

MINUTES
Herkimer County Legislature
Organizational Session
Monday, January 5, 2026
2:00 p.m.

The Organizational Session of the Herkimer County Legislature was called to order by Brittney R. Viscomi, Clerk of the Legislature at 2:01 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll by district:

Present: District 1 – Gregory Malta, Sr.
District 2 – Mark Gaworecki
District 3 – Robert J. Schrader
District 4 – Gene A. Wedemeyer, Jr.
District 5 – John Brewer
District 6 – Cynthia Bennett
District 7 – William E. Keeler, Sr.
District 8 – John L. Brezinski
District 9 – Michael Bick
District 10 – Rodney Swartz
District 11 – Anthony J. Lucenti
District 12 – Kurt J. Ackerman
District 13 – Ray Donley
District 14 – Peter J. Campione
District 15 – Donald Haehl
District 16 – Kelly Wares
District 17 – William Weakley

At this time the Clerk called for nominations of a Temporary Chairman. On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Haehl, Legislator Ackerman was nominated as Temporary Chairman. With no other nominations, Mr. Donley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bick to close nominations.

Legislator Ackerman was named Temporary Chairman.

Ayes: (17).

Against: None.

Absent: None.

Temporary Chairman Ackerman called on Carly, Thomas, and Trevor Gardinier, to lead the Legislature in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Temporary Chairman Ackerman requested everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence in recognition and honor of all the current and past veterans of Herkimer County.

Temporary Chairman Ackerman requested everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence in recognition of the deceased members of the Herkimer County Legislature.

Father Paul Catena, Pastor of the Our Lady Queen of Apostles in Frankfort and Church of the Annunciation in Ilion gave the Invocation.

At this time, Temporary Chairman Ackerman called on Honorable Mark Rose, Supreme Court Justice to administer the oaths of office. Judge Rose asked the Legislators to stand and repeat the Oath of Office.

At this time, Temporary Chairman Ackerman called for the election of Chairman of the Legislature for the year 2026. Temporary Chairman Ackerman opened the nominations. Legislator Weakley nominated Peter J. Campione as Chairman for the 2026 term of the Legislature. The nomination was seconded by Legislator Gaworecki. With no other nominations, on motion of Mr. Haehl, seconded by Mr. Bick, the nominations for Chairman were closed.

Legislator Campione was elected Chairman of the Legislature by the following roll call vote:

For: Malta, Gaworecki, Schrader, Wedemeyer, Brewer, Bennett, Keeler, Brezinski, Bick, Swartz, Lucenti, Ackerman, Donley, Campione, Haehl. Wares, Weakley (17).

Against: None.

Absent: None.

Legislators Mark Gaworecki and William Weakley escorted Chairman Campione to the Chairman's seat. Honorable Mark Rose administered the Oath of Office to Chairman Campione with Krista Campione holding the bible.

Chairman Campione expressed his appreciation for being elected as Chairman, and outlined his goals for the Legislature and the County for the next year.

The Chairman continued by opening the nominations for Vice Chairman. On motion of Mr. Donley, seconded by Mr. Malta, nomination was made for Legislator Weakley as Vice Chairman. With no other nominations, on motion of Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mrs. Wares, the nominations for Vice Chairman were closed. Legislator Weakley was elected Vice Chairman by the following roll call vote:

For: Malta, Gaworecki, Schrader, Wedemeyer, Brewer, Bennett, Keeler, Brezinski, Bick, Swartz, Lucenti, Ackerman, Donley, Campione, Haehl. Wares, Weakley (17).

Against: None.

Absent: None.

At this time, Chairman Campione opened nominations for Clerk of the Legislature. On motion of Mr. Donley, seconded by Mr. Campione, nomination was made for Brittney Viscomi as Clerk of the Legislature. With no other nominations, the Chairman called for a voice vote:

Ayes: (17).

Against: None.

Absent: None.

Mrs. Viscomi expressed and stated that she and Deputy Clerk Williams looked forward to working for the Legislature for the next year.

Pursuant to Rule 8 of the Rules of the County Legislature, Chairman Campione asked if there were any objections or corrections to the minutes of December 10, 2025 or December 19, 2025. Being none, Chairman Campione ordered the minutes approved.

Chairman Campione stated that the communications received by the Legislature and the committees to which they were referred were listed on the agenda and asked if any member of the Legislature requested mention of any particular communication. There were no requests.

No. 1 – A communication was received from the County Treasurer submitting request for Designation of Depositories of County funds for 2026. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

No. 2 – A communication was received from the Republican Legislators naming Ray Donley as Majority Leader for the term 2026. Placed on file.

No. 3 – A communication was received from the Democratic Legislator naming John L. Brezinski as Minority Leader for the term 2026. Placed on file.

With that being all the communications, the Chairman continued with Reports and Resolutions beginning with No. 1.

On motion of Mr. Bick, seconded by Mr. Haehl, Resolution No. 1 adopting the Rules of the Legislature was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

Ayes: (17).

Against: None.

Absent: None.



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 1

Sponsored by: Committee on Administration/Veterans' Affairs

RESOLVED, that the Rules, as last amended by Resolution No. 155 of 2025, including Rules 1 through 47, be and they hereby are, adopted as the Rules of the County Legislature of the County of Herkimer for the ensuing one year.

Dated: January 5, 2026.

On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Donley, Resolution No. 2 appointing Lorraine H. Lewandrowski as the Herkimer County Attorney was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

Ayes: (17).

Against: None.

Absent: None.



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 2

RESOLVED, that Lorraine H. Lewandrowski of Newport, New York, be, and she hereby is, appointed County Attorney for the County of Herkimer pursuant to the provisions of Article 11, Section 500 of the County Law.

Dated: January 5, 2026.

WILLIAM WEAKLEY

Ms. Lewandrowski thanked the Legislature for the appointment and recognized the staff and all departments for their dedication. She looks forward to working with everyone.

On motion of Mr. Ackerman, seconded by Mr. Swartz, Resolution No. 3 appointing Holly Catalina as the Herkimer County Auditor was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

Ayes: (17).

Against: None.

Absent: None.



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 3

RESOLVED, that Holly Catalina of Dolgeville, New York, be and she hereby is, appointed County Auditor of the County of Herkimer, pursuant to County Law, Article 15, Section 600 and Local Law No. 1 for the year 1932, said term to begin on the first day of January, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026.

Dated: January 5, 2026.

RODNEY SWARTZ

Mrs. Catalina thanked the Legislature for the appointment.

On motion of Mr. Brezinski, seconded by Mr. Bick, Resolution No. 4 appointing Sheri A. Ferdula as the Herkimer County Budget Officer/Purchasing Agent was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

Ayes: (17).

Against: None.

Absent: None.



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 4

RESOLVED, that Sheri A. Ferdula of Frankfort, New York, be, and she hereby is, appointed Budget Officer and Purchasing Agent of the County of Herkimer pursuant to County Law, Article 16, Section 625 and Local Law No. 1 for the year 1933, said term to begin on the first day of January, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026.

Dated: January 5, 2026.

MICHAEL BICK

Ms. Ferdula thanked the Legislature for the appointment and stated she looked forward to working with the Legislature during the next year.

On motion of Mr. Donley, seconded by Mr. Keeler, Report and Resolution No. 5 of the Committee on Ways and Means as regards designation of depositories of County funds for 2026 was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

Ayes: (17).

Against: None.

Absent: None.



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 5

REPORT AND RESOLUTION AS REGARDS DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES OF COUNTY FUNDS FOR 2026

Sponsored by: Committee on Ways and Means

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature of the County of Herkimer does hereby designate the following banks for the deposits of all monies received by the Herkimer County Treasurer, to wit:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| M & T Bank | 20,000,000.00 |
| Key Bank | 1,000,000.00 |
| Adirondack Bank | 40,000,000.00 |
| JP Morgan Chase | 5,000,000.00 |
| TD Bank | 1,000,000.00 |

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| NY Class | 30,000,000.00 |
| NY Muni Trust | 30,000,000.00 |
| Community Bank | 10,000,000.00 |
| NBT Bank | 5,000,000.00 |

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be, and she hereby is, authorized, empowered and directed to enter into an agreement with each of the said banks for and on behalf of and in the name of the County Legislature of the County of Herkimer, fixing rates of interest to be paid on the monies so deposited; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that before any monies be deposited in any bank, the County Treasurer accept from such bank either a depository bond in some good and solvent surety company or in lieu of such bond, bonds or certificates of the United States, of the State of New York, or any county, city and town of the State of New York, including bonds or certificates, and shall be deposited in a safe deposit box or safe deposit boxes by said County Treasurer in the name of the County of Herkimer or a properly executed certificate of escrow as authorized under the Laws of the State of New York, which certificate is approved by the County Attorney; and the County Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a collateral agreement with said banks, which agreement is to be first approved by the County Attorney; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Herkimer County Treasurer, County Attorney, County Clerk, and the above named depositories.

Dated: January 5, 2026.

On motion of Ms. Bennett seconded by Mr. Gaworecki, Resolution No. 6 designating the Times Telegram as the official newspaper of the County of Herkimer was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

Ayes: (17).

Against: None.

Absent: None.



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 6

RESOLUTION THAT THE TIMES TELEGRAM BE DESIGNATED THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE COUNTY OF HERKIMER FOR THE YEAR 2026

RESOLVED, that this Legislature names the ***Times Telegram***, as the official newspaper of the County of Herkimer, and that that paper have published therein all legal notices, local laws and other matters required to be published.

Dated: January 5, 2026.

At 2:17 p.m., on motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Weakley, this Session of the Herkimer County Legislature was adjourned to Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Brittney R. Viscomi, Clerk