

Legislative Committee
June 4, 2025

Attendees

Committee: Allen Hinkley, Lisa Driscoll, Eric Wilson, Timothy Kelso, Art Merrill, Tina Molé
Staff: Haley Gransbury, Amy Merklen, Maria Kelso, Judith Garrison, Joe Ermeti,
Shawn Smith, Joanne McEntee

Mr. Hinkley called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Upon a motion by Mr. Merrill, seconded by Mrs. Driscoll, the draft minutes of the May 14 committee meeting were unanimously approved.

County Clerk Haley Gransbury reported she has attended two conferences in the past few weeks, the New York State Association of County Clerks (NYSACC) and New York State Association of Local Government Records Officers (NYALGRO). The NYALGRO conference consisted of two days of quite a lot of information based on records management, and several Delaware County clerks attended the records management conference including clerks from the Town of Davenport, Town of Deposit, Town of Walton, and the Village of Franklin. She said she would like to see more of our clerks going to these events for their records management problems. She said she is trying to get out to see all the town clerks to help them and give them the resources that she gets from these meetings. At the NYSAC County Clerks Conference that she attended in Lake George, she got a lot of information that she would like to type up and share how it affects the County, towns and villages. This includes information from OCA, new laws and regulations, and deed fraud. County Attorney Amy Merklen stated deed fraud is real and is happening. Chairman Hinkley indicated he personally experienced deed fraud with his real estate business earlier this year. Mrs. Gransbury said that other counties shared their experiences with deed fraud at the conference. She stated that on the Delaware County Clerk's website there is a link to their vendor where you can go to register and enter your email so if anything happens in Delaware County with a deed transfer or anything with your property, you would get an email notification. That would be after a deed or a mortgage has been filed. District Attorney Shawn Smith recalled a similar fraud attempt reported by a realtor in Hancock that was foiled by the neighboring property owner. The perpetrator was overseas and the State Police were not able to track him.

Board of Elections Commissioner Maria Kelso reported that they have received 33 independent petitions that were filed. They just sent the legal ads to the printers for the primary election. Ms. Garrison sent out a public service announcement. They are getting ready for early voting and extended hours for the Juneteenth holiday.

District Attorney Shawn Smith gave a report on the traffic diversion program: April revenue was \$23,000 and \$35,750 was received for May.

Public Defender Joe Ermeti reported things are going great in his office. He mentioned that he's about to get a bit concerned for the start of next year because four of them are aging out having worked 34+ years and some are talking about possibly retiring.

County Attorney Amy Merklin reported their office is short one assistant attorney but continues to be busy and get the work done.

DA Smith stated that he was not asking for any special upgrades for any of his staff, however, he would request that they do receive the 4.25% pay increase that is in the employee contract.

Upon a motion the Committee entered into executive session to discuss litigation and salary upgrade requests for particular employees.

Committee reconvened in regular session.

Upon a motion, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Legislative Committee
July 2, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Cancelled.