

Inter County Association of Western New York



% Ontario County Board of Supervisors, 20 Ontario Street, Cananaigua, NY 14424

Phone (585) 396-4447

Email: karen.demay@co.ontario.ny.us or brenda@co.steuben.ny.us

Robert A. Green, Jr., President – Ontario County
Peter Yendell, 1st Vice President – Livingston County
Shelley Stein, 2nd Vice President – Genesee County
Karen R. DeMay, Secretary – Ontario County
Brenda K. Mori, Treasurer – Steuben County

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE:

Donna Vickman, Cattaraugus County
John Pastrick, Chemung County
David Callard, Orleans County

Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates

MINUTES - February 19, 2016

The meeting, held at Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Canandaigua, NY, was called to order by Association President Bob Green (*Ontario*) at 10:00 a.m. Ted Fafinski (*Ontario Guest*) led the Association in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Shelley Stein (*Genesee*) provided the invocation.

Roll call of counties

- The following 12 counties answered roll call:
Allegany (3), Cattaraugus (3), Chemung (2), Genesee (2), Livingston (2), Monroe (2) Ontario (3/5), Seneca (1), Steuben(2), Wayne (3/1) and Wyoming (2), and Yates (0/1). **26 members/12 guests in attendance.**

Welcome from Host County

Ontario County Board Chairman Jack Marren welcomed all in attendance. He appreciates the benefits of Inter County Association with its networking ability along with keeping current with similar issues, regulations, and mandates from New York State. This is a great opportunity for Ontario County to host today and to also welcome Bob Green as the 2016 President of this association. He introduced special guests, Ted Fafinski, Sam Casella, former Ontario County Supervisor John Sheppard who is now Seneca County Manager, Ontario board member Norman Teed, County Administrator Mary Krause and Deputy County Administrator Mary Gates. He concluded by recognizing the efforts to bring the topic of the heroin epidemic and drug abuse escalating in all of our counties.

Approval of Minutes

J. Pastrick (*Chemung*), made the motion, second by H. Lando (*Steuben*), to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2015, Inter County Meeting as written, motion carried.

S. Stein (*Genesee*), made the motion, seconded by S. LeRoy (*Wayne*), to accept the minutes of the February 3, 2016, Joint Inter County Meeting as written; motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

P. Yendell (*Livingston*), made the motion, seconded by C. Ferratella (*Steuben*), to accept the Treasurer's report dated December 31, 2015; motion carried.

	-	+	Net
Treasury Balance ending October 31, 2015			\$7,664.71
"Cash Box" as of December 31, 2015		\$30.00	
Check Book Balance as of December 31, 2015		\$6,938.21	
Receipts:			
November Meeting Registrations – Chautauqua County		\$740.00	
Disbursements:			
Ck#1149 – Crown Jewelry (Outgoing President's Gift)	\$107.50		
Ck#1152 – The Catering Company – Chautauqua County	\$1,329.00		
Treasury Balance ending December 31, 2015			\$6,968.21

At this time President Green welcomed Congressman Chris Collins' Field Director, Chris Catt, Senator Rich Funke's Constituent Services Coordinator Jake Chard, and US Congressman Reeds' representative, Mary Green.

President Green announced the 20th Annual Regional Leadership Conference to be held March 31, 2016, at Corning Community College. www.RegionalLeadershipConference.info. Inter County supports this conference and voted last year, October 2015, to contribute \$1,000.00. It was noted that many of the workshops and sessions qualify as core courses in the Pelletier Institute.

NYSAC Update

Association President Green introduced Patrick Cummings from the New York State Association of Counties who presented an Albany update.

Patrick reviewed many current issues of interest to Inter County members and guests. He reminded everyone of valuable and informative webinars on the NYSAC website. A few of the links are listed below:

Real and Permanent Mandate relief: This report recommends five actions the state can take to significantly reduce property taxes at the county level.

<http://www.nysac.org/documents/NYSACRealandPermanentMandateReliefWhitePaper.pdf>

More Reforms Needed for Early Intervention: According to the most up-to-date available annual data, the NYS Early Intervention Program cost \$623 million in 2012, with counties spending close to \$163 million.

<http://www.nysac.org/documents/NYSACEIWhitePaper.pdf>

County Impact Summary: The summary report provides details on the state financial plan and how the Governor's Executive State Budget proposal would impact county governments.

<http://www.nysac.org/documents/Proposed2016-17StateBudgetSummary.pdf>

He stated 31 important resolutions were carried at the NYSAC conference in early February. There were over 800 attendees and 30 workshops. Topics covered: E-Waste, Drones, Uber, AirB&B, to name a few.

The next issue is focusing on the state budget and its effect on counties. All our counties are doing the best they can and classic NYS mandates require over 80 percent of costs to be borne by counties.

Concerns, comments, and discussion followed on these issues:

- State takeover of Indigent defense costs; this would be a true mandate relief for counties.
- Increasing DMV revenue sharing rate for counties.
- Early voting proposals.
- Combining Primaries.
- Minimum Wage proposal.
- Tax Cap
- Raising the Criminal Age.
- Proposed decreased funding for marine navigation law.

The association appreciates NYSAC's presence at our regional meetings. Input and insight is valuable to our counties.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Resolutions:

	PRESENTING COUNTIES	RESOLUTION TITLE	ACTION TAKEN
1	Allegany	Resolution Urging the Governor and Legislature to Gradually Restore the 50/50 State/County Sharing for the Safety Net Program and to Increase Shelter Grant Reimbursements to Counties	Motion to adopt made by K. LaForge (Allegany), seconded by B. Neale (Cattaraugus); motion carried unanimously.
2	Allegany	Resolution in Support of an Educational Initiative Regarding a Vote to convene a Constitutional Convention	Motion to adopt made by K. LaForge (Allegany), seconded by J. Davis (Wyoming); motion carried unanimously.
3	Allegany	Resolution Calling on the State of New York to Restore Funding Parity Between the Capital Plans of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the NYS Department of Transportation	Motion to adopt made by K. LaForge (Allegany), seconded by Brenda Rigby Riehle (Allegany); motion carried unanimously.
4	Orleans	Resolution Opposing Governor Cuomo's Proposed Increase in the Minimum Wage.	Motion to adopt made by R. Green (Ontario), seconded by John Pastrick (Chemung); motion carried unanimously.

Presentation/Program:

The Heroin Epidemic, a crisis for all communities, was presented by Ontario County Public Health Director, Mary Beer, Ontario County Chief Correction Officer, Alice Haskins, and Mr. Tim Goodman.

Public Health Director Mary Beer introduced Chief Correction Officer Alice Haskins who spoke briefly about current 2016 (6 weeks) Jail statistics relating to addiction. There have been 4 drug related deaths, the age of the addict ranges from 23 – 60 years of age; addiction rates for alcohol are 10%, Marijuana – 10%, and Heroin – 23%. Heroin has moved from subculture to mainstream and is big business with gang involvement. Complications from these addictions are numerous.

The Partnership for Ontario County, an independent non-profit organization, creates, supports, and administers alliances to cultivate positive social change. Programs and Initiative of the partnership include, youth court, child advocacy, family support centers, youth mental health first aid, and groups such as 'Nowhere to Go', 'Youth to Youth', and 'Never Alone Club'. Today's presentation focused on the Heroin Epidemic in our communities. Mr. Tim Goodman presented heartrending personal experience with the loss of his son, Adam James Goodman, to heroin addiction. He recounted the normal all American childhood years and the eventual turn to drug abuse and addiction.

He impressed upon us all some sobering statistics:

- More people are now dying annually from drug overdose than in car accidents.
- Addiction causes pain and suffering which can lead to death.
- Heroin use and prescription opiate abuse has no boundaries; any age, any walk of life.
- Heroin and prescription opiate pills are highly addictive.

He urged everyone to be informed, to share information, and to be observant so that we can all stop heroin and prescription drug abuse in communities across America.

Association President Green and all present today thanked Mr. Goodman for sharing his story.

Adjournment: On motion of P. Yendell (*Livingston*), seconded by J. Pastrick (*Chemung*), the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM followed by lunch; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen R. DeMay

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RESOLUTION NO. 2016 – 1 - IC

RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO GRADUALLY RESTORE THE 50/50 STATE/COUNTY SHARING FOR THE SAFETY NET PROGRAM AND TO INCREASE SHELTER GRANT REIMBURSEMENTS TO COUNTIES

WHEREAS, The 2011-2012 State budget dramatically lowered the State's fiscal responsibility in the Safety Net Program by shifting the cost of 71 percent county/29 percent state, severing the historic 50 percent county/50 percent New York State partnership, and

WHEREAS, This continues a long line of state legislative actions that have transferred the State's constitutional and fiscal responsibility to care for the needy to county taxpayers, while providing counties virtually no control over eligibility for services and benefit levels, and

WHEREAS, The Safety Net funding shift also builds upon recent trends where the State has leveraged significant savings from maximizing available federal resources largely for state financial plan purposes only, at the expense of local property taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, The net effect of this state practice forced local property taxes to be higher than they should because available savings are being spent by the state rather than being used to lower the cost of state mandates that can provide direct relief to local property taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, Nearly half of the states do not have Safety Net programs and New York is one of only 11 states that provides benefits to childless adults that do not have some disability, and

WHEREAS, Most other states do not require counties to fund such a large share of public assistance costs, and

WHEREAS, Counties in New York are required to finance the vast majority of Safety Net costs, putting in twice as much funding as the State, and

WHEREAS, Counties believe that the rising cost of providing shelter assistance to recipients is a major contribution to this increase, and

WHEREAS, The reduction of State funding support for Safety Net Assistance is part of a larger trend where the State has reduced its fiscal commitment for nearly every public assistance program including child welfare, adoption subsidies, food stamp administration, Safety Net, child support enforcement, juvenile justice and programs designed to help recently released state incarcerated offenders

returning to the community, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That *Inter County Association, an association representing over three million constituents in Western New York State*, calls upon the State to gradually restore the historic 50/50 state/county cost sharing for the Safety Net program over a five year period, starting with an increase in county reimbursement for shelter assistance in order to help lower the local property tax burden for homeowners and small businesses; and further

RESOLVED, That certified copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Association Secretary to Governor Cuomo, Senator Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten E. Gillibrand, New York State Association of Counties, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, Assembly Speaker Heastie, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

State of New York}
County of Ontario}

This is to Certify that I, Karen R. DeMay, the undersigned Secretary of the Inter County Association of Western New York, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Association at a session held on the 19th day of February 2016, and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Inter County Association of Western New York dated February 22, 2016.



Karen R. DeMay

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RESOLUTION NO. 2016 – 2 - IC RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE REGARDING A VOTE TO CONVENE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, Inter County Association of Western New York, an association representing over three million constituents in Western New York State, believes basic structural change is necessary in New York State government, and

WHEREAS, According to Article 19, Section 2 of the New York State Constitution, a proposition will appear on the statewide ballot on November of 2017 for the convening of a Constitutional Convention for New York State, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That Inter county Association of Western New York requests that the New York State Association of Counties engages with other like-minded organizations in a program of voter education regarding the importance of a vote to convene a Constitutional Convention; and further

RESOLVED, That certified copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Association Secretary to New York State Association of Counties and all others deemed necessary and proper.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2016 – 3 - IC

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO RESTORE FUNDING PARITY BETWEEN THE CAPITAL PLANS OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MTA) AND THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio recently announced an agreement to jointly subsidize the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) nearly \$11 billion funding gap for its 2015-19 five-year capital program; and

WHEREAS, As part of this agreement, the Governor is committing \$8.3 billion in state resources to cover the MTA plan's multi-year deficit; and

WHEREAS, While we may agree that this vital investment in downstate transit is needed, the state has yet to develop a new Department of Transportation Five-Year Capital Plan designed to assess current conditions and determine investments needed to provide for the future needs of a modern, safe, reliable, and efficient multimodal transportation system; and

WHEREAS, The enactment of the FAST Act, a fully funded five-year authorization of federal surface transportation programs that provides long-term federal funding predictability, should now facilitate the state to develop and fund a Transportation Five-Year Capital Plan; and

WHEREAS, Locally-owned roads and bridges account for 87 percent of the State's 110,000 miles of roadways and 50 percent of the State's 18,000 bridges and are responsible for a vast system of aging culverts. These locally-owned transportation facilities are deteriorating at a rapid rate as counties continue to struggle to find adequate funding for their maintenance and replacement; and

WHEREAS, Three of the last four DOT/MTA five-year capital programs were virtually identical in size; and

WHEREAS, For nearly two decades, through 2009, the parity agreement was honored and both five-year capital programs were similar in size as well as adopted within a month of each other. It is necessary to once again restore parity between the programs; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2014 Comptroller's report, thirty-four percent (34%) of bridges are deficient and forty-eight percent (48%) of road pavements in the state are rated fair or poor and getting worse; and

WHEREAS, Restoring parity between the Department of Transportation's (DOT) highway and

bridge five-year capital program and the MTA's capital program will assure each program is funded at a \$26.1 billion level, providing enough resources to help fund the local needs as described above; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That *Inter County Association, an association representing over three million constituents in Western New York State*, calls upon Governor Cuomo and our State Legislative Delegation to work with our County and other local governments in order to develop and fully-fund a Five-Year Capital Plan that will provide the necessary and proper funding to New York's counties by substantially increasing

CHIPS and Marchiselli funding and establishing a five-year State Aid to Local Bridge and Culvert Program to give them the ability to adequately maintain their infrastructure; and further

RESOLVED, That certified copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Association Secretary to Governor Cuomo, Senator Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten E. Gillibrand, New York State Association of Counties, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, Assembly Speaker Heastie, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2016 – 4 - IC OPPOSING GOVERNOR CUOMO'S PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo's Executive 2016-17 State Budget Proposal includes increasing the minimum hourly wage from \$9.00 to \$15.00 over the period from December 31, 2016 to July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Orleans County has experienced the loss of local jobs when New York's minimum wage was previously increased, which made New York State non-competitive with the minimum wage paid in other states; and

WHEREAS, It is the belief of this Legislature that the proposed government mandated minimum wage increase will cost upstate New York hundreds of thousands of jobs since the onerous tax structure in New York State already places a tremendous burden on small businesses; and

WHEREAS, This proposed increase in minimum wage will also create pressure on local governments, as employers, to increase wages in order to attract workers; and

WHEREAS, This wage pressure, together with a possible .12% tax cap on property taxes for next year, would create great pressure to cut non-mandated programs, such as valuable youth employment and senior programs to keep seniors at home and out of nursing homes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That *Inter County Association, an association representing over three million constituents in Western New York State*, urges the Governor to reconsider this proposal, and asks our state delegation to oppose this increase; and further

RESOLVED, That certified copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Association Secretary to Governor Cuomo, Senator Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten E. Gillibrand, New York State Association of Counties, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, Assembly Speaker Heastie, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

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