Tioga County Worksession Minutes

August 27, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

Rescheduled from August 20, 2026

Legislators Present:

Legislator Aronstam
Legislator Brown
Legislator Bunce
Legislator Cantella
Chair/Legislator Monell
Legislator Rose
Legislator Standinger

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Flesher

Guests:

None.

Staff present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney – *arrived at 10:43 a.m.*
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Jackson D. Bailey II, County Administrator
Breige Graven, Deputy Legislative Clerk – *departed at 11:12 a.m.*
Linda Parke, Personnel Officer - *departed at 11:00 a.m.*
Gary Hammond, Commissioner of Public Works - *departed at 11:12 a.m.*
William Ellis, Deputy Director of Emergency Services - *departed at 10:07 a.m.*

Call Meeting to Order: Legislative Chair Monell opened the ***Fourth Special Legislature Meeting of 2026*** at 10:00 a.m. for Legislature consideration of the following:

- ***Amend Resolution No. 291-19; Authorize Amended Agreement with Motorola Solutions Change Order #9 – Emergency Services***

- ***Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal Aid and State "Marchiselli" Program-Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project and Appropriating Funds***

- ***Award Contract to Broome Bituminous Products to Perform Pavement Rehabilitation Services on Stanton Hill Road/Sulphur Springs Road***

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call and Legislator Standinger led in the prayer, pledge and voting process. Special Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m. with regular Worksession immediately following.

<u>County Administrator Report:</u> County Administrator Jackson Bailey reported the following:

<u>DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT & LABOR RELATIONS</u>

POLICY REVIEW & IMPLEMENTATION:

<u>Disciplinary Procedure Policy -</u> Mr. Bailey reported that the revised Disciplinary Procedure Policy is currently under review. He anticipates submitting the revised policy, including the changes discussed at the July 9, 2026 Worksession, to Personnel Officer Linda Parke for her review and anticipates bringing forth a resolution in September 2026 for Legislature consideration.

<u>Assignment & Use of County Vehicles Policy -</u> Mr. Bailey reported that the revised draft of the Assignment & Use of County Vehicles Policy is in the final stages of review.

<u>Social Media Policy -</u> Mr. Bailey further reported that the 2026 Policy Review Committee will be meeting on August 27, 2026, to discuss the County's Social Media Policy. He stated that Chief Information Officer Brandon Clark will attend to provide additional information regarding social media use across County departments and potential improvements to ensure compliance with applicable standards. The Committee will review how various departments have been utilizing social media platforms and consider potential updates to the policy, which was last revised in 2023.

DEPARTMENT HEAD EVALUATIONS:
Mr. Bailey reported that the Self-Assessment Department Head Evaluations are ongoing. The initial appraisals submitted by Department Heads have been completed and provided to the Committee Chairs for review. Mr. Bailey stated that he is available to coordinate and attend meetings between the Committee Chairs and their respective Department Heads to review the evaluations, although the Committee Chairs may conduct the meetings independently if preferred. Mr. Bailey expressed his intention to have the finalized Department Heads Evaluations submitted to the Personnel Office shortly after the original August 31, 2026 deadline.

<u>FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & BUDGETING</u>
BUDGET OFFICER: – County Administrator Bailey distributed and reviewed the following budget documents:

- **YTD Budget Report (ALL FUNDS) as of July 2026:**

  For Objects of Revenue, Mr. Bailey reported the original budget of $100,796,636 with modifications of $18,481,649 resulting in a revised budget of $119,278,285 with actual revenue reported of $74,634,837 and a remaining anticipated revenue balance of $44,643,448. He shared we are at 63% expectation of YTD revenue as of July 2026.

For the Objects of Expense, Mr. Bailey reported the original budget of $109,596,570 with modifications of $28,512,855, resulting in a revised budget of $138,109,425 with total actual expenditures to date as of July 2026 of $65,607,437 of the remaining appropriation budget of $72,501,988. He shared we are at 48% utilization of expenditures as of July 2026.

Mr. Bailey reported the total applied fund balance at the beginning of the year was $8,799,933 with the modifications appropriating an additional $10,031,207, including General Fund and Capital Fund expenditures with a remaining applied fund balance for year-end 2026 anticipated at $18,831,140.

Mr. Bailey noted that the only amendment made during July was the appropriation of funds to create and fill a part-time Special Patrol Officer position within the Sheriff's Office, as established by Resolution No. 330-26.

- **YTD Budget Report for County Administrator Budget: A1230 & Budget A1340**

As of July 2026, Mr. Bailey reported the County Administrator's budget reflects 49.3% utilization with no concerns or challenges for 2026.

Mr. Bailey also reviewed Budget A1340 report and reported that Sales and Use Tax, Sales Tax Capital, Tax on Adult-Use Cannabis, Emergency 911, OTB Distribution, Opioid Settlement Funds, Unclassified Revenues, State Aid Casino Revenue and Fees, and Contracted Services remain on track with projected 2026 budget estimates. He noted that the sales tax payment received in July accounted for the percentage available.

Mr. Bailey explained that the amount reflected in the Contracted Services line represents funds appropriated for the five recipients of Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF) and fully expended for the first quarter.

Legislator Aronstam requested clarification that the $14,995,780.20 reported in the YTD Sales Tax line represents the amount received to date and that the 57.7% collected represents the percentage of the $26,000,000 budgeted for 2026 that has been received. Mr. Bailey confirmed that this was correct and further noted that the $11,004,219.80 reported represents the remaining available Sales Tax budget for the year.

- **High-Profile Criminal Case (HPCC)**

Mr. Bailey reported the (HPCC) budget has an available budget of $53,919.32 as of July 2026. He stated that, in August, he appropriated a portion of the available balance to the departments utilizing HPCC funding and contacted them regarding the potential need for additional funding in 2027 based on the appeals process. Mr. Bailey reported that both the Tioga County Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS) and

District Attorney's Office indicated that there may be residual HPCC-related costs in 2027. Accordingly, he intends to maintain the original $250,000 appropriation for 2027.

- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**
  Mr. Bailey provided a YTD update on the ARPA Fund budget, including total grant revenues and expenditures. He noted that the ARPA Fund will not be included in the 2027 Budget, as the funds are expected to be fully expended by the end of 2026.

- **Dresher & Malecki Preliminary Exit Interview**
  Mr. Bailey reported that he and Chair Monell attended the Dresher & Malecki Preliminary Exit Interview on August 25, 2026. They met with the external auditors to review the preliminary audit and draft financial statements. Mr. Bailey further reported that representatives from Dresher & Malecki will attend the September 15, 2026 Finance, Legal & Safety Committee meeting to present their final exit interview report to the Legislature.

CAPITAL PROJECTS:

- **Radio Communications Tower Update:**
  Mr. Bailey reported that work on the Radio Communications Towers remains on schedule, although an issue has arisen concerning the replacement of a driveway at one of the tower sites. He stated that Commissioner of Public Works Gary Hammond will bring the matter before the September 10, 2026 Public Works & Capital Projects Committee meeting to discuss potential solutions and keep the project moving forward. Mr. Bailey reported that utilities have been installed at the tower sites, with radio signal testing anticipated as early as September.

  Mr. Bailey reported that Change Order No. 9 was presented to and approved by the Legislature at today's Fourth Special Legislature Meeting He explained that the change order amends existing agreements with Motorola Solutions to authorize additional funding for repairs at the Prospect Tower site, as well as structural upgrades and modifications to the microwave system design at the Union Tower site.

- **Consolidated County Office Building (CCOB):**
  Mr. Bailey reported that the CCOB Committee met on August 26, 2026, with the primary topic of discussion being the Requests for Proposal (RFP) for demolition services at the 67 Central Avenue property. He stated that he has drafted an RFP and is reviewing it with Safety Officer Doreen Holbrook, County Attorney Peter DeWind and Commissioner of Public Works Gary Hammond before finalizing it for advertisement. Mr. Bailey stated that he anticipates having award recommendations available for the Legislature's consideration and approval by October, after which demolition scheduling can proceed.

  Mr. Bailey reported that he anticipates having a resolution for Legislature consideration at the September 15, 2026 Legislature Meeting to transfer funds. Mr. Bailey reported Chief Accountant Laura Shcurter is creating a new five-digit organization code in the County's accounting system to separately track capital expenditures associated with the new buildings. Currently, a project code is active and being used to track related expenses, but we are planning to segregate expenditures for clarity on the capital budget. He further stated that Legislators should expect a resolution in the coming months regarding the allocation of funds associated with the CCOB project.

Legislator Standinger inquired as to whether any signage would be placed at the 153 Main Street property identifying it as a potential site for future County Office Building. Legislator Cantella noted that it may be premature to do so. Mr. Bailey confirmed that such signage is generally placed once engineers begin work at the site. He further stated that additional information regarding the plans for the property could be made available to the public if the Legislature determines it appropriate.

GRANTS & SHARED SERVICES:

- **USDA FY26 Congressional Directed Spending Grant –**
  Mr. Bailey reported that he submitted a repurposed proposal regarding the $1,500,000 grant from Congressman Langworthy's Office. The revised proposal includes additional information regarding the use of the grant to offset costs associated with the five-year maintenance agreement with Motorola Solutions for the Radio Communications Tower Project. Once the forms are reviewed and finalized with the USDA, the grant funding process will move forward.

- **NYS 250th Commemoration Commission Award –**
  Mr. Bailey reported that the projects funded through the County's $15,000 New York State Education Department (NYSED) award for the 250th Commemoration remain underway and that he has finalized the award's closeout report. He further reported that County Historian Emma Sedore proposed using the approximately $6,700 remaining in the award to fund a monument commemorating female veterans of Tioga County over the past 250 years. Mr. Bailey stated that the remaining funds have been approved for the proposed project. County Historian Sedore intends to establish an external committee, including members of the American Legion, VFW and County veterans to assist with development of the proposed project.

- **ESD – 2025 County Infrastructure Grant –**
  Mr. Bailey reported that he has submitted the County's modified budget request to Empire State Development (ESD) regarding the grant associated with the purchase and planned use of the 153 Main Street property. He stated that the revised request also includes information on the HVAC project at the Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building, 56 Main Street property. Mr. Bailey reported that he has not yet received confirmation from ESD regarding approval of the revisions and intends to follow up with Director of Economic Planning and Development Brittany Woodburn regarding the status of the grant funding process.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS:

- **2026 RFP Awards/Opioid Advisory Committee –**

Mr. Bailey reported that he has received first-quarter reports from four of the five agencies awarded funding through the Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF). He stated that 25% of each award was provided up front to the agencies. Of the reports submitted and reviewed, one has raised concerns regarding compliance with reporting guidelines. The agency has submitted a third revised submission, which Mr. Bailey will review to ensure compliance with RFP requirements.

Mr. Bailey reported that none of the agencies have exceeded their initial award amounts and, therefore, no additional appropriations will be necessary. He further reported that the second-quarter funding process will transition to a reimbursement basis.

Legislator Standinger clarified that the concerns regarding the one report were not related to malfeasance, but rather to a lack of understanding of the reporting requirements. Mr. Bailey agreed and stated that the RFP guidelines are very strict regarding restricted and unrestricted funds, which has resulted in some confusion during the first round of reporting.

Mr. Bailey reported that there are multiple levels of reporting associated with the OSF, including reporting for Zero Use funds, which support non-opioid substance reduction programs, as well as restricted funds. He stated that unrestricted funds have not yet been reported but anticipates that the Department of Mental Hygiene will have that information available soon.

Mr. Bailey reported that the OSF Revenue and Expenditure reports are available on the Tioga County website, along with other pertinent information regarding the funds, in accordance with Mental Health Law 25.18. He noted that the site mirrors Wayne County's page for the OSF and includes annual reports, information on abatement funds and what is permissible per the RFP Award guidelines. The 2025 report is currently posted.

<u>ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATION</u>

LEADERS' MEETING:

Mr. Bailey reported that the most recent Leaders' Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. A representative from the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) provided a presentation on procurement requirements and current OSC expectations. Department Heads and County financial & purchasing staff attended the presentation, which Mr. Bailey described as informative and engaging. He reported that the OSC representative provided him with a copy of the presentation, which he distributed to Department Heads for future reference.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- ***Tioga County Chamber of Commerce/2026 Leadership Tioga –*** Mr. Bailey reported that he facilitated the 2026 Leadership Tioga program on August 12, 2026 at the Tioga County Sheriff's Office.

- ***Tioga County 2026 Legislative Breakfast –*** Mr. Bailey reported that Chair Monell and Legislator Cantella attended the 2026 Legislative Breakfast held on July 30, 2026, at which Mr. Bailey moderated the event. He stated that the event was well attended and that the discussion was engaging.

- ***Institute for Advancement (I4A) –***
  Mr. Bailey reported that the August 26, 2026 I4A session featured a presentation on Workplace Ethics led by an instructor from Tompkins Cortland Community College.

- ***Suicide Prevention Coalition Steering Committee –***
  Mr. Bailey reported he attended the Advocacy, Support, and Prevention (ASAP) Steering Committee meeting on July 30, 2026.

2027 Tentative Budget Update:

The following 2027 budget documents were distributed and reviewed:

- ***Summary of Preliminary Budgets by Fund –*** Mr. Bailey noted that as the tentative budget process progresses, the amounts reflected in the Summary of Preliminary Budgets by Fund for 2027 are subject to change, as the report remains very preliminary. He explained that the report compares the 2027 Summary of Level I Preliminary Budgets by Fund with the 2026 Summary of Level 5 Adopted Budgets by Fund to demonstrate potential changes between the two years and provide the Legislature with an understanding of how the tentative budget is currently tracking. Mr. Bailey reported that based on the amounts tentatively approved by the Legislature, total appropriations have increased by $3,601,038 from 2026, totaling $106,419,837 for 2027. Estimated revenue has decreased by $460,090, resulting in total estimated revenue of $68,731,904. He further reported an estimated $2,091,278 increase in the Real Property Tax.

  Mr. Bailey reported that as of the date of the meeting, the tentative appropriated unassigned fund balance for 2027 is $8,145,772, based on departmental budget requests. The appropriated unassigned fund balance included in the 2026 adopted budget was $6,175,922, resulting in an estimated increase of $1,969,850 in unappropriated unassigned fund balance.

  Mr. Bailey noted that the Capital Budget is not included in this report and that the Real Property Tax figure is a placeholder, as the actual amount has not yet been approved.

- ***Tentative Appropriations Worksheet by ORG*** – Mr. Bailey reported that this document reflects appropriations over $100,000 that exceeded the budget directive for a tentative total of $3,601,039. He noted that the report reflects appropriations only and does not account for estimated revenues. Mr. Bailey reviewed the variances by ORG against the current year 2026 budget.

  Mr. Bailey reviewed tentative changes in the 2027 budget for Foster Care, Jail, the LEMPG Grant, Day Care, Benefits, JD Care, Mental Hygiene Clinic, Assigned Counsel, ILS Hurrell-Harring, Information Technology, and County Roads. He further explained that regarding the increase in benefits, it includes a $400,000 estimate for the proposed increase based on the

New York State & Local Retirement System (NYSLRS) retirement estimate. He further explained that when the final NYSLRS retirement bill comes in, the amount could differ from the current estimate and will be adjusted as such in the tentative budget.

Mr. Bailey noted that these increases were approved by the Legislative Committees during the departmental budget presentations and remain subject to change as the tentative budget process continues.

Legislator Cantella inquired as to how many additional organization codes exist that are not included in the report. Mr. Bailey responded that there are approximately 250 additional lines. Chair Monell noted that most of the additional organization codes account for a much smaller percentage of the overall funds and, therefore, are not included in the report. Mr. Bailey confirmed and stated that additional budget information for any organization code could be provided to the Legislators upon request.

- ***Tax Cap 5-Year Analysis Worksheets –*** Mr. Bailey reviewed and explained the currently projected 2027 tax cap calculation and the five-year analysis. He explained that the tax cap formula, as prescribed by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), begins with the prior-year levy, adjusted for the Town of Richford sales tax offset, and applies the applicable tax base growth factor and allowable levy growth factor as determined by OSC. The formula also accounts for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs), including the addition of prior-year PILOTs and deduction of current-year PILOTs in determining the allowable levy limit.

  Mr. Bailey reported that projected PILOT revenues decrease from approximately $2.4 million in 2026 to approximately $959,291 in 2027. This significant reduction is a primary factor contributing to the calculated increase in the County's allowable tax levy. Based on the current preliminary calculation, the County's 2027 allowable tax levy is estimated at $29,542,160, representing an increase of approximately $2,091,279, or 7.62%, over the prior year's levy limit.

  Mr. Bailey emphasized that 7.62% does not represent a proposed 7.62% increase in County property tax rates. Rather, it represents the increase in the maximum levy permitted under the State tax cap formula based upon the factors currently included in the calculation. A significant portion of the increase results from properties transitioning from PILOT agreements back to the taxable assessment roll. Accordingly, while PILOT revenue decreases within the tax cap calculation, the taxable value associated with those properties will be incorporated into the taxable assessment roll. Actual 2027 tax rates will ultimately depend upon the levy adopted by the Legislature, taxable assessed values, and applicable equalization rates. Mr. Bailey further noted that the calculated levy limit is not a recommendation or an adopted levy, and the actual levy will be determined by the Legislature through the 2027 budget process.

  Legislator Cantella inquired about the approximately $120,000 in available carryover reflected in the calculation. Mr. Bailey explained that the amount is associated with the Town of Richford's sales tax offset and its election to forego a portion of County sales tax distribution in exchange for a corresponding reduction in its County property tax levy. Legislative Clerk Cathy Haskell noted that Richford is currently the only municipality in Tioga County utilizing this mechanism.

Mr. Bailey also reviewed the projected 2027 County, Housing, and Solar PILOTs provided by the IDA and Treasurer's Office, which collectively account for approximately $959,291 in projected PILOT revenue used in the preliminary 2027 tax cap calculation.

- ***Fund Balance Worksheet – General Fund –*** Mr. Bailey provided a five-year General Fund analysis. He explained that the calculation takes the prior year's General Fund balance, adds YTD revenues, less YTD expenditures, and accounts for actual expenditures and revenues received accordingly, to determine the estimated General Fund balance for the upcoming year. Mr. Bailey reported that based on the current calculation, the estimated General Fund balance at year-end 2027 is $38,042,112. He provided a breakdown of this amount into non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned/available funds, noting that these figures change daily and that the estimated total remains very preliminary and subject to change as the tentative budget process progresses.

Mr. Bailey reported that based on the County's General Fund Balance Policy, 2026 YTD adopted budget appropriations are $96,579,978. The low end of the policy range, at 12%, is $11,589,597, and the high end, at 28%, is $27,042,394. He reported a 2026 YTD estimated unassigned fund balance of $32,864,560, representing 34% of adopted appropriations and placing the County approximately $5,822,166 above the Fund Balance Policy maximum. Mr. Bailey noted that the report also includes the percentage points above or below the policy maximum and the estimated number of months of General Fund expenditures represented by the fund balance. As of the date of the meeting, the County was estimated to be 6% above the Fund Balance Policy maximum, with approximately four months of General Fund expenditures. Mr. Bailey further reported that based on the information presented for the past five years, the strength of the County's fund balance has weakened over time.

Legislator Cantella inquired as to what course of action the Legislature would take if the percentage above policy maximum increased to a level similar to the 29.8% reported in 2023. Mr. Bailey explained that the figures would be reported to the Legislature, which would determine an appropriate course of action based on the circumstances, noting there would not be notable repercussions from the State.

Mr. Bailey reported that based on the County's General Fund Balance Policy, 2027 YTD adopted budget appropriations are estimated at $102,000,000. The low end of the policy range, at 12%, is $12,240,000, and the high end, at 28%, is $28,560,000. He further reported a 2027 estimated unassigned fund balance of $24,364,560, representing approximately 23.9% of adopted appropriations. This would place the County approximately $4,195,440 below the Fund Balance Policy maximum, or 4.1% below the policy maximum, with an estimated three months of General Fund expenditures.

Chair Monell stated that the change from the 2023 budget of $80,471,132 to the estimated 2027 budget of $102,000,000 is notable.

Mr. Bailey stated that he will continue to update the Legislators on the 2026 YTD and estimated 2027 General Fund balance as the tentative budget process moves forward.

Mr. Bailey provided two graphs portraying the General Fund Financial Trends over the last six years. The first graph showed the General Fund Operating Results, while the second demonstrated the General Fund Balance Composition in terms of reserves/other and unassigned funds. In reference to the first graph, he noted how, following COVID-19, revenues exceeded expenditures for some years, largely due to a higher number of County vacancies and a significant shift in sales tax. He reported that in 2024, operations shifted back toward normalcy, with expenditures and revenues more closely matching, followed by expenditures exceeding revenues in 2025.

Legislator Aronstam inquired as to how Tioga County's General Fund Balance compares to other counties. Mr. Bailey stated that Tioga County is tracking similarly to other comparable counties.

Legislator Standinger inquired as to whether American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding contributed significantly to the increase in revenues from 2021 through 2023. Mr. Bailey confirmed that the additional ARPA funding contributed to the revenues received during that period.

- ***Outside Agency Funding Request Worksheet –*** Mr. Bailey reported that he sent notices to all outside agencies to submit their budgetary request letters with their tentative budgets to show how the funding will be used. He noted that he had previously provided the Legislators with informational packets on each agency via email. The packets include the agencies' budgets, request letters, and funding amounts.

  Mr. Bailey provided a worksheet outlining the funding request history for each outside agency, providing a basis for comparing historical funding to the upcoming year requests and demonstrating changes in funding amounts and percentages. The worksheet broke down each agency individually for the Legislators' review.

  Mr. Bailey reported that Tioga Opportunities is requesting an additional $6,119 in funding, representing a 5% increase, for 2027. He noted that a significant portion of the funding supports the Office for the Aging, which provides numerous services that the County would otherwise need to establish a separate department to provide.

  Mr. Bailey reviewed each of the outside agencies and noted the reasons for changes in their funding requests where applicable. He highlighted Tioga County Tourism's request for a 17.6% increase, or $30,000, to support operations associated with its Visitor Center. Mr. Bailey noted that these operations are supported by funds from the Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax reserve. He further reported that Director of Economic Development & Planning Brittany Woodburn has offered to present additional detailed information to the Legislators regarding the agency's 2027 request and its intended use of the funds. Mr. Bailey will invite Director of Economic Development & Planning to the September 10, 2026 Legislative Worksession to present and answer questions related to the Tioga County Tourism's outside agency request.

  Legislator Cantella inquired as to the reviews and oversight procedures in place to monitor each outside agency. Legislative Clerk Haskell explained that all outside agencies are required to submit an annual report to the Legislative Office and noted that most agencies are compliant with the policy. Mr. Bailey stated that Cornell Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water Conservation, and the Council on the Arts take turns providing reports at the

Economic Development & Planning, Tourism and Agriculture Committee meeting on a quarterly basis.

Legislator Rose inquired as to the reason for the Berkshire Library's 16.1% increase, or $1,388, in requested funding for 2027. Legislator Brown explained that the library is not located in a library district and, therefore, does not receive funding through town property taxes.

Legislator Rose further inquired as to the funding provided to the Historical Society and what the funds are used to support. Mr. Bailey explained that the funds are allocated to the organization's General Funds to support their programs throughout the County.

Legislator Bunce sought confirmation that the outside agencies have provided more detailed explanations for their requested 2027 funding amounts. Mr. Bailey confirmed this was the case.

- ***Bond Principal and Interest Worksheet –*** Mr. Bailey reported the County has one remaining bond with principal, interest, and fees totaling $703,316.12 for 2027. He reviewed the Federal Aid – MBBA subsidy, principal, interest and fees lines and went over the bond schedule dating back to 2011.

  Legislator Rose inquired as to the original amount and purpose of the bond. Mr. Bailey explained that this was originally a $9,000,000 Public Improvement Bond issued in 2010 for bridges and is scheduled to mature in 2030.

  Mr. Bailey further reported that the County made more by retaining the bond proceeds rather than paying the bond out early.

  Mr. Bailey reported that following the meeting, the tentative budget process will roll from Level 1 (Departmental) to Level 2 (Budget Officer). He further reported that he will continue discussions regarding capital budgets, the five-year budget plans, and the outside agency funding requests at the September 10, 2026 Worksession.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Aronstam, seconded by Legislator Brown, the August 6, 2026 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items: Currently, there are no action items.

Other:

- ***Discussion of Route 96B Over Buttermilk Creek Detour–***
  Legislator Cantella brought attention to an email distributed by Commissioner of Public Works Gary Hammond regarding the Route 96B over Buttermilk Creek Detour. Mr. Hammond was present to explain that, due to the bridge construction project, Coddington Road was proposed as a detour route during construction on the bridge.

  Legislator Bunce inquired whether there were any concerns regarding the condition of the proposed detour roads, to which Mr. Hammond stated that he had no concerns.

The Legislators agreed that the proposed route was the most efficient alternative for the duration of the project.

Executive Session: Legislators Aronstam, Brown, Bunce, Cantella, Monell, Rose, and Standinger were in attendance with Legislators Ciotoli and Flesher being absent, along with Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Administrator Bailey, and County Attorney DeWind.

Legislator Cantella moved to go into Executive Session at 11:12 am, seconded by Legislator Brown to discuss an employment matter of a particular individual.

Legislator Brown moved to adjourn Executive Session at 11:53 am, seconded by Legislator Aronstam.

The Legislature reconvened in open session at 11:53 am.

Following the executive session, Legislator Brown moved, seconded by Legislator Rose to authorize the County Administrator to proceed with the creation and funding of a position to assist in the coordination of county purchasing oversight, budget assistance, and administrative support. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 am.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Breige Graven
Deputy Legislative Clerk