

Tompkins County Legislature
Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved 7-18-17
Thursday, July 6, 2017 5:30 PM
Legislature Chambers

Public Hearing

Proposed Local Law No. d of 2017 - A Local Law Overriding Tax Levy Limit for 2018

Mr. Lane, Chair, called a public hearing to order at 5:30 p.m. concerning proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2017 - A Local Law Overriding Tax Levy Limit for 2018 and asked if anyone wished to speak. No one wished to speak and the public hearing was closed at 5:32 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Members and guests participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Members

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Will Burbank	Member	Present
Carol Chock	Member	Present
James Dennis	Member	Present
Rich John	Member	Present
Anna Kelles	Member	Present
Dooley Kiefer	Member	Present
Daniel Klein	Vice Chair	Present
Michael Lane	Chair	Present
Leslyn McBean-Clairborne	Member	Present
Martha Robertson	Member	Excused
David McKenna	Member	Present
Glenn Morey	Member	Excused
Michael Sigler	Member	Excused
Peter Stein	Member	Excused

Announcements of Executive Sessions, Reordering of Business, and Special Orders of the Day

Mr. Lane announced an executive session would be held later in the meeting concerning a personnel matter.

Privilege of the Floor by the Public

Sue Chaffee, Director of Immigrant Services Program at Catholic Charities and recipient of County funds, provided highlights of the services offered through the program. Because of the County's support they have been able to have the infrastructure and staff in place to provide immigration services in areas including housing, transportation, language barriers, and the refugee resettlement program.

Deborah Dawson, Village of Lansing resident, said several members of the LGBTQ+ community asked her to ask the Legislature to revisit its policy on requiring the public to provide a name in order to speak to the Legislature at its meetings. Comments were made yesterday to the Government Operations Committee and comments made by members of the Committee were in support of the current forms and

not supportive of amending it. She believes it is going to take more than a sign to make the Legislative Chambers a safe zone, and this is one area that can help.

Susan Multer, Town of Ithaca resident, spoke against the Legislature's requirement to have a person provide their name in order to speak at meetings to the Legislature. She said she attended the Government Operations Committee and referred to the discussion that took place. A simple solution was offered, but no Legislator agreed to bring it forward for consideration. She hopes this topic will be discussed again at the next Committee meeting.

Amanda, Tompkins County resident, spoke about open government and voiced opposition to the requirement to provide an individual's name in order to speak to the Legislature.

Charles Geisler, Dryden resident, spoke in opposition to the requirement to provide an individual's name in order to speak at meetings to the Legislature. He believes the requirement of having to provide a name and address can deter people, particularly those at risk from attending a meeting to speak. He asked that names and municipalities be made optional as done in other places in Tompkins County. He also suggested having a box that asks if the individual is representing themselves or another cause. He hopes the sign-in form will get reviewed again.

Report from a Municipal Official(s)

There were no municipal officials in attendance.

Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee

Resolution No. 2017-123: Endorsing the Tompkins County Housing Strategy (ID #7126)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
SECONDER:	Anna Kelles, Member
AYES:	Will Burbank, Carol Chock, James Dennis, Rich John, Anna Kelles, Dooley Kiefer, Daniel Klein, Michael Lane, Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, David McKenna
EXCUSED:	Martha Robertson, Glenn Morey, Michael Sigler, Peter Stein

WHEREAS, an inadequate supply and variety of housing options are long-standing challenges in Tompkins County that significantly impact the physical, psychological, social, and economic health and stability of many individuals and families, and

WHEREAS, the first Tompkins County Housing Strategy endorsed by the County Legislature in June 2007 established housing goals through 2014 and led to the development of the Community Housing Development Fund, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan states the principle that the county "should be a place where housing is affordable, safe, energy efficient, and appealing," and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County will not be able to meet its goals that range from greenhouse gas

emissions reduction and sustainability to economic prosperity and safe and efficient transportation systems without an adequate supply and variety of housing, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has conducted extensive public outreach to share information and gather input on housing issues and potential approaches to address community housing needs, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County completed the Housing Needs Assessment in November 2016, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County and its partners in the community developed and hosted the Tompkins County Housing Summit in November and December 2016, which provided insights and community input regarding barriers to meeting our local housing needs and ideas to overcome those barriers, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County further explored the County's role in housing through its Legislature and Department Heads retreat in March 2017, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has prepared a new Housing Strategy incorporating input and information gathered through recent housing efforts to establish targets and approaches to address community housing needs over the next ten years, and

WHEREAS, there are no financial implications associated with endorsing this Strategy although implementation of the Strategy is anticipated to have financial implications that would be reviewed by the Legislature prior to implementation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature endorses the Tompkins County Housing Strategy, dated June 2017.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Resolutions Approved Under the Consent Agenda

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Carol Chock, Member
SECONDER:	Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, Member
AYES:	Burbank, Chock, Dennis, John, Kelles, Kiefer, Klein, Lane, McBean-Clairborne, McKenna
EXCUSED:	Robertson, Morey, Sigler, Stein

Resolution No. 2017-124: Authorization to Execute Quitclaim Deeds – Sale of Foreclosure Properties at Public Auction (ID #7117)

WHEREAS, in accordance with the procedures outlined in Policy 01-07 - Land Transactions, the Government Operations Committee approved on May 3, 2017, the list below of Tax Parcels to be acquired through tax foreclosure, and then sold at public auction to recover unpaid taxes, and

WHEREAS, by tax foreclosure proceedings, the County acquired certain parcels in the County, and

WHEREAS, said properties were sold, contingent upon Legislature approval, at public auction on June 19, 2017, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That upon payment in full of the bid price, plus current taxes and filing fees, that the County Administrator be and hereby is authorized to execute quitclaim deeds for all parcels sold at the public auction:

- Town of Dryden - 601 Bone Plain Road - 30.-1-15.2
- Town of Dryden - 805 Midline Road - 59.-1-29.7
- Village of Groton - 211 Barrows Street - 108.-2-18.1
- Town of Caroline - Slaterville Road - 8.-1-4.2
- Town of Caroline - Slaterville Road - 8.-1-68
- Village of Dryden - Ellis Drive - 8.1-1-1.4
- Town of Lansing - Portland Point Road - 36.-1-2
- Town of Newfield - Elmira Road - 11.-1-20.2

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Resolutions Added to and Withdrawn from the Agenda

It was MOVED by Mr. Klein, seconded by Ms. Kelles, to add to the agenda the resolution entitled Naming of Tompkins Trust Building as the Tompkins Center for History and Culture.

A voice vote resulted as follows to add the resolution to the agenda: Ayes - 10, Noes - 0, Excused - 4 (Legislators Morey, Robertson, Sigler, and Stein). MOTION CARRIED.

There were no resolutions withdrawn from the agenda.

Government Operations Committee

Resolution No. 2017-125: Naming of Tompkins Trust Building as the Tompkins Center for History and Culture (ID #7159)

It was MOVED by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Ms. Kelles, to Call the Question. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - 7 (Legislators Burbank, Dennis, John, Kelles, Klein, Lane, and McKenna); Noes - 3 (Legislators Chock, Kiefer, and McBean-Clairborne); Excused - 4 (Legislators Morey, Robertson, Sigler, and Stein). MOTION FAILED.

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, to postpone the resolution to the next meeting. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - 3 (Legislators Chock, Lane, and McBean-Clairborne); Noes - 7 (Legislators Burbank, Dennis, John, Kelles, Kiefer, Klein, and McKenna); Excused - 4 (Legislators Morey, Robertson, Sigler, and Stein). MOTION TO POSTPONE FAILED.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne asked that the suggested name be put out to the public to ask for input; Mr. Howe said he would be willing to do that through list serves and other non-profit agencies.

This resolution was defeated by a roll call vote.

RESULT:	DEFEATED [7 TO 3]
MOVER:	Daniel Klein, Vice Chair
SECONDER:	Rich John, Member
AYES:	Will Burbank, James Dennis, Rich John, Anna Kelles, Dooley Kiefer, Daniel Klein, David McKenna
NAYS:	Carol Chock, Michael Lane, Leslyn McBean-Clairborne
EXCUSED:	Martha Robertson, Glenn Morey, Michael Sigler, Peter Stein

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2017, the Legislature approved an amendment to the County’s 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program to include the Acquisition and Improvement of the Tompkins Trust Building, and

WHEREAS, the Project Advisory Committee, comprised of all partners that will be located in the building, believes it is important to give the building a name to describe what the building is about and has presented its recommendation for a building name, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature hereby names the recently purchased Tompkins Trust Building, 110 North Tioga Street, to be the “Tompkins Center for History and Culture”.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Recess

Mr. Lane declared recess at 7:29 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:43 p.m.

Individual Member-Filed Resolutions

Resolution No. 2017-126: Adoption of Local Law No. 4 of 2017 – A Local Law Overriding Tax Levy Limit for 2018 (ID #7058)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Dennis, Member
SECONDER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
AYES:	Will Burbank, Carol Chock, James Dennis, Rich John, Anna Kelles, Dooley Kiefer, Daniel Klein, Michael Lane, Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, David McKenna
EXCUSED:	Martha Robertson, Glenn Morey, Michael Sigler, Peter Stein

WHEREAS, according to New York State’s new Property Tax Cap legislation, if a county government decides to adopt a county budget with a property tax levy that exceeds the level set by the State, the county government must pass a local law to override that cap, and

WHEREAS, adopting said local law is not predictive of the final tax levy but will provide the Tompkins County Legislature flexibility to exceed the Property Tax Cap if it is deemed necessary, and to ensure that any State recalculation of the applicable limit will not make the County inadvertently out of compliance, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held before the Tompkins County Legislature on July 6, 2017, to hear all persons interested in proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2017, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Local Law No. 4 of 2017 - A Local Law Overriding Tax Levy Limit for 2018 is hereby adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law Section 3-c, which expressly authorizes the County Legislature to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the County Legislature,

RESOLVED, further, That the Clerk of the Legislature shall publish in the official newspaper of the County a notice of adoption containing a synopsis of said local law and shall within twenty days file one certified copy in the Office of the County Clerk, and one copy with the Secretary of State.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Minutes of Previous Meeting

June 20, 2017

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [9 TO 1]
MOVER:	Anna Kelles, Member
SECONDER:	Daniel Klein, Vice Chair
AYES:	Burbank, Chock, Dennis, John, Kelles, Klein, Lane, McBean-Clairborne, McKenna
NAYS:	Dooley Kiefer
EXCUSED:	Martha Robertson, Glenn Morey, Michael Sigler, Peter Stein

Executive Session

It was MOVED by Ms. Kelles, seconded by Ms. Chock, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to discuss a personnel matter concerning a particular person. An executive session was held at 8:14 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:38 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.