

REGULAR MEETING
DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MARCH 26, 2025

The regular meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Supervisors' Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, New York, Chairman Tina B. Molé presiding.

The Clerk called the roll and all Supervisors were present.

Reverend Brett White offered the invocation.

Mr. Layton led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting were accepted as presented.

The Clerk noted that all communications received have been referred to their respective committees for review.

Ms. Molé granted privilege of the floor to Supervisor Gladstone, who introduced Director of Emergency Services Steve Hood to give a presentation about the first two years of the County Ambulance service.

Mr. Hood stated that this is the last year of the contract with AMR, and they are here to present an overview of the last two years and give the Board an opportunity to see the numbers and information to make an informed decision to move forward with the ambulance service.

Mr. Hood introduced the Deputy Director of Emergency Services and EMS Coordinator Margaret Wilson. Ms. Wilson gave a slide show that displayed the response of the contract ambulance vs other ambulance providers as well as patient contact. In 2024 there were 2,293 calls for service with 1,574 of those calls were patient contact. Since starting the County ambulance service, the response time for calls has decreased from 55 minutes to approximately 14 minutes.

Ms. Wilson explained that the billing and collection are all done by AMR. The BLS (basic life support) rate per the contract is approximately \$1,500.00. A large majority of the patients in Delaware County have Medicaid or Medicare which is only reimbursed at a rate of \$250.00. There is a mixture of other types of insurance payments as well as private pay payments that are received. As of January 1, 2025 a change in the law has been made so that the payment for ambulance service is paid directly to the ambulance company rather than the patient. The NRT (Net Revenue per Transport) for Delaware County in 2023 was \$482.99 and in 2024 was \$597.21. AMR is still working to collect past bills and there is only \$16,000 remaining to collect for 2023.

The amount that has been billed since the beginning of the contract with AMR is \$2,692,409.40 of that \$1,385,815.57 has been collected. The amount collected is about 35% of the total contract amount. The contract with AMR includes personnel costs for the billing and collection. AMR has provided local employment with the addition of 8 full-time employees including 6 staff members and 2 mechanics. The contract includes 2 BLS ambulances and an ALS fly-car. The ambulances have travelled 148,714 miles during the contracted time. The contract includes all fuel and maintenance of the vehicles. There has been no break in service due to break down. A new fly car was needed and was replaced in just a few hours. Additional benefits at no additional cost have been the purchase of three new Lifepak 15 monitors, new CPR assist machine and the ability to join new programs and protocols offered by the Bureau of EMS.

Ms. Wilson summarized that the contract with AMR for county-wide ambulance coverage has proven to be beneficial to the Delaware County EMS Mutual Aid plan. The contracted ambulances have filled the coverage gaps that were present prior to the contract. Contracting with AMR gives Delaware County access to AMR's vast resources of cutting-edge equipment, spare ambulance and fly cars as well as "pilot" programs. All costs associated with operating a 24/7 service are covered in the contract costs allowing for budget numbers to be set.

In response to Mr. Gladstone, Ms. Wilson said that what she has heard is that the federal cuts will not affect Medicaid.

Mr. Gladstone commented that it was a very good presentation and a necessary service. It has been beneficial to many of the towns that have been struggling. If it saves one life it's worth it.

In reply to Ms. Molé, Ms. Wilson explained that originally there was a lot of opposition to offering a county ambulance service. Most of the volunteer agencies do utilize the service to help fill their coverage gaps. It has been very helpful in that way. There has been an increase in volunteers and that amount of time they are available.

In response to Mr. Kosier, Ms. Wilson stated that there are 2 BLS ambulances, one stationed in Hamden and the other stationed in Pinders Corners. There is a fly car that is stationed in Hamden which is a paramedic only vehicle. The fly car paramedic assistance to the lower-level ambulances.

In response to Mr. Gladstone, Ms. Wilson said that Delaware County is a large county and we do not get reimbursed for readiness. We could benefit from another ambulance that could be strategically located. The ones that we have now made a huge difference.

In reply to Mr. Marshfield, Ms. Wilson said the plan is to present the information to the Board today and see what the guidance is; either to look at the contract extension options or to go another route.

In response to Ms. Merklen, Ms. Wilson said the proposed amount of reimbursement was 30% and we are at 35% so we are right on track with the proposal. The payor mix shows that we

are reimbursed 250.00 for Medicaid and Medicare patients, which is only about a third of what is being billed.

In response to Mr. Marshfield, AMR Regional Director Bill Beevers said that yes it would cost at least a half million dollars to add another full-time ambulance.

Mr. Cetta commented that when this was discussed previously he had said that if we started this, we would continue it. He is very happy and grateful that we did this as are many other volunteers.

In response to Mr. Kosier, Ms. Wilson stated yes the majority of the time the two ambulances and the fly car were able to keep up with the calls. There were times when another ambulance had to call. All part of working together with the Mutual Aid Plan.

In response to Mr. Smith, Ms. Wilson stated there were two companies that responded to the bid.

Mr. Cetta and Mr. Gladstone explained that the Public Safety committee has been discussing how to move forward, whether to put it up for a bid or a contract extension. Mr. Gladstone feels that with proven performance, a contract extension is the way we should proceed. We do not want to jeopardize performance.

In response to Supervisor Wilson, Mr. Gladstone stated that the disadvantage to putting it out to bid would be the risk of contract cost could go up.

Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Faulker commented that the Margaretville area has had problems with staffing the ambulances and that there may come a time when a third ambulance should be considered to cover other parts of the county. Mr. Cetta questioned if a third ambulance would be a consideration if the current contract was extended or a new RFP even if it is determined later.

Mr. Merrill commented that this has proved to be valuable and a wise discussion.

Mr. Vernold stated that the Town of Hancock taxpayers pay for their ambulance service and pays for the County Ambulance service through their property taxes. If Hancock chooses not to continue with their paid ambulances, there would be a need for a third ambulance and the response time would be higher as Hancock is 45 minutes away. Mr. Vernold feels that he needs answers for his taxpayers.

Mr. Hood responded that this is for a backup service for the entire county to provide mutual support.

Ms. Molé thanked Mr. Hood and Ms. Wilson for the presentation.

Mr. Vernold offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 62

**TITLE: 2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT
ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM NYS DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOR THE SWIMS PROJECT
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, Delaware County has been awarded \$25,000.00 from NYS Department of State for the StateWide Investment in More Swimming (SWIMS) Program; and

WHEREAS, the SWIMS Program provides funding for lifeguard training and funding to have certified lifeguards at local pools for extended hours and seasons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Delaware County Board of Supervisors accepts those funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2025 Budget be amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-18020-43358901/8020033/908	General Grant Related Exp	\$25,000.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-18020-54327000/8020033/908	SWIMS Program	\$25,000.00
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Ellis and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 200, Noes 0, Absent 0.

Mr. Cetta offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 63

**TITLE: 2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT
TRANSFER OF FUNDS
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

WHEREAS, Delaware County inmates have been deemed incapacitated to meaningfully participate in their criminal defense proceedings and require care from a NYS Psychiatric hospital; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County is 100% responsible for inpatient psychiatric hospital costs; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is needed to cover current inpatient hospitalizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2025 Budget be amended as

follows:

TRANSFER FROM:

10-11990-54900000	Contingency	\$91,974.96
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TRANSFER TO:

10-14390-54535420	Professional Fees Psychiatric	\$91,974.96
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Merrill.

Mr. Cetta stated that there is no status on this, and they do not know how long this treatment will take. Mr. Merrill said that this could get worse before it gets better. Mr. Faulkner commented that it is a bit unreasonable that we are asked to cover something that we have no information about or control of. Ms. Scott replied that we know they are there but do not know what for or when they will be evaluated. We are told that they are there and for how many days and how much per day but that is all we know.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 200, Noes 0, Absent 0.

Mr. Vernold offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 64

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARDS
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, PARKS AND WATERSHED AFFAIRS**

Notice to bidders and proposals received having been submitted and reviewed and all documents verified as complete for all bidders.

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Department of Planning, Parks and Watershed Affairs solicited through a Request for Proposals bids to mow a total of 129 County owned flood buyout properties in the Village of Sidney; and

WHEREAS, five (5) proposals were received and verified as complete; and

WHEREAS, recommendation from the Planning, Recreation and Culture Committee is to award to the lowest qualified bidder with support as needed from the next lowest bidder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Planning, Parks and Watershed Affairs is authorized to make awards to the lowest qualified bidders meeting all specifications as follows:

PROPOSAL NO. 1-25	CJs Lawn Care at a cost of \$1,290.00 each mowing and Freedom Lawn Care at a cost of \$1,291.16 each mowing if needed for support
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All original bids and a summary sheet of the bids received are on file for inspection at the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Ellis and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 200, Noes 0, Absent 0.

Mr. Merrill offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 65

**TITLE: CORRECTION OF CURRENT TAX ROLLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECTION 554 OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW**

WHEREAS, the Director of the Real Property Tax Service Agency has been presented with an application for correction of the 2025 tax roll by the Franklin Town Assessor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 554 of the Real Property Tax law that the following be approved and the Chairman of the Board be authorized to sign the approval of the application on behalf of the Board.

TOWN OF FRANKLIN: Tax Map No. 31.-1-4, assessed to Rockaway Revival Center, due to the total taxable assessment being reduced from \$400,000 to \$139,000 for the 2024 roll. A new tax bill to be issued in the amount of \$4,146.23 from the original bill amount of \$11,931.63.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 200, Noes 0, Absent 0.

Chairman Molé waived Board Rule 10 to permit the introduction without objection of the following not-prefiled resolution.

Mr. Merrill offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 66

**TITLE: NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK
APRIL 7 – APRIL 13, 2025
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the week of April 7-13, 2025, is National Public Health Week; with a theme of It Starts Here: Your Health is Our Mission; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public's health; and

WHEREAS, this year, National Public Health week celebrates its 30th anniversary with key priority focus areas of climate action, health equity, advocacy and the future of public health; and

WHEREAS, climate change impacts physical and mental health. Planning for extreme weather and pest risks like ticks and mosquitoes can make a difference. Supporting funding and community partnerships to increase access to affordable and energy-efficient housing for professionals, low-income families and the seniors; and

WHEREAS, where we eat, sleep, work, play and learn can have a huge effect on our health. Health equity means having access to resources and opportunities needed to achieve full health potential regardless of socioeconomic, racial, geographic or disability-related disparities. Adopting a “Health in all Policies” approach and improving access to health services, healthy food, housing, education and employment contributes to individuals living healthier lives; and

WHEREAS, we need to continue to amplify voices for public health. Historically, public health advocacy has contributed to seatbelt laws, vaccines, food labels and regulations to keep smoke out of public places. We must continue to advocate for local community improvement, funding for public health projects and the state and nation’s infrastructure for future pandemics and disasters; and

WHEREAS, rural communities face a range of health disparities, from higher burdens of chronic disease to limited access to primary care and prevention services. Rural residents face social determinants such as poverty, transportation barriers and lack of higher paying jobs, which negatively impacts health. We must continue to remove barriers and utilize new technology and approaches to improving health. Everyone has the right to good health; and

WHEREAS, we can’t do it all on our own. Public health's future is all about expanding our partnerships to collaborate with planners, education officials, public, private, community agencies and the local community at large. Strong public health systems are pivotal for sustaining and improving community health; and

WHEREAS, during National Public Health Week the public health community comes together to celebrate accomplishments and bring a renewed focus to the work ahead.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Delaware County recognizes April 7-13, 2025 as Public Health Week.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Cetta and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Merrill offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 67

TITLE: LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR CONTINUATION OF SALES TAX LEVY

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 6267 and Assembly Bill 6820 have been introduced to allow the continuation of the 4% local sales and use tax rate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors requests the passage and enactment of Senate Bill 6267 and Assembly Bill 6820 entitled “AN ACT to extend authorization of the County of Delaware to impose an additional one percent of sales and compensating use taxes”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is directed and authorized to file with the Senate and Assembly Home Rule messages or forms as needed to certify this resolution.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Merrill offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 68

TITLE: PAYMENT OF AUDIT

WHEREAS, bills and claims submitted and duly audited by the Clerk of the Board’s office in the amount of \$3,071,593.49 are hereby presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval of payment;

THEREFORE, the County Treasurer was directed to pay said expenditures as listed below and this Board now approves of said payment as follows:

General Fund	\$2,238,447.35
OET	\$41,701.56
CAP 97 Main	\$1,008.34
CAP DSS	\$47.87
Highway Audits, as Follows:	
Weights & Measures	\$123.31
Solid Waste/Landfill	\$73,107.20
Road	\$58,673.56
Machinery	\$97,669.87
Capital Solid Waste	\$4,343.50
Capital Road & Bridge	\$8,680.05
CAP DPW Complex	\$32,365.88
CAP SW Improvement	\$515,425.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Gladstone and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 200, Noes 0, Absent 0.

Mr. Vernold offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 69

TITLE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors convene in executive session to discuss personnel matters.

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Driscoll and unanimously adopted.

The meeting reconvened in regular session with all Supervisors present except Mr. Kelso.

Upon a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.