015 EMT	26,016.00
10. A.1990.4298 Contingent Account	A.1610.4257 Consultant	14,030.00

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

	<u>BY</u>
1. Create Appropriation Line A.1355.1004 RP Info Specialist G12	
2. Increase Revenue Line A.3040 Data Collection Grant	23,275.00
3. Increase Appropriation Line A.1355.1017 Data Collector	23,275.00
4. Increase Revenue Line A.2680 Insurance Recoveries	8,693.89
5. Increase Appropriation Line A.5630.4309 Bus Maintenance	4,484.74
6. Increase Appropriation Line A.5630.4502 Med. Veh. Maint.	4,209.15
7. Appropriate Reserve A.899.1019 OMH Program Reserve	444.48

8. Increase Expenditure A.4252.4321 Training and Education	444.48
9. Appropriate Reserve A.899.1019 OMH Program Reserve	1,555.52
10. Increase Expenditure A.4310.4321 Training and Education	1,555.52
11. Increase Revenue Line A.4491SOR (State Opioid Response)	13,000.00
12. Increase Expenditure A.4252.4626 SOR Initiative	13,000.00
13. Increase Revenue Line A.4389 Homeland Security	610.00
14. Increase Appropriation Line A.3410.2921 Homeland Security HazMat	610.00
15. Increase Revenue Line A.3487 Healthcare Workers Bonus	73,000.00
16. Increase Appropriation Line A.4010.1912 Healthcare Workers Bonus	31,000.00
17. Increase Appropriation Line A.4252.1912 Healthcare Workers Bonus	10,500.00
18. Increase Appropriation Line A.4310.1912 Healthcare Workers Bonus	28,500.00
19. Increase Appropriation Line A.4321.1912 Healthcare Workers Bonus	1,500.00
20. Increase Appropriation Line A.4324.1912 Healthcare Workers Bonus	1,500.00
21. Create Revenue Line A.2735 Opioid Settlement Funds	
22. Appropriate Fund Balance A.599.0000	55,000.00
23. Increase Appropriation Line A.3140.2412 Vehicle	55,000.00

Motion #155 by Mr. Luniewski, seconded by Mr. Hampel to amend Resolution #57 for County Attorney Legal Fees by transferring \$50,000 from Fund Balance A.599.0000 to Legal Fees A.1420.4673 due to the line being over expended by the cost of an unexpected legal fee paid to NYMIR for out \$50,000 deductible on Public Officials Liability regarding Oorah, Inc. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

Voice vote on Resolution #57 as amended carried. Excused: Laraway

RESOLUTION NO. 58

TITLE: AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SCHOHARIE COUNTY HOUSING STUDY

OFFERED BY: Sandra Manko Who moved its adoption

SECONDED BY: Earl VanWormer, III Member Rules & Legislation Committee

WHEREAS, Schoharie County was awarded an Appalachian Regional Commission Area Development Program FY2022 Grant to help undertake a countywide housing study; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 79 of 2022 the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors committed to providing a 50% match for the project; and

WHEREAS, the County has a housing group that meets monthly which drafted and advertised a Request for Proposals in a search for qualified housing study consultants to undertake the plan; and

WHEREAS, five proposals were received, reviewed, and ranked and the review group recommends LaBella Associates to undertake the work; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors awards the project to LaBella Associates in an amount not to exceed \$138,000 and directs the Chair of the County Board of Supervisors to execute a contract and sign all necessary paperwork to undertake the project.

Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

RESOLUTION NO. 59

TITLE: AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SCHOHARIE COUNTY GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM WORK

OFFERED BY: Alex Luniewski Who moved its adoption.

SECONDED BY: Earl VanWormer, III Member Rules & Legislation Committee

WHEREAS, due to a lack of qualified GIS staff Schoharie County desires to work with a private geographic information system (GIS) firm to help coordinate mapping efforts and keep County GIS data up to date; and

WHEREAS, a private firm may assist the County with organization and details for future hiring of permanent County personnel in GIS; and

WHEREAS, the County has a GIS group that discusses issues and this group drafted and advertised a Request for Proposals (RFP) in a search for qualified GIS consultants; and

WHEREAS, all duly received proposals were reviewed and the recommendation is to have VHB of Albany, NY undertake the work; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors awards the GIS project to VHB in an amount not to exceed \$13,208 a month from June 5, 2023, until December 31, 2023, and directs the Chair of the County Board of Supervisors to execute a contract which reflects VHB's RFP response and sign all necessary paperwork to undertake the project.

Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

RESOLUTION NO. 60

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD & EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT FOR THE HUNTERSLAND ROAD CULVERT OVER COTTON HILL CREEK PIN 9754.83

OFFERED BY: Alan Tavenner Who moved its adoption.

SECONDED BY: Earl VanWormer, III Member Rules & Legislation Committee

WHEREAS, bids were received for the Huntersland Road Culvert over Cotton Hill Creek, PIN 9754.83 – D036074; and

WHEREAS, James H. Maloy, Inc., 421 Albany Shaker Road, P.O. Box 11016, Loudonville, New York 12211 is the lowest responsible bidder for this project; and

WHEREAS, the Schoharie Department of Public Works has approved said bid and recommends that an agreement be executed, now, therefore be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors be and hereby is authorized to execute an agreement with James H. Maloy, Inc., at a total price not to exceed \$844,000.00, in accordance with PIN 9754.83, LD036074 dated December 22, 2022, said contract to be in such form as the County Attorney shall approve.

Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

RESOLUTION NO. 61

**TITLE: AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING IN THE FIRST INSTANCE
100% OF THE FEDERAL-AID AND "MARCHISELLI" PROGRAM-AID ELIGIBLE COSTS OF A
TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL-AID PROJECT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE**

OFFERED BY: Alan Tavenner Who moved its adoption.

SECONDED BY: Earl VanWormer, III Member Rules & Legislation Committee

WHEREAS, a project for the High Street bridge over Bear Gulch Brook [BIN 3355060] 9754.79 [the "Project"] is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the costs such program to be borne at the ratio of 95% Federal funds and 5% non-Federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the County of Schoharie desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the Federal and non-Federal share of the costs of the Preliminary Engineering/Design, Right-of Way Incidentals, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction, Construction Support, and Construction Inspection work.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors duly convened does hereby

RESOLVED that the Schoharie County Board Supervisors hereby approves the above-subject Project; and it is hereby further

RESOLVED, that the Schoharie County Board hereby authorizes the County of Schoharie to pay in the first instance 100% of the Federal and non-Federal share of the increased cost of the Right of Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition work and 100% of the Federal and non-Federal share of the cost of the Construction, Construction Support and Construction Inspection work for the project or portions thereof; and it is further resolved

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$2,692,946.00 is hereby appropriated from D5112.2923 and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phase of the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that in the event the full Federal and non Federal share costs of the project exceeds the amount appropriated above, the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors shall convene as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the New York State Department of Transportation thereof; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Schoharie be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the County of Schoharie all necessary agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal-aid and/or Marchiselli Aid on behalf of the County of Schoharie with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the County of Schoharie's first instance funding of Project

costs and permanent funding of the local share of Federal-aid and State-aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs with appropriations therefore that are no so eligible; and it further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

RESOLUTION NO. 62

TITLE: APPOINTING CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY AUDITOR AND COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT AND FIXING SALARY

OFFERED BY: William Federice Who moved its adoption.

SECONDED BY: Harold Vroman Member Rules & Legislation Committee

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Local Law #4 of 2014, Sections 475, 600 and 625 of the County Law and the Rules of Order and Procedure of this Board, JUDITH A. BEELER of the Town of Middleburgh, Schoharie County, New York, be and she hereby is appointed, as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County Auditor, and County Purchasing Agent for the term for which the membership of the Board was elected, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the compensation for the combined duties of Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County Auditor and County Purchasing Agent is hereby fixed at the sum of \$61,363.00 per annum payable by the County Treasurer in the manner provided by law.

Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

RESOLUTION NO. 63

TITLE: HONORING SHERYL LARGETEAU ON HER RETIREMENT AS CLERK OF THE SCHOHARIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OFFERED BY: William Federice Who moved its adoption.

SECONDED BY: Earl VanWormer, III Member Rules & Legislation Committee

Only recently did SHERYL LARGETEAU pull the plug and retire after twenty-five (25) years of dedicated and exemplary public service to Schoharie County. A varied career started in 1997, working with the Schoharie County Department of Health, then moving to Department of Motor Vehicles, then serving as Deputy Clerk of this Board in 2004, then gaining her "*dream job*" as Clerk of this Board for the past eleven (11) years.

It became evident years ago that Sheryl was the perfect match to serve as the Clerk of this Board. Her positive "*can do*" attitude and strong work ethic demonstrated her ability, flexibility, excellence, patience, professionalism, commitment and many times her imagination

in seeing that all work needed by this board was completed. Looking back, it is difficult to think of a challenge that she was not up for, often handling duties outside her job description, never a whisper of complaint, always distinguishing herself with her keen acumen and way of figuring out the twists and turns of the many complicated matters that face County government on a day-to-day basis. No matter the task, she always found a pathway to get the job done. Her energy, focus and drive has been the same from the start of her career to the finish. While working tirelessly behind the scenes, quietly she had her fingers and hands in almost everything that this Board touched for nearly two (2) decades.

All who entered her office were welcomed with her unique smile, laugh, and sense of humor, always making everyone feel welcome and at home as if they were a member of her family. Always ready and willing to work long and irregular hours, taking the lead during County-wide emergencies and disasters, often taking her away from family. Our tasks were made easier, our government made better and our lives were enriched by her being part of our team. Sheryl has been fantastic colleague, associate, friend, mentor, leader and sometimes even mistaken for a "saint", but above all else, the bottom line is that she will be so sorely missed, now, therefore, be it hereby,

RESOLVED, that each member of this Board stands in applause and offers its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to SHERYL LARGETEAU for her years of service and wishes her and family all the best in retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this Board is hereby directed to furnish a copy of this Resolution to SHERYL LARGETEAU.

Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

Chairman Federice - is there any other business before the Executive Session? Seeing there is none, I would like to wish Peggy a Happy Birthday. We will take a 5-minute recess before the Executive Session.

Motion #156 by Mr. Airey, seconded by Mr. Luniewski to enter into Executive Session at 11:35 am for an EWP Streambank project update that includes negotiations and legal action. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

Motion #157 by Mr. Airey, seconded by Mr. Vroman to come out of Executive Session at 11:50 am. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

Motion #158 by Mr. Vroman, seconded by Mr. Tavenner to adjourn at 11:51 am. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway

Motion #159 by Vroman, seconded by Tavenner, to adjourn at 11:51 am. Voice vote carried. Excused: Laraway.