



Tioga County Worksession Minutes

August 6, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

Legislators Present:

Legislator Aronstam
Legislator Bunce
Legislator Cantella
Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Flesher
Chair/Legislator Monell
Legislator Rose
Legislator Standing

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Brown

Guests:

Matt Freeze, Reporter, Morning Times – *departed at 1:29 p.m.*

Staff present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Jackson D. Bailey II, County Administrator
Breige Graven, Deputy Legislative Clerk - *departed at 1:29 p.m.*
Linda Parke, Personnel Officer

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Monell opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

2027 Budget Update: County Administrator Bailey reported that departments have presented their proposed 2027 budgets to the Legislative Committees during the committee meetings held this week, with the final budgets to be presented at the Finance, Legal & Safety Committee meeting scheduled for August 11, 2026. He further reported that August 14, 2026 is the deadline for all departmental budget submissions to the County Administrator. Mr. Bailey reported that the 5-Year Capital Plans for Information Technology and Communication Services and Public Works, which includes capital from Public Safety, are also due by August 14, 2026.

Mr. Bailey reported that the August 20, 2026 Legislative Worksession will serve as the kickoff for discussion regarding the County's 2027 budget development process. He stated that he will provide an overview of the preliminary departmental budget requests received, present the

initial tax cap calculation and amount provided by New York State, and review the preliminary fund balance and appropriations for the General Fund and Capital Fund. He noted that the tax cap calculation remains subject to change, as Economic Development and Planning is still finalizing Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) projections, which may affect the projected taxable levy. Mr. Bailey stated that he anticipates the initial calculation will still provide a reliable preliminary estimate.

Mr. Bailey further reported that all but one outside agency funding request has been received and that copies of the requests and all additional relevant information will be distributed to the Legislators prior to the August 20, 2026 Legislative Worksession. He concluded by reporting that following the August 14, 2026 departmental submission deadline, the 2027 budget will roll from Level 1 (Department Entry) to Level 2 (County Administrator) review.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Ciotoli, seconded by Legislator Rose, the July 23, 2026 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items: Currently, there are no action items.

Legislative Support: Legislative Clerk Haskell presented the Legislative Support report, and minutes are documented in a separate document that will be sent to the Legislators.

Resolutions: Ms. Haskell reviewed the agenda and resolutions for the August 11, 2026 Legislature meeting.

Other:

Town of Owego Halloween Event:

Legislator Flesher reported that he and Chair Monell attended an initial meeting with Town of Owego staff regarding the planning of the Halloween event that will take place in October at Hickories Park. He stated that efforts are being made to increase County involvement this year and that he plans to contact County departments to discuss how they can contribute to or participate in the event. Legislator Flesher asked whether members of the Legislature would be willing to discuss potential participation with their respective committee departments, to which the Legislators agreed. Chair Monell commended Legislator Flesher for stepping up and representing the Tioga County Legislature in the planning process.

Flock Security Cameras:

Chair Monell brought the topic of Flock Safety Cameras in Tioga County before the Legislature for discussion. He reported that following a conversation with Morning Times reporter Matt Freeze, he learned that several Flock Safety Cameras are located within Tioga County, noting specifically that there are some near the Lockheed Martin facility, as well as numerous cameras throughout Broome County. Chair Monell stated that while the presence of the cameras near Lockheed Martin is understandable due to the high security nature of the facility, he expressed concerns regarding the collection of information by the cameras, including license plate and cellular data. Legislator Standinger inquired as to who is responsible for the cost of the cameras, to which Chair Monell responded that his understanding is that participating businesses typically fund their installation. Legislator Bunce requested an explanation of how the cameras collect cellular information, and Legislator

Flesher provided a brief overview of the technology. Legislator Bunce further noted that he was aware of the City of Ithaca's push to end their contract with the company. Chair Monell stated that he believed the topic warranted discussion and wished to bring it to the attention of the Legislators.

Executive Session: Legislators Aronstam, Bunce, Cantella, Ciotoli, Flesher, Monell, Rose and Standing were in attendance, with Legislator Brown being absent, along with Personnel Officer Parke, Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, and County Administrator Bailey. Motion by Legislator Flesher, seconded by Legislator Cantella, to move into Executive Session to discuss employment matter of a particular individual at 1:29 p.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Legislator Aronstam, seconded by Legislator Rose to adjourn Executive Session at 1:48 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Next Worksession is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Breige Grauen

Deputy Legislative Clerk