



# County of Erie Charter Revision Commission

92 Franklin St., 4th Fl., Buffalo, NY 14202

## **Meeting No. 2 – February 24, 2025**

92 Franklin Street, Buffalo  
Legislative Caucus Room

### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairman Shawn Connolly

### **Members Present**

Jesse Simmons  
Kenneth Kruly  
Matthew Kibler  
Christopher Jacobs  
Gerald Paradise III  
Bob Penders  
Cedric Holloway  
Lindsey Allen  
William Miller  
Mitchell Snyder  
William (Bill) Schmid  
Diane Benczkowski  
Frank Jacobson  
Scott Kroll

### **Members Excused**

Paul G. Joyce  
Andrea Ó. Súilleabháin

### **Members Not Present**

Anthony Pendergrass

### **Actions**

1. Motion by Matthew Kibler to nominate Andrea Ó. Súilleabháin as Secretary  
Second by Bill Schmid  
Unanimously approved



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2. Motion by Christopher Jacobs to approve the minutes  
Second by Gerald Paradise, III  
Unanimously approved
3. Motion by William Miller to invite all town supervisors to the next meeting on  
March 20<sup>th</sup> for comment  
Second by Jesse Simmons  
Unanimous approval

## Discussion

1. Presentations from County Wide Elected Officials
  - a. Erie County Clerk's Office – Speaker, Erie County Clerk, Michael P. Kearns-requests for consideration and review were provided to the Chair and disseminated at the meeting
    - Requested the commission review Section 202(8) powers and duties of legislature, audit review should remain with county comptroller
    - Term limits for all county wide elected officials
    - Add to the charter periodic mandatory audits
    - Update all language of the charter – removing all reference board of supervisors
    - Request legislative meetings be attended by county attorney
    - Legislature should approve requests for county holidays
    - Prohibit the leader of a local political party from holding the designation of BOE Commissioner
    - Allow for public comment at legislative and committee meetings
  - b. Erie County Comptroller's Office – Speaker Associate Deputy Comptroller  
Presentation by Jessica Schuster – materials containing specific requests were disseminated
    - Provided a quick overview of all requested items in materials, reminded commission each request was already reviewed by the County Attorney's Office
    - Revisions were focused on Section 1801 which reviews the powers/duties of Comptroller
    - Request additional language that includes the Comptroller to certify the availability for all capital funds
    - Review sections to approve decisions regarding investments



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- Change language throughout the entire charter to use the word comptroller – anywhere there is county treasurer
  - c. Erie County Sheriff's Office – Presentation by Undersheriff, William Cooley
    - No specific requests for modification of the charter, however, should the Commission put forward recommendations affecting the Sheriff's Office, the Sheriff requests notification and ability to provide feedback
  - d. Erie County Executive's Office – Presentation by Chief of Staff, Benjamin Swanekamp - specific request from each department head were disseminated providing requests for modification/consideration of the charter. The packet included review and input from the County Attorney's Office
    - Comprehensive overview of lengthy packet that took in considerations from each department head to which the Charter effected
    - All requests were provided with mark up for easy-to-read review and consideration
    - Requests consideration regarding maintaining sales tax
  - e. Erie County Legislator – 10<sup>th</sup> District - Lindsay Lorgio
    - Disagrees with CE request to change sales tax extensions to simple majority -remind this commission it was on the ballot in 2024 and voiced concerned it would minimize the voice of the small villages and towns
    - Request review to look at board and remove when they haven't been active – perhaps included a sunset clause
      - Specific mention of County Budget Review Commission
    - Requests review of conflict counsel
2. Open the floor for public comment- none
3. Introduction of New Members
4. Resignations since the last meeting –
- Dawn Snyder
  - Catherine Dempsey
  - Cindi McMahon
  - Jack Bargensi
5. Discussion regarding subcommittees and the expected work



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6. General discussion/Review of all future meeting dates
7. General reminders regarding FOIL, emails, discussion, website and information accessibility

## **Next Meeting**

March 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. 3349 Broadway, Cheektowaga NY 14227, following a public hearing

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m. with a motion by Gerald Paradise, second by William Miller --unanimous approval