

MINUTES
Herkimer County Legislature
Second Quarter – First Day
Wednesday, April 1, 2026
2:00 p.m.

Public Hearing

The second Public Hearing to report project accomplishments relating to Herkimer County's previously funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Herkimer County Microenterprise for the \$300,000 award was called to order by Legislator Greg Malta, Sr., Chairman of the County Planning & Development Committee, at 1:15 p.m. Legislator Malta asked the Clerk of the Legislature to call the roll of Legislators. The Clerk called the roll, the following answered: Malta, Gaworecki, Bennett, Keeler, Bick, Lucenti, Ackerman, Campione, Wares, Weakley (10). Quorum present. Legislator Malta asked the Clerk to read the Notice of Public Hearing. The Clerk read the Notice. Legislator Malta asked that any person wishing to speak to rise, state their name and address, and limit comment to five minutes. John Piseck, Chief Executive Officer of the Industrial Development Agency and Jacob Manning of SurePrint Pack N Ship made comments. Samantha from the IDA also read a letter submitted by Suzy Burdick, of Suzy Q's Ice Cream & Grill. The hearing was declared closed at 1:22 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICE

HERKIMER COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Herkimer County will hold a public hearing on April 1, 2026 at 1:15 p.m., in the Legislature Chambers, 109 Mary Street, Herkimer, NY, for the purpose of hearing public comments on Herkimer County's previously funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Microenterprise project (528ME539-23) that was awarded in the amount of \$300,000.

The CDBG program is administered by the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR), and provides resources to eligible local governments for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefitting low/moderate income persons. The hearing will provide further information about the progress of the ongoing CDBG project. Comments related to the effectiveness of administration of the CDBG project will also be received at this time. The hearing is being conducted pursuant to Section 570.486, Subpart I of the CFR and in compliance with the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

The Legislature Chambers is accessible to persons with disabilities. If special accommodations are needed for persons with disabilities, those with hearing impairments, or those in need of translation from English, those individuals should contact Brittney Viscomi, Clerk of the Legislature, at 315-867-1108, at least one week in advance of the hearing date to allow for necessary arrangements. Written comments may also be submitted until April 1, 2026, to:

Brittney R. Viscomi, Clerk
Herkimer County Legislature
109 Mary Street, Suite 1310

Herkimer, NY 13350.

Dated: March 23, 2026.

The Regular Session of the Herkimer County Legislature was called to order by Chairman Peter J. Campione at 2:02 p.m.

Chairman Campione called on Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney, to lead the Legislature in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Campione called for a moment of silence in recognition of all veterans, past and present.

Roll Call: Quorum present, the following answering the roll:

Present: Malta, Gaworecki, Schrader, Bennett, Keeler, Bick, Swartz, Lucenti, Ackerman, Campione, Haehl, Wares, Weakley (13).

Absent: Wedemeyer, Brewer, Brezinski, Donley (4).

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 March 18, 2026. There were none, and the Chairman ordered them approved.

Pursuant to Rule 11, Chairman Campione opened the floor for public comment. There were no appearances.

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

No. 133 – A communication was received from the IDA submitting Public Hearing Resolution. Filed.

No. 134 – A communication was received from the IDA submitting Notice of Public Hearing. Filed.

No. 135 – A communication was received from the IDA submitting Public Hearing Resolution. Filed.

No. 136 – A communication was received from the Director of Real Property submitting information regarding Senior Exemption. Referred to the Committee on Ways & Means.

No. 137 – A communication was received from the Personnel Officer requesting amendment to hourly salary schedule in DSS. Referred to the Committee on Ways & Means.

No. 138 – A communication was received from the Director of the Office for the Aging requesting contract for Title III E Caregiver Support Program. Referred to the Committee on Human Resources and the Committee on Ways & Means.

No. 139 – A communication was received from the Budget Officer/Purchasing Agent requesting to purchase AEDs and transfer funds. Referred to the Committee on County Properties and the Committee on Ways & Means.

No. 140 – A communication was received from the Director of Real Property requesting amendment to contract with Schneider Geospatial. Referred to the Committee on Ways & Means.

No. 141 – A communication was received from the County Attorney requesting approval of easement request from the Village of Herkimer for installation of a water main. Referred to the Committee on County Properties and the Committee on Ways & Means.

No. 142 – A communication was received from the County Attorney requesting approval to sell parcel back to previous owner. Referred to the Committee on County Properties and the Committee on Ways & Means.

No. 143 – A communication was received from the Budget Officer/Purchasing Agent requesting transfer of funds to execute contract with Strategic Development Specialists. Referred to the Committee on County Planning & Development, the Committee on Education, and the Committee on Ways & Means.

Pursuant to Rule 6, Chairman Campione then proceeded with Reports of Standing Committees. There were no reports.

The Chairman continued with the Regular Agenda.

On motion of Mrs. Wares, seconded by Mr. Schrader, Resolution No. 100 sponsored by the Committee on Natural Resources setting public hearing on annual thirty-day period for 2026 for inclusion of viable agricultural land within a certified agricultural district was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

For: Ayes (13). Against: None.

Absent: Wedemeyer, Brewer, Brezinski, Donley (4).



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 100

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING ON ANNUAL THIRTY-DAY PERIOD FOR 2026 FOR INCLUSION OF VIABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND WITHIN A CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

Sponsored by: Committee on Natural Resources

WHEREAS, Section 303-b of the Agriculture and Markets Law provides that the County Legislature of a county containing a certified agricultural district must designate an annual 30 day period, within which a landowner may submit a request for inclusion of land which is predominately viable agricultural land within a certified agricultural district; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 146 adopted by this Legislature on May 19, 2004, set the annual 30 day period from January 1 through January 31 of each year; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to statute, requests received during said 30 day period for 2026 were referred to the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board for their recommendation, and reports are now ready to be made and a public hearing may now be held; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing be held on the 22nd of April, 2026 at 6:15 p.m. on the proposed additions to Agricultural Districts for the year 2026; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this Legislature give proper notice thereof pursuant to Section 303-b of the Agriculture and Markets Law of the State of New York; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension Services and the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program.

Dated: April 1, 2026.

On motion of Mr. Lucenti, seconded by Mr. Keeler, Resolution No. 101 sponsored by the Committee on Ways & Means setting public hearing on Introductory Local Law A for 2026 was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

For: Ayes (13). Against: None.

Absent: Wedemeyer, Brewer, Brezinski, Donley (4).



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 101

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING ON INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW A FOR 2026

Sponsored by: Committee on Ways & Means

We, the Committee on Ways & Means are causing to be prepared and will present Introductory Local Law A for 2026 entitled "A LOCAL LAW AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 3 FOR 1995, AS AMENDED BY LOCAL LAW NO. 2 FOR 1998, AS AMENDED BY LOCAL LAW 1 FOR 2009, AS AMENDED BY LOCAL LAW NO. 4 FOR 2020, TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION BY THE COUNTY OF HERKIMER

TO THE EXTENT OF FIFTY PER CENTUM OF THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY ONE OR MORE PERSONS, EACH OF WHOM IS 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER, OR REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY HUSBAND AND WIFE, OR SIBLINGS, ONE OF WHOM IS 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER”, and offer the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing will be held before the Herkimer County Legislature on the adoption of said proposed Local Law, to be conducted by the Committee on Ways & Means on the 22nd day of April, 2026 at 6:17 p.m., in the Legislative Chambers of the County Office Building in the Village of Herkimer, New York; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that at least five days prior to such public hearing the Clerk of this Legislature shall post a notice of such hearing upon the bulletin board in the Courthouse and cause to be published said notice at least once in the Times Telegram; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this Legislature shall place a copy of said act on the desks of the members of this County Legislature at least seven calendar days, exclusive of Sunday, prior to its final adoption; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that if said local law be finally adopted, the Clerk of this Legislature shall file one certified copy thereof in the Office of the County Clerk, one in the Office of the Secretary of State and publish said local law as required by law.

Dated: April 1, 2026.

On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Ackerman, Report and Resolution No. 102 sponsored by the Committee on Ways & Means amending Resolution No. 357 of 2025 was handed up; voted on and adopted by roll call vote:

For: Malta, Gaworecki, Schrader, Bennett, Keeler, Bick, Swartz, Lucenti, Ackerman, Campione, Haehl, Wares, Weakley (13).

Against: None.

Absent: Wedemeyer, Brewer, Brezinski, Donley (4).



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 102

REPORT AND RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 357 OF 2025

Sponsored by: Committee on Ways and Means

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 357 of 2025 adopted the hourly salary schedule; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 13, 2026, Steven Billings, Personnel Officer, requests to amend the hourly salary schedule to add the title of Caseworker at an hourly pay rate of \$29.80; and

WHEREAS, your Committee has taken this matter under advisement and recommends said change; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the hourly salary schedule be amended to add the title of Caseworker at an hourly pay rate of \$29.80; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Herkimer County Treasurer, Auditor, Budget Officer, Personnel Officer, and Commissioner of Social Services.

Dated: April 1, 2026.

On motion of Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mrs. Wares, Report and Resolution No. 103 sponsored by the Committee on Human Resources and the Committee on Ways & Means authorizing contract for services under Caregiver Support Program was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

For: Ayes (13). Against: None.

Absent: Wedemeyer, Brewer, Brezinski, Donley (4).



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 103

REPORT AND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR SERVICES UNDER CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

**Sponsored by: Committee on Human Resources
Committee on Ways and Means**

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 142 duly adopted on May 16, 2001, this Legislature established a New York Elder Caregiver Support Program in the Herkimer County Office for the Aging; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 5, 2026, from Kathy L. Fox, Director of the Office for the Aging, this Legislature is advised of a request to enter into a Title IIIIE Caregiver Support Program respite contract as outlined below, which is one of the requirements under said Caregiver Support Program, which help families keep their loved ones at home rather than in a nursing home and said Program is 75/25% federal funding with no overmatch; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Legislature hereby approves a respite contract with the agency listed below under the Title IIIIE, Caregiver Support Program of the Herkimer County Office for the Aging, for the period from April 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, with services to be provided at the rates as outlined below:

Agency	Rate	Service
Foltsbrook Center Rehabilitation & Nursing	\$85 per day without transport \$135 per day with transport	Medical Adult Day Program

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of this Legislature is hereby authorized to execute said contracts on behalf of the County of Herkimer; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Herkimer County Treasurer, Auditor, Budget Officer, Director of the Office for the Aging, and the agency listed above.

Dated: April 1, 2026.

On motion of Mr. Gaworecki, seconded by Mr. Ackerman, Report and Resolution No. 104 sponsored by the Committee on Ways & Means amending contract in the Real Property Tax Service Agency was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

For: Ayes (13).

Against: None.

Absent: Wedemeyer, Brewer, Brezinski, Donley (4).



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 104

REPORT AND RESOLUTION AMENDING CONTRACT IN THE REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AGENCY

Sponsored by: Committee on Ways & Means

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 24, 2026 from Beth L. Sadlon, Director of the Real Property Tax Service Agency, this Legislature is advised of a request to amend a contract with Schneider Geospatial, 8901 Otis Ave., Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46216; and

WHEREAS, the current contract is for three years and covers the Beacon Website located on Real Property's website which houses all the associated information regarding the parcel assessment records and tax mapping information for the public to view, paid for by the user; and

WHEREAS, said letter requests to amend the contract to a five year contract, and be free for users, at the following cost to the Real Property Tax Service Agency: Year 1: \$10,000; Year 2: \$10,500; Year 3: \$11,025; Year 4: \$11,576; Year 5: \$12,155; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of this Legislature is hereby authorized to execute an amended contract with Schneider Geospatial to adjust the term to five years and also adjust to a free for user system in the following amounts: Year 1: \$10,000; Year 2: \$10,500; Year 3: \$11,025; Year 4: \$11,576; Year 5: \$12,155, with said contract to be subject to the approval of the Herkimer County Attorney; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Herkimer County Treasurer, Auditor, Budget Officer, Director of Real Property Tax Service Agency, and Schneider Geospatial.

Dated: April 1, 2026.

On motion of Mr. Bick, seconded by Mr. Swartz, Report and Resolution No. 105 sponsored by the Committee on County Properties and the Committee on Ways & Means authorizing purchase of Automated External Defibrillators and transferring funds was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

For: Ayes (13). Against: None.

Absent: Wedemeyer, Brewer, Brezinski, Donley (4).



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 105

REPORT AND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS

**Sponsored by: Committee on County Properties
Committee on Ways and Means**

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 13, 2026, from Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer/ Purchasing Agent, this Legislature is advised of a request to purchase 10 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), due to the current AEDs reaching end of life, at a cost of \$16,092.80; and

WHEREAS, said letter also requests a transfer to complete the above purchase; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the purchase of 10 AEDs at a cost of \$16,092.80, be authorized and that the treasurer be authorized to make the following transfer to complete the purchase:

\$16,092.80 From: A0000001 541990, Contingent Fund, Miscellaneous Expense
 To: A1620000 541000, Buildings, Supplies

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Herkimer County Treasurer, Auditor, Budget Officer, and Maintenance Supervisor.

Dated: April 1, 2026.

On motion of Mr. Gaworecki, seconded by Mr. Schrader, Report and Resolution No. 106 sponsored by the Committee on County Properties and the Committee on Ways & Means authorizing sale of property was handed up; voted on and adopted by roll call vote:

For: Malta, Gaworecki, Schrader, Bennett, Keeler, Bick, Swartz, Lucenti, Ackerman, Campione, Haehl, Wares, Weakley (13).

Against: None.

Absent: Wedemeyer, Brewer, Brezinski, Donley (4).



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 106

REPORT AND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF PROPERTY

**Sponsored by: Committee on County Properties
Committee on Ways & Means**

WHEREAS, Tax Parcel No. 126.1-1-42.14 in the Town of German Flatts, previously owned by NY Canaan Farm LLC, was sold in the 2022 In Rem tax auction to a successful bidder in the amount of \$12,600.00; and

WHEREAS, the successful bidder defaulted on his purchase when it was discovered that a large barn is partially located on Tax Parcel No. 126.1-1-42.14 and on neighboring Tax Parcel No. 126.1-1-42.6 owned by NY Canaan LLC; and

WHEREAS, the County holds title to the above property; and

WHEREAS, the prior owner, NY Canaan Farm LLC, has communicated an interest in re-purchasing Tax Parcel No. 126.1-1-42.14 for \$12,600.00, the amount of the successful bid at auction, and without any further claim; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that due to the unique circumstances presented, that Tax Map Parcel No. 126.1-1-42.14 be sold to NY Canaan Farm LLC for the sum of \$12,600.00, with buyer to pay customary recording costs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Legislature be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed for and on behalf of the County of Herkimer to execute a deed to be prepared by the County Attorney's Office, to convey said Tax Map Parcel No. 126.1-1-42.14 to NY Canaan Farm LLC, said deed to be delivered within thirty days after receipt of the purchase price and proof of payment of costs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Herkimer County Treasurer, Auditor, County Property Agent, and the Herkimer County Attorney.

Dated: April 1, 2026.

On motion of Mr. Schrader, seconded by Mr. Gaworecki, Report and Resolution No. 107 sponsored by the Committee on County Properties and the Committee on Ways & Means approving grant of easement to Village of Herkimer for installation of water main and upgraded distribution system was handed up; voted on and adopted by roll call vote:

For: Malta, Gaworecki, Schrader, Bennett, Keeler, Bick, Swartz, Lucenti, Ackerman, Campione, Haehl, Wares, Weakley (13).

Against: None.

Absent: Wedemeyer, Brewer, Brezinski, Donley (4).



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 107

REPORT AND RESOLUTION APPROVING GRANT OF EASEMENT TO VILLAGE OF HERKIMER FOR INSTALLATION OF WATER MAIN AND UPGRADED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

**Sponsored by: Committee on County Properties
Committee on Ways & Means**

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 10, 2026 from Barton & Loguidice, this Legislature is advised that the Village of Herkimer requests easements across Herkimer County property on State Route 28, Tax Map Parcel No. 113.65-2-6.1; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature was advised that the purpose of the easements will be to allow installation of a new water main and distribution system upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature was further advised that a permanent easement and a temporary easement will be necessary to complete installation of the new water main and waterline and distribution upgrades; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the permanent easement and temporary easement are approved to cross Tax Map Parcel No. 113.65-2-6.1 as shown on the map titled Village of Herkimer System Upgrades Herkimer County Tax ID 113.65-2-6.1 of Barton & Loguidice dated January, 2026, Project No. 1972.005.00, attached hereto and made a part hereof; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Temporary Easement shall be twenty-three (23) feet wide at its widest point and one hundred and seven feet and four inches (107' 4") in length along State Route 28 in a configuration as shown on the attached map; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Legislature be authorized to sign said easement documents, and any other necessary documents; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the terms of the permanent easement and temporary easement shall be subject to approval of the Herkimer County Attorney; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Herkimer County Treasurer, Auditor, Budget Officer, Village of Herkimer, and Barton & Loguidice.

Dated: April 1, 2026.

On motion of Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Lucenti, Report and Resolution No. 108 sponsored by the Committee on County Planning and Development, the Committee on Education, and the Committee on Ways & Means rescinding Resolution No. 75 of 2026 and authorizing agreement with Strategic Development Specialists to render professional services regarding grant writing to further economic development in Herkimer County and transferring funds was handed up; voted on and adopted by voice vote:

For: Ayes (13). Against: None.

Absent: Wedemeyer, Brewer, Brezinski, Donley (4).



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

No. 108

REPORT AND RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 75 OF 2026 AND AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS TO RENDER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REGARDING GRANT WRITING TO FURTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN HERKIMER COUNTY AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS

**Sponsored by: Committee on County Planning and Development
Committee on Education
Committee on Ways and Means**

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 26, 2026, James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator, has requested to rescind Resolution No. 75 of 2026 authorizing a contract with Strategic Development Specialists of Syracuse, New York, for one year and requests a new contract with Strategic Development Specialists, to provide services in connection with grant writing for projects for the County, the IDA and the College to further economic development projects in the County, for a two year period for a term of April 5, 2026 through April 4, 2028; and

WHEREAS, the cost for such services will be \$10,000 per month, plus incidentals totaling \$5,000 annually, for the period of April 5, 2026 through April 4, 2028, with all other terms of the agreement to remain in force and effect; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 26, 2026 from Sheri A. Ferdula, Budget Officer/Purchasing Agent, this Legislature is advised that a transfer of funds will be necessary to execute the contract as follows; now, therefore be it

WHEREAS, counties fund these essential services in partnership with the state and federal government, yet exercise little control over the policies that drive their costs, leaving county property taxpayers as the payers of last resort when state or federal aid is reduced or fails to keep pace with program demands; and

WHEREAS, the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program provides unrestricted general purpose aid to New York State's cities (excluding New York City), towns, and villages, currently funded at \$715.2 million annually, and has not included county governments as eligible recipients since 1990; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's SFY 2026-27 Executive Budget proposed to maintain AIM at \$715.2 million and continue \$50 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance—both programs available exclusively to cities, towns, and villages—with no new unrestricted aid for counties; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's 30 day amendments to the SFY 2026-27 Executive Budget proposed an increase of \$100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance for cities, towns, and villages, and additional unrestricted aid to New York City, representing a significant new investment in other local government partners, while providing no equivalent relief for counties; and

WHEREAS, the Senate One House Budget proposes \$302 million per year in additional AIM funding for New York City over two fiscal years, a total of \$604 million in new municipal assistance, without a corresponding increase in direct aid to counties; and

WHEREAS, the Senate One House Budget further proposes \$250,000 to establish an AIM Redesign Task Force charged with making recommendations on the expansion of AIM to New York City, with no comparable directive to examine or expand aid to county governments; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly one-house budget proposes \$1.5 billion in additional Temporary Municipal Assistance over three years, including \$1 billion for New York City and \$500 million for cities, towns, and villages, again with no parallel investment in county fiscal relief; and

WHEREAS, increasing state investment in AIM and Temporary Municipal Assistance while counties receive no analogous unrestricted aid creates a growing disparity in the State's partnership with its local government units; and

WHEREAS, counties are simultaneously absorbing significant and growing cost pressures that are largely outside their control, including: rising assigned counsel costs under County Law Article 18-B; escalating preschool special education expenditures; costs associated with CPL § 730 competency restoration confinements, which have increased by more than 6,000 percent in some counties between 2019 and 2024; and anticipated cost shifts resulting from federal policy changes to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which will increase county administrative costs beginning in October 2026; and

WHEREAS, the number of local governments in fiscal stress, as identified by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC)'s Fiscal Stress Monitoring System, is rising, and a dozen counties exceeded the property tax cap in their 2026 budgets, the most in a decade; and

WHEREAS, counties are constrained by the state-imposed property tax cap, limiting their ability to independently raise revenues to offset growing costs; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) has called upon the Governor and Legislature to provide \$100 million in targeted county fiscal relief in the enacted SFY 2026-27 Budget, which could be structured through the County Infrastructure Grant Program, relief from assigned counsel costs, relief from preschool special education costs, or support for competency restoration expenses, representing a fraction of the new investment proposed for municipalities and New York City in the current budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, such relief can be structured in a manner that addresses the most pressing cost drivers facing counties, including but not limited to, assigned counsel under Article 18-B, preschool special education, Safety Net, and CPL § 730 competency restoration, or through direct unrestricted aid; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Herkimer County urges the Governor and the Legislature to provide parity with the proposed increases for other municipalities through direct fiscal relief for county governments in the enacted SFY 2026-27 State Budget, commensurate with the significant new investments in municipalities proposed through the 30-day amendments and One House Budget resolutions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Assemblyman Brian Miller, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Senator Mark Walczyk, Senator Joseph A. Griffo, and New York State Association of Counties.

Dated: April 1, 2026.

Chairman Campione stated that pursuant to Rule 6(12) they would proceed with comments by Legislators. The following Legislator made a comment: Chairman Campione.

At 2:09 p.m. on motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mrs. Wares, the Legislature adjourned to April 22, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., with a Public Hearing on Open Enrollment for Agricultural District at 6:15 p.m., and a Public Hearing on Introductory Local Law A for 2026 at 6:17 p.m.

Brittney R. Viscomi, Clerk