

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**LOCAL LAW INTRO. NOS. 21 THROUGH 33 OF 2024  
SALARY INCREASE DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICERS**

**NOVEMBER 13, 2024**

The Delaware County Board of Supervisors held a Public Hearing concerning Local Law Intro. Nos. 21 through 33 of 2024 in the Board of Supervisors' Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, New York, at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, Chairman Tina Molé presiding.

Chairman Molé called the hearing to order and read the notice of public hearing:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**LOCAL LAW INTRO. NOS. 21 THROUGH 33 OF 2024  
SALARY INCREASE DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICERS**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the Supervisors' Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, New York, concerning proposed local laws as follows:

Introductory No. 21 to set the salary of Maria Kelso, Election Commissioner at \$62,550 per annum; No. 22 to set the salary of Amy Merklen, County Attorney at \$171,000 per annum; No. 23 to set the salary of Sherri Falcone, Director of Real Property Tax II at \$95,000 per annum; No. 24 to set the salary of Carrara Knoetgen, Personnel Officer at \$96,218 per annum; No. 25 to set the salary of Stephen Hood, Director of Emergency Services at \$77,879 per annum; No. 26 to set the salary of Douglas Elston, Director of Community Mental Health Services at \$114,124 per annum; No. 27 to set the salary of Keith Weaver, Commissioner of Social Services at \$111,510 per annum; No. 28 to set the salary of Shelly Johnson-Bennett, Commissioner of Planning, Parks, and Watershed Affairs at \$125,327 per annum; No. 29 to set the salary of Glenn Nealis, Director of Economic Development at \$102,038 per annum; No. 30 to set the salary of James Thomas, Commissioner of Public Works at \$120,371 per annum; No. 31 to set the salary of Amanda Walsh, Public Health Director at \$120,442 per annum; No. 32 to set the salary of Craig DuMond, Sheriff, at \$115,000 per annum; No. 33 to set the salary of Beverly Shields, County Treasurer at \$84,574 per annum.

All persons interested in speaking concerning the proposed local laws will be heard at the aforementioned time and place. Disabled citizens who require assistance in attending said public hearing or in furnishing comments or suggestions should contact the Clerk of the Board to request assistance at (607) 832-5110.

Dated: October 30, 2024

Penny A. Bishop  
Clerk of the Board  
Delaware County Board of Supervisors

Chairman Molé asked those wishing to speak to please stand and state their full name and the town they are from. An attendance sheet was passed around for attendees to sign.

Town of Stamford resident Laurie Zeh stated that she feels these raises are a little inflated for what the cost of living is. The increase for social security recipients is going to be 2.3% based on the rate of inflation. She expressed that the raises should be evaluated, not only for the cost of living, but based on performance reviews also. Ms. Zeh asked the Board to consider long-term effects and how it will affect future spending with increased expenses such as increased pensions when people retire.

Town of Kortright resident Joanne Harrington stated that when some of these County Officers got a raise in the past, she called her representative who told her that these people work really hard. She acknowledged they probably do, but so do a lot of people who live in this County. She stated that she asked her representative what the average income was in the county and said his reply was that he was not sure. She guessed it would be around \$30,000.00 per year. She said we are talking about people who get a salary, health care, retirement...good benefits. She is not saying that they don't work hard, but she does not believe they would leave if they did not get a raise, and she does not believe the County would have a hard time replacing them if they did leave. She does not feel that these raises are warranted at this time.

Chairman Molé thanked those that spoke.

Since no one else wished to speak, Chairman Molé declared the hearing adjourned at 1:04 p.m.