

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATURE
OF THE
COUNTY OF NIAGARA
STATE OF NEW YORK**

OFFICIAL RECORD

Lockport, New York
January 7, 2025

The Legislature of the County of Niagara, State of New York, convened in annual session in the Legislature Chambers, Courthouse, Lockport, New York on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year.

County Clerk Joseph Jastrzemski, acting as Chairman pro temp, called the Legislature meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and gave the invocation.

A moment of Silence was held for all the victims in the attack in New Orleans on New Year's Day and for the 39th President Jimmy Carter.

On roll call the following Legislators were present from the several legislative districts:

First	Irene M. Myers
Second	Rebecca J. Wydysh
Third	Christopher J. McKimmie
Fourth	Jeffrey Elder
Fifth	Christopher A. Robins
Sixth	Christopher Voccio
Seventh	Jesse P. Gooch
Eighth	Richard L. Andres Jr.
Tenth	David E. Godfrey
Twelfth	Carla L. Speranza
Thirteenth	Richard E. Abbott
Fourteenth	Shawn A. Foti
Fifteenth	Michael A. Hill
Absent:	
Ninth	Randy R. Bradt
Eleventh	Anthony J. Nemi

The Chairman pro temp Joseph Jastrzemski asked for nominations for temporary Chairman.
Moved by Hill, seconded by Andres, that Legislator Godfrey be nominated for temporary Chairman.
Moved by Hill, seconded by Andres, that the nominations be closed.
Carried.

Chairman pro temp Jastrzemski declared Legislator Godfrey as the temporary Chairman.

Temporary Chairman Godfrey asked for nominations for permanent Chairman.
Moved by Godfrey, seconded by Hill, that Legislator Wydysh be nominated for permanent Chairman.
Moved by Godfrey, seconded by Hill, that the nominations be closed.
Carried.

Temporary Chairman Godfrey declared Legislator Wydysh as the Chairman.

Chairman Wydysh thanked her fellow Legislators for their vote of confidence in her and thanked the amazing team we have in Niagara County for everything everyone has done this past year.

Moved by Wydysh, seconded by Godfrey, to designate Legislator Nemi to serve as Vice Chairman.

Moved by Wydysh, seconded by Godfrey, that nominations be closed.

Carried.

Chairman Wydysh designated Legislator Nemi to serve as Vice-Chairman.

Moved by Godfrey, seconded by Hill, to appoint Alysa T. Tomasino as the Clerk of the Legislature.

Moved by Godfrey, seconded by Hill, to close nominations.

Carried.

Alysa T. Tomasino was declared the Clerk of the Legislature

Legislator Hill announced that Legislator Bradt would serve as Majority Leader, Legislator Hill as First Deputy and Legislator Godfrey as Second Deputy Majority Leader.

Legislator Robins announced that Legislator Robins would serve as Minority Leader, Legislator Elder as First Deputy and Legislator Speranza as Second Deputy Minority Leader.

Moved by Godfrey, seconded by Hill, that the Board will meet on the following dates, or at the call of the Clerk of the Legislature.

Carried.

NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

6:00 P.M.

January

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 (Organizational Mtg.)

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

February

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

March

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

April

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

May

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

June

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

August

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

September

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

October

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

November

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

December

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 (Budget Hearings)

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 (Budget Vote)

Moved by Wydysh, seconded by Godfrey, that Vice Chairman Nemi is designated to serve on the Niagara County Jury Board.

Carried.

Moved by Godfrey, seconded by Hill, to appoint Gary Billingsley as the Attorney for the Aging.
Carried.

Moved by Godfrey, seconded by Robins, to approve the Standing Committee structure as presented.
Carried

NIAGARA COUNTY 2025 STANDING COMMITTEES

REBECCA J. WYDYSH, CHAIRMAN

ANTHONY J. NEMI, VICE CHAIRMAN

RANDY R. BRADT, MAJORITY LEADER

CHRISTOPHER ROBINS, MINORITY LEADER

ADMINISTRATION

(County Manager, County Attorney, Management & Budget, Treasurer, Audit, Real Property, Legislature, Printing/Mailing, Human Resources, Civil Service, Risk Management, Board of Elections)

GODFREY, NEMI, BRADT, ELDER, MYERS, ROBINS, VOCCIO

Co. Attorney - C. Joerg, K. Alexander

Secretary- Heather Soles, 439-7005

COMMUNITY SERVICES

(Social Services, Employment & Training, Youth Bureau, Office for the Aging, Public Health, Mental Health, NCCC, County Clerk/DMV, Historian, Veterans Services)

GOOCH, VOCCIO, BRADT, GODFREY, NEMI, ROBINS, SPERANZA

Co. Attorney – G. Lisowski

Secretary – Helen Dennis, 278-8238

COMMUNITY SAFETY & SECURITY

(Sheriff, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, Fire Coordinator/Emergency Services, Coroners, Conflicts and Assigned Council)

HILL, GODFREY, ABBOTT, BRADT, ELDER, McKIMMIE, ROBINS

Co. Attorney – B. Marble, K. Alexander

Secretary – Laura Moll, 438-3370

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(Economic Development, Niagara Co. Industrial Development Agency)

ANDRES, MYERS, BRADT, ELDER, GODFREY, McKIMMIE, SPERANZA

Co. Attorney – T. Burgasser

Secretary-Cathie Synor, 278-8750

GREENWAY (ad hoc committee-under Economic Development)

ANDRES, NEMI, BRADT, ELDER, FOTI

INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES

(Public Works, Parks/Golf Course, Refuse Disposal District, Sewer District, Water District, Weights & Measures, Information Technology, Buildings & Grounds)

FOTI, MYERS, ABBOTT, BRADT, HILL, ROBINS, SPERANZA

Co. Attorney – T. Burgasser (Parks/Golf Course), D. Koplas

Secretary- Dan Quinn, 439-7244

REFUSE DISPOSAL DISTRICT (ad hoc committee-under Infrastructure & Facilities)

FOTI, BRADT, ABBOTT, ELDER, GOOCH, HILL, MYERS, NEMI, ROBINS, WYDYSH

Co. Attorney – G. Lisowski

Moved by Godfrey, seconded by Robins, that the two Niagara County newspapers, namely: the Niagara Gazette, Lockport Union Sun & Journal are designated as the official newspapers.
Carried.

No citizen spoke on the agenda.

Resolution No. CSS-001-25

From: Community Safety & Security and Administration Committees.

Dated: January 7, 2025

**REGIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NIAGARA AND ERIE COUNTY
TO PERFORM AUTOPSY SERVICES**

WHEREAS, Niagara County and Erie County entered into an agreement in 2002 that allows the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office to perform all of Niagara County's autopsies, which agreement has subsequently been renewed, and

WHEREAS, the current agreement has expired December 31, 2024, and

WHEREAS, Erie County has offered us a one-year agreement at \$2,540/full autopsy, \$1,989/partial autopsy exam and \$1,468/external exam, along with other associated fees, and

WHEREAS, it is beneficial for Niagara County to continue this practice and promote regionalism and shared services between the counties of Niagara and Erie, and

WHEREAS, prior to the execution of the agreement, the County Attorney will review the agreement for approval as to legal form, language and compliance, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that following the County Attorney's review, the County of Niagara does hereby agree to the terms and conditions in said agreement and authorizes the Chairman of the Legislature to execute the contract with Erie County and the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office.

Moved by Hill, seconded by Godfrey, to implement the portion of Rule 15 that pertains to voting on a resolution as opposed to referring it to committee.

Carried.

Moved by Hill, seconded by Godfrey.

Adopted. 13 Ayes, 0 Noes, 2 Absent – Bradt, Nemi.

APPOINTMENTS:

	<u>Appt.</u>	<u>Expires</u>
<u>BOARD OF ETHICS:</u>		
Roger Blackwell 445 Goundry St., North Tonawanda 14120	01/07/25	12/31/27
Bradley Rowles Jr. 5892 Bear Rd., Sanborn 14132	01/07/25	12/31/27
<u>BOARD OF HEALTH:</u>		
Kirstin Barnard (replaces Kyle Lambalzer) 36 Bonner Dr., Lockport, NY 14094	01/07/25	12/31/30
<u>FISHERIES BOARD:</u>		
Matthew Yablonsky 965 Pletcher Road, Youngstown 14174	01/07/25	12/31/27
Michael J. Fox 3015 Johnson Creek Rd., Middleport 14105	01/07/25	12/31/27

Thomas Pearse	01/07/25	12/31/27
3389 Greenway Rd. Grand Island 14072		

GREATER BUFFALO NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (GBNRTC):

Rebecca J. Wydysh, Chairman	01/07/25	12/31/25
Niagara County Legislature		
<u>Planning & Coordinating Committee</u>		
Garret Meal, Commissioner of Public Works	01/07/25	12/31/25
Norman D. Allen, PE, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works-Engineering (Alternate)	01/07/25	12/31/25
Michael Casale, Commissioner (Alternate) Economic Development Department	01/07/25	12/31/25

INTER-COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF WNY:

Rebecca J. Wydysh, Chairman Niagara County Legislature	01/07/25	12/31/25
Anthony J. Nemi, Legislator	01/07/25	12/31/25
Alysa T. Tomasino, Clerk	01/07/25	12/31/25
David E. Godfrey, Legislator	01/07/25	12/31/25

PLANNING BOARD:

Thomas R. Ohol	01/07/25	12/31/27
5832 Comstock Rd. Lockport 14094		
Joseph C. Kibler	01/07/25	12/31/27
16 Cleveland Pl., Lockport 14094		
James Sobczyk	01/07/25	12/31/27
5201 Tonawanda Creek Rd., No. Tonawanda 14120		
Michael Carney	01/07/25	12/31/27
403 Bennett St. North Tonawanda 14120		
J. Anthony Collard	01/07/25	12/31/27
840 Lockport Road, Youngstown 14174		

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

Shawn A. Foti, Legislator	01/07/25	12/31/25
Carla L. Speranza, Legislator	01/07/25	12/31/25
James Bittner (Farm Bureau)	01/07/25	12/31/27
6620 Lake Rd., Appleton 14008		
Mary Gumaer (Farmer at Large)	01/07/25	12/31/27
9335 Pearson Rd., Middleport 14105		

YOUTH BOARD:

Renee Zapp	01/07/25	12/31/27
291 West Ave., Lockport 14094		
Carmen A. Tonellato	01/07/25	12/31/27
8621 Jacob Pl., Niagara Falls 14304		
Dennis Stachera	01/07/25	12/31/27
20 Regent St., Lockport 14094		
Reggie Rosati	01/07/25	12/31/27
6981 Dysinger Rd., Lockport 14094		
Sandra Tonellato	01/07/25	12/31/27
1424 Byrd Ave., Niagara Falls 14303		

Moved by Godfrey, second by Myers to enter Executive Session at 6:17p.m. for discussion of pending litigation.

Moved by McKimmie, second by Speranza to adjourn Executive Session at 6:27p.m.

Resolution No. CW-001-25

From: Committee of the Whole

Dated: January 7, 2025

**CLAIM SETTLEMENT
TRACI HANER VS. COUNTY OF NIAGARA, NEW YORK AND
THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY OF NIAGARA**

WHEREAS, the County of Niagara self-insures its general liability coverage, and

WHEREAS, such loss fund is fully funded and separate from the General fund, and

WHEREAS, the County Legislature is authorized under Section 6-N of the General Municipal Law to approve claim settlements in excess of \$25,000.00, and

WHEREAS, the County of Niagara and the Sheriff of the County of Niagara have been involved in ongoing litigation with Traci Haner, and

WHEREAS, the parties have decided to resolve the matter, and

WHEREAS, Traci Haner vs. County of Niagara and the Sheriff of the County of Niagara, Civil Action No. 19-cv-00754-LJV-MJP, presents an opportunity for settlement thereby avoiding additional litigation, and potential adverse costs, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the authority be given to the County to make payment to settle the litigation and any other open matters between the County of Niagara and the Sheriff of the County of Niagara and Traci Haner in the amount of \$45,000, upon completion and receipt of a signed Settlement Agreement, General Release and Stipulation of Discontinuance from plaintiff's and County's counsel.

Moved by Hill, seconded by Robins.

Adopted. 13 Ayes, 0 Noes, 2 Absent – Bradt, Nemi.

Moved by Godfrey, second by Myers to enter Executive Session at 6:17p.m. for discussion of pending litigation.

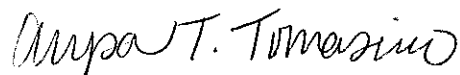
Moved by McKimmie, second by Speranza to adjourn Executive Session at 6:27p.m.

Moved by McKimmie, seconded by Speranza, that the Board adjourn.

Carried.

The Chairman declared the Board adjourned at 6:27 p.m., subject to the call of the Clerk.

No citizens spoke at this time on the General Welfare of the County.



Alysa T. Tomasino, Clerk