

**APPROVED**

TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

## Office of the County Attorney

Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building 56 Main Street Owego, NY 13827

Peter J. DeWind County Attorney ☎ 607 687 8253 📠 607 223 7003 🌐 [www.TiogaCountyNY.com](http://www.TiogaCountyNY.com)



### FINANCE, LEGAL AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

April 14, 2026

10:30 A.M.

#### ATTENDANCE:

Legislators: Chair Monell, Ciotoli, Standinger, Aronstam, Rose, Cantella, Bunce, Brown

Staff: Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, Accounting Associate Nickels, Chief Accountant Schurter, Safety Officer Holbrook, Personnel Officer Parke, County Administrator Bailey, Payroll Coordinator Potter

Guest(s): N/A

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Legislator Bunce asked for a motion to approve March 10, 2026, minutes. Legislator Cantella made the motion seconded by Legislator Rose and was unanimously carried.

**FINANCIAL:** Safety and Legal's budget are tracking well for the year.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- **Litigation and Claims:** There are new claims that will be discussed during Executive Session.
- **Ethic Board Appointments:** Currently there are two vacancies on the Ethics Board. Next month a resolution will be presented for the re-appointment of the Minority Chair's nominee.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **County Vehicles:** The matter of damage to County-owned vehicles has been a recurring topic in recent committee meetings. County Attorney DeWind underscored that unreported incidents are ineligible for insurance coverage, creating a budgetary challenge for departments seeking repairs. Consequently, a determination is required regarding the threshold at which repair costs shift from a County-wide expense to an individual departmental liability. To address this, the comprehensive vehicle policy is currently being updated to include more stringent reporting requirements and clearly defined ramifications for non-compliance. The revised policy will be submitted to the Legislature for formal approval.

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- **Fraudulent Tolls:** The feasibility of E-Z Pass for departmental vehicles has been previously discussed. However, the current prevalence of fraudulent toll claims would make automated billing difficult to manage. Procedures need to be developed to formalize the timeline for both payment and the reporting of fraudulent activity to ensure the County is not held liable for unauthorized charges.
- **Hearing Conservation Program:** The annual hearing conservation testing for Public Works and Public Health Dental Van employees will be onsite tomorrow morning at Delphine Street.

### PERSONNEL

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant County Attorney Vacancy:** There continues to be no interest in this position.
- **County Attorney DeWind** will be on vacation for a week next month.

**RESOLUTIONS:** AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES AND AMEND ASSIGNED COUNSEL AND PUBLIC DEFENDER'S 2026 BUDGET and AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES AND AMEND ASSIGNED COUNSEL AND PUBLIC DEFENDER'S 2026 BUDGET were moved into full Legislative session without further questions.

**PROCLAMATIONS:** Fair Housing Month

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** County Attorney DeWind requested an Executive Session to discuss litigation matters. Legislator Brown made the motion and was seconded by Legislator Cantella at 11:11:06 A.M. Legislator Brown made a motion to exit Executive Session which was seconded by Legislator Ciotoli at 11:23 A.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Legislator Bunce adjourned the Finance, Legal and Safety Committee meeting at 11:24 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Christine Freyvogel*

Paralegal to the County Attorney