

**ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MEETING NO. 23
DECEMBER 4, 2025**

The Legislature was called to order by Chair Meyers.

All members present.

An Invocation was held, led by Mr. Mills, who requested a moment of silence.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. St. Jean Tard.

Chair Meyers opened the First Public Comment Session. No members of the public requested to speak during the session.

TABLED ITEMS

Item 1 – MR. GILMOUR moved to take Report No. 1 of the FINANCE & MANAGEMENT/BUDGET COMMITTEE from the table. MS. VINAL seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. GILMOUR moved to separate item Number 2-A, and approve the balance of the report. MS. VINAL seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLUTION NO. 191

November 12, 2025, following recess, reconvened on December 1, 2025.	FINANCE & MANAGEMENT/BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1
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ALL MEMBERS PRESENT, EXCEPT LEGISLATOR GREENE.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
 - a. COMM. 19E-2 (2025)
COMPTROLLER: “2026 Tentative Budget Revenue and Major Expenditure Estimates”
(Chair’s Ruling)
 - b. COMM. 20E-1 (2025)
CHAIR MEYERS: “2026 Erie County Budget Hearings Schedule”
(Chair’s Ruling)

- c. COMM. 20M-2 (2025)
NFTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: “Opposition to Proposed Disinvestment in Transit & Municipalities in the 2026 EC Budget”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- d. COMM. 21E-2 (2025)
CHAIR MEYERS: “Finance & Management/Budget Committee Member Notification”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- e. COMM. 21E-3 (2025)
MILLS: “Finance & Management/Budget Committee Member Notification”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- f. COMM. 21E-4 (2025)
COMPTROLLER: “Comptroller's Review of the Proposed 2026 Erie County Budget”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- g. COMM. 21E-5 (2025)
COMPTROLLER: “Letter Regarding Construction of a New Jail Facility in Alden”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- 2. COMM. 19E-1 (2025)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE AS AMENDED
- a. MAJORITY CAUCUS
RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby approves the County Executive’s 2026 Tentative Budget with the amendments attached hereto.
(4-3)

JOHN A. BARGNESI, JR.
ACTING CHAIR

MR. GILMOUR moved to approve item Number 2-A, as amended. MS. VINAL seconded.

CHAIR MEYERS directed that a roll-call vote be taken.

AYES: MR. BARGNESI, MR. DUPRE, MR. GILMOUR, MR. KOOSHOIAN, CHAIR MEYERS, MS. ST. JEAN TARD and MS. VINAL. NOES: MR. GREENE, MS. LORIGO, MR. MILLS and MR. TODARO. (AYES: 7; NOES: 4)

CARRIED.

Item 2 – No items for reconsideration from previous meeting.

Item 3 – MR. GILMOUR moved for the approval of the minutes for Meeting Numbers 21 & 22 from 2025. MS. VINAL & MS. ST. JEAN TARD seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item 4 – No Public Hearings.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS

Item 5 – Miscellaneous Resolutions were offered, as follows:

MAJORITY CAUCUS	Recognizing National Day of Giving
MAJORITY CAUCUS	Recognizing National Adoption Month
MAJORITY CAUCUS	Acknowledging & Honoring National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
MAJORITY CAUCUS	Recognizing National Diabetes Month
DUPRE	Celebrating the Musical Career of Tim Kennedy
DUPRE & ST. JEAN TARD	In Remembrance of Reverend Dr. T Anthony Bronner
DUPRE & ST. JEAN TARD	Happy 70th Birthday Stephen Eduardo Laguerre
VINAL	Honoring Hi-Fi Hits Records during National Record Store Day
VINAL	Honoring Revolver Records during National Record Store Day
VINAL	Honoring & Recognizing Asian Pacific American Public Affairs of Buffalo-Niagara
GREENE	Honoring Paul Vohminkel For 30 Years of Dedicated Service with the Newstead Fire Company
GREENE	Honoring Richard Rebmann for 30 Years of Dedicated Service with the Newstead Fire Company
TODARO	Recognizing Saint Mary’s High School Girls Volleyball for Winning the 2025 State Championship
TODARO	Congratulating Lancaster High School Girls Volleyball for Winning the 2025 Class AAA State Championship

- TODARO Recognizing Roland Wenk as the All-Bee Boys Soccer Player of the Year
- TODARO Celebrating Small Business Saturday with Two Chicks and a Rooster
- TODARO Celebrating the Grand Opening of Wild Zootique
- GILMOUR In Remembrance of Savannah Amaya Adams
- GILMOUR Recognizing St. Francis High School Football - 2025 Monsignor Martin Champions
- LORIGO Recognizing Richard Groh for 5 Years of Service to The Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
- LORIGO Recognizing Ryan Nolan for 25 Years of Service to the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
- LORIGO Recognizing Paul Pokorski for 15 Years of Service to The Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
- LORIGO Recognizing Brian Nolan Sr. for 45 Years of Service to The Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
- LORIGO Recognizing Bryan Bader for 10 Years of Service to The Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
- LORIGO Recognizing Dan Wilson for 20 Years of Service to the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
- LORIGO Recognizing Leah Nolan for 10 Years of Service To the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
- LORIGO Recognizing Mark Dzubella for 30 Years of Service to The Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
- LORIGO Honoring Hunter Swanson on Earning the Rank of Eagle Scout
- MILLS Honoring Gloria Pfohl on Her 99th Birthday!
- MILLS Celebrating the Opening of Blue Eyed Baker in the Village of Hamburg
- MILLS Honoring Brooke Hepkins For Her Outstanding Service to the Angola Community
- MILLS Honoring Frontier High School Educator Ryan Schwarzott

WHEREAS, the Alden-Marilla Food Pantry was awarded \$500 in Community/Neighborhood Development funding in Comm. 18-2 (2025) (Fund Center – 1332010, Account 518500); and

WHEREAS, a correction of name needs to take place so that funds for the Fireman’s Park are allocated to Depew Volunteer Fire Department, Inc; and

WHEREAS, the Alden-Marilla Food Pantry is not able to accept the funds, and the funding should be transferred to alternative organizations; and

WHEREAS, as in similar situations, it is the intention of this Honorable Body to transfer such funding to community organizations serving the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that authorization is provided to transfer \$7,500 of funds designated to the Fireman’s Park, located in Fund Center - 1332010, Account 518500, to Depew Volunteer Fire Department, Inc; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is provided to transfer \$500 of funds designated to the Alden-Marilla Food Pantry, located in Fund Center - 1332010, Account 518500, to Alternative Care Services of WNY, Inc- Alden Meals on Wheels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that while the agency names are changing the overall budget impact is to remain the same; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget Management is authorized to make any adjustments necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution or any other changes identified by the Office of the Erie County Comptroller; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Erie County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, the Director of Budget and Management, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Item 8 – MR. GILMOUR presented the following resolution and moved for immediate consideration and approval. MS. VINAL seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLUTION NO. 193

RE: Compromise of Town & County Taxes Pursuant
to the Erie County Tax Act
(INTRO. 23-2)

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR MILLS & GILMOUR**

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service (USPS) has recently implemented a Regional Transportation Optimization initiative to increase operational efficiency that allows for some mail and packages to be picked up from the originating post office the day after the mail or packages were dropped off by the postal customer; and

WHEREAS, according to the Officer in Charge of the Hamburg Post Office servicing the 14075 zip code, this Regional Transportation Optimization initiative has made the scenario where a postmark date does not align with the date that the USPS first accepted possession of a mail piece more common; and

WHEREAS, this caused several tax bills to be postmarked one day later and considered to have been paid late by each respective town's Receiver of Taxes, leading to late fees; and

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 5-2.0 of the Erie County Tax Act establishes the fees and penalties for late tax payments which forces the assessment of late fees and interest charges on these impacted taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Tax Act does not allow Town Clerks, Receivers of Taxes or the County to cancel the late charges and reserves the authority to compromise or cancel taxes as a power of the Board of Supervisors (Erie County Legislature); and

WHEREAS, it is unacceptable that taxpayers, who otherwise paid their taxes on time, are being charged late fees on their school tax bills as a result of this new USPS policy and the Erie County Legislature seeks to utilize its authority to rectify the matter for the impacted taxpayers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the authority granted in Article 12, Section 12-1.00 of the Erie County Tax Act, which states "*the board of supervisors may compromise and cancel unpaid county taxes and tax sales heretofore or hereafter levied or made and may also compromise and cancel any tax certificates held and owned by the county,*" the Erie County Legislature hereby cancels all fees, fines and interest penalties charged to the following taxpayers whose 2026 school tax payments were delayed due to this new USPS policy:

Owner	Owners Address	Business Address	Town	Tax Bill #
Robert A. Gonser Jr.	5156 Lakeshore Rd, Hamburg	Salt Rd	Clarence	000288
Robert A. Gonser Jr.	5156 Lakeshore Rd, Hamburg	California Rd	Orchard Park	002090
Robert A. Gonser Jr.	5156 Lakeshore Rd, Hamburg	N Benzing Rd	Orchard Park	001460
6246 Southwestern Blvd LLC	5156 Lakeshore Rd, Hamburg	6246 Southwester	Hamburg	015557

		Blvd		
Gonser Revocable Living Trust	5156 Lakeshore Rd, Hamburg	n/a	Hamburg	012075
Gonser Revocable Living Trust	5156 Lakeshore Rd, Hamburg	n/a	Hamburg	012074
Camp Road Storage LLC	5156 Lakeshore Rd, Hamburg	4343 Camp Rd, Hamburg	Hamburg	007239
3901 Harvard LLC	5156 Lakeshore Rd., Hamburg	3901 Harvard St	Hamburg	009386
Camp Road Storage LLC	5156 Lakeshore Rd., Hamburg	4347 Camp Rd	Hamburg	007238
Camp Road Storage LLC	5156 Lakeshore Rd, Hamburg	Camp Rd	Hamburg	007237

and be it further

RESOLVED, that with the cancellation of all late fees associated with the tax bill, any penalty paid by the aforementioned taxpayers related said tax bill shall be reimbursed with 10 business days after passage of this resolution; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Director of Real Property Tax Services is hereby directed to assist the Hamburg, Orchard Park, and Clarences Town Clerks to effectuate this decision and deliver a report to the Legislature of all penalties that were cancelled by January 8, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Town Clerks of the Towns of Hamburg, Orchard Park, and Clarence, the County Executive, County Comptroller, Director of Real Property Tax Services and the aforementioned impacted taxpayers.

COMMUNICATIONS DISCHARGED FROM COMMITTEE

There were none.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Item 9 - MR. GILMOUR moved for a Suspension of the Rules to include an item not on the agenda.

GRANTED.

INTRO. 23-3 from GREENE Re: Reappropriation of Public Benefit Funds

MR. GILMOUR presented the following resolution and moved for immediate consideration and approval. MR. GREENE seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLUTION NO. 194

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR GREENE**

WHEREAS, the Clarence Hollow Merchant's Association, Inc was awarded \$15,000 in Community/Neighborhood Development funding in Comm. 18-2 (2025) (Fund Center – 1332010, Account 518500); and

WHEREAS, the Clarence Hollow Merchant's Association, Inc is not able to accept the funds, and the funding should be transferred to alternative organizations; and

WHEREAS, as in similar situations, it is the intention of this Honorable Body to transfer such funding to community organizations serving the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that authorization is provided to transfer \$15,000 of funds designated to the Clarence Hollow Merchant's Association, Inc, located in Fund Center - 1332010, Account 518500, to the Town of Clarence; and be it further

RESOLVED, that while the agency names are changing the overall budget impact is to remain the same; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget Management is authorized to make any adjustments necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution or any other changes identified by the Office of the Erie County Comptroller; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Erie County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, the Director of Budget and Management, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

FROM THE COMPTROLLER

Item 10 – (COMM. 23E-1) Audit of the EC Bureau of Fleet Services

Item 11 – (COMM. 23E-2) Sheriff's Office Purchase of Two New Helicopters - Funding Problem as First Helicopter is about to be Delivered

The above two items were received and referred to the FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

FROM CHAIR MEYERS

Item 12 – (COMM. 23E-3) Appointment to the EC Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board

Chair Meyers directed that the item be received and filed.

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Item 13 – (COMM. 23E-4) ECSD Board of Managers Appointments - Placeholder

Received and referred to the ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Item 14 – (COMM. 23E-5) PILOT Agreements for Solar Energy Systems - Wherle Drive, Town of Clarence

Received and referred to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Item 15 – (COMM. 23E-6) ECSD Nos. 1, 4, & 5 - Construction Inspection Term Contract Agreement (Work Order: WSA-4)

Item 16 – (COMM. 23E-7) ECSD NYSDOT - Public Utility Work Agreements (2026)

The above two items were received and referred to the ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Item 17 – (COMM. 23E-8) National Fuel Gas Utility Easement for Botanical Gardens Expansion Plan

Received and referred to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Item 18 – (COMM. 23E-9) ECSD No. 8 - East Aurora WRRF Electrical Upgrades Project: Construction Inspection Services

Item 19 – (COMM. 23E-10) Property Transfer from the County to Town of Hamburg

Item 20 – (COMM. 23E-11) Notice of Adoption - ECSD 2025 Assessment Rolls (2026 Levy)

Item 21 – (COMM. 23E-12) WNY Stormwater Coalition: Memorandum of Agreement

The above four items were received and referred to the ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Item 22 – (COMM. 23E-13) PILOT Agreement for 245 North St., City of Buffalo - Affordable Housing Development

Item 23 – (COMM. 23E-14) SUNY ECC North Campus Dry Memorial Library Exterior Rehab

Item 24 – (COMM. 23E-15) Authorization to Amend an Energy Performance Contract with Palm Energy

Item 25 – (COMM. 23E-16) BridgeNY Project Agreement with NYSDOT & Award of Construction, and Construction Inspection Contracts (Town of Concord)

Item 26 – (COMM. 23E-17) Jordan Place Land Transfer from the City of Buffalo to Erie County

The above five items were received and referred to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

FROM LEGISLATOR MILLS

Item 27 – (COMM. 23E-18) Request for Discussion on Bureau of Fleet Services Audit

Received and referred to the FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF BUDGET & MANAGEMENT

Item 28 – (COMM. 23D-1) September 2025 Budget Monitoring Report

Item 29 – (COMM. 23D-2) Sheriff's Office Purchase of Helicopters - Funding Availability

The above two items were received and referred to the FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PEOPLE AND OTHER AGENCIES

FROM THE EC AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD

Item 30 – (COMM. 23M-1) EC Agricultural Districts Inclusion of Viable Agricultural Land
Received and referred to the ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

FROM THE NFTA

Item 31 – (COMM. 23M-2) Annual 17A Report FYE 2025
Received and referred to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Meyers opened the Second Public Comment Session. the following speakers addressed the Legislature:

Todd Hariaczyi, Williamsville – asked that a representative from the NFTA provide an update to the Legislature regarding the 2nd floor of the DL&W Terminal.

Jamie O’Dell, Rochester – provided notice of Constitutional Non-Conformance.

Tanawah Downing, Washington DC – provided notice of Constitutional Non-Conformance.

Jessica Saxton, Washington DC – provided notice of Constitutional Non-Conformance.

Brian Nowak, Cheektowaga – discussed the issue of exceeding the tax cap in towns, villages, and Erie County.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Item 32 – Chair Meyers announced that the Legislature will conduct committee meetings on Thursday, December 11, 2025, and the schedule will be distributed. Chair Meyers further announced that the next session of the Legislature will be held on Thursday, December 18, 2025.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

Item 33 – Legislator Todaro requested that when the Legislature adjourns, it do so in memory of Bonnie B. Asch, Muhammad A. Hossain, and Elizabeth J. Trzybinski.

Item 34 – Legislator Greene requested that when the Legislature adjourns, it do so in memory of Judith W. Vasilion.

ADJOURNMENT

Item 35 – At this time, there being no further business to transact, CHAIR MEYERS announced that the Chair would entertain a Motion to Adjourn.

MR. GREENE moved that the Legislature adjourn until Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 11:30 AM. MR. GILMOUR seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIR MEYERS declared the Legislature adjourned until Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 11:30 AM.

**OLIVIA M. OWENS
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE**