



Tioga County Worksession Minutes **January 22, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.**

Legislators Present:

Legislator Aronstam
Legislator Brown
Legislator Bunce
Legislator Cantella
Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Monell
Legislator Standinger

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Flesher
Legislator Rose

Guests:

None

Staff present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney (*arrived 10:02 a.m.*)
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Jackson D. Bailey II, County Administrator
Linda Parke, Personnel Officer (*departed 10:23 a.m.*)

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Monell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

District Attorney Internship: County Administrator Bailey reported we currently have a high school student intern through the Waverly School District's vocational program observing in the District Attorney's office through January 26, 2026. Mr. Bailey reported the student, the school district, and District Attorney Martin would all like to continue the internship through the remainder of the school year. This internship started out as a county-wide internship but now would be departmentally focused. This would continue to be an unpaid, observational internship for up to three hours per day with a need for minimal oversight. Mr. Bailey reported the student currently is and would continue to report to Assistant District Attorney Reardon.

Mr. Bailey reported, according to County policy, the Department Head would need to come before the Legislature and request a waiver of Section 1 of the County's Internship policy for the intern to continue, as the intern would no longer be receiving academic or vocational credit. District Attorney Martin is unable to be here today due to the current trial; therefore,

Mr. Bailey is advocating on his behalf to allow the student intern to continue with the District Attorney's office through the remainder of the school year.

Mr. Bailey reported he spoke with County Attorney DeWind regarding liability. Mr. Bailey reported that all interns sign a waiver and she would be covered under the school district. With the permission of the Legislature for continuation, Mr. Bailey will have the paperwork re-signed as an independent internship.

Chair Monell reported this is the field the intern wants to pursue for higher education and was in favor of the waiver request. Legislator Ciotoli was in favor of this and expressed this is a great opportunity.

Legislator Cantella inquired about paid versus unpaid internships. Mr. Bailey reported the County policy is only for unpaid internships. Legislator Bunce expressed that the unpaid internship shows incentive that the person is truly interested.

All Legislators were in favor of granting the waiver to allow the student intern to continue her unpaid observational internship with the District Attorney's office for the remainder of the school year.

Strategic Plan Update: County Administrator Bailey presented a general overview of the County's Strategic Plan. The Plan was updated last year with the Department Heads and the seated Legislature at the time. A couple of years ago, the concept of developing a County Strategic Plan was brought forth by the ED&P Department and they hired a consultant to develop a plan, but there was not a lot of Legislative oversight at the time.

Mr. Bailey reported he was tasked with re-building the document with the Departments providing information on their objectives, milestones, etc. A bi-annual reporting timeline for July and December was established for Departments to present their objectives and milestone updates. In December 2025, the Departments presented their updates at their respective Legislative Standing Committee, and the revised 2026 draft document is being presented today.

Mr. Bailey reviewed the Plan's established vision and mission statements, core values, and objectives. Mr. Bailey reported this document is intended to aid the departments when preparing their annual budgets and 5-Year Capital Plans and provide the Legislature the awareness of the areas the Departments wish to pursue.

Mr. Bailey will send the Legislators an electronic copy of this draft today for their review before finalizing the 2026 revision.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Ciotoli, seconded by Legislator Brown, the January 8, 2026 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items: Currently, there are no action items.

Other:

- **2026 Legislature Photo** – The Legislators in attendance were asked about their upcoming availability and based on the results the Legislature photo is tentatively scheduled at the conclusion of the February 5, 2026 Legislative Worksession. We will contact Legislators Flesher and Rose to determine if they are available to attend on this date and Legislative Clerk Haskell will confirm availability of the Chief Information Officer.

Executive Session: Legislators Aronstam, Brown, Bunce, Cantella, Ciotoli, Monell, and Standinger were in attendance along with Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Administrator Bailey, and County Attorney DeWind. Motion by Legislator Ciotoli, seconded by Legislator Brown, to move into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations at 10:23 a.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Legislator Brown, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli to adjourn Executive Session at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Haskell

Legislative Clerk