

2023

**EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION**

**DECEMBER 22, 2023**

The Board convened at 10:30 A.M. in the Supervisors' Chambers at the Court House, Lake Pleasant, New York, with the Chairman, Brian E. Wells presiding. Mr. Wells led the members of the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and the opening prayer.

The Clerk, Mrs. Laura Abrams, called the roll with the following Supervisors answering:

Arietta	Chris D. Rhodes
Benson	Phillip C. Snyder
Hope	Steven M. Tomlinson
Indian Lake	Brian E. Wells
Inlet	ABSENT
Lake Pleasant	Betsy A. Bain
Long Lake	Clay J. Arsenault
Morehouse	William G. Farber
Wells	ABSENT

Also present: John Hosley-Former Supervisor of Long Lake, Tracy Eldridge-Highway Superintendent, Mark Hunt-Retiring Public Works Employee, Chris Mitchell-Road Supervisor III, Lisa Johnson-PW Administrative Manager, Jodie Small-Deputy Treasurer/Treasurer Elect, Jane Zarecki-Retiring County Clerk, Beth Hunt-Retiring Treasurer, Anthony Fernandez-Supervisor Elect for Morehouse, Carole Ruiz-Personnel Assistant and various County staff

Public Comment: No one present

Reports of Standing/Special Committees:

Mr. Farber: There was a committee meeting this morning between the Board of Supervisors and a Department Head, doing a post event debriefing about things that could have gone better around a flooding incident that recently occurred as well as overall thoughts for the Department on how to move forward. No action was taken and a follow-up will take place after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

Mr. Rhodes: Thanked Mr. Farber. It was a pleasure. Congratulations and best wishes.

Mr. Tomlinson: Stated that he thought what Mr. Rhodes said went for everyone.

Mr. Arsenault: Stated he would like to echo what they both just said. The tireless work ethic and Mr. Farber's hard work has not gone unnoticed in all of our communities. There are not many men that he knows of that know community members in every community in Hamilton County like Mr. Farber. He has this uncanny way and just remembers people's names. He thanked Mr. Farber for all his hard work.

Mr. Snyder: Stated that he would say the same thing. He agrees with them completely.

Ms. Bain: Stated the same.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Tracy Eldridge stated when he first came to work for the County Mark Hunt already had 20 years of service. He has had the privilege of working with him for the last 20 plus years. Mr. Hunt and himself were talking previously and Mr. Hunt told him it had been 40 Christmases and Mr. Eldridge stated that he wouldn't have to be on call this Christmas. It just goes to show the dedication. He was always available on holidays. It has been a pleasure working with Mr. Hunt and he appreciates all that he has done for this County DPW. He presented Mr. Hunt with a jacket with Hamilton County DPW, Mark Hunt, 40 years of service printed on it. It was a gift from himself, Lisa Johnson and Chris Mitchell. Mr. Eldridge went on to read the proclamation for Mark Hunt.

Mr. Hunt thanked everyone. He stated that it was hard to believe 40 years and that he does love Hamilton County.

Hamilton County Board of Supervisors  
Proclamation  
for Mark Hunt  
On the Occasion of his Retirement  
January 1, 2024

WHEREAS, we would like to express special recognition to Mark Hunt and honor him for forty years of distinguished service with Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, Mark began his career on November 25, 1983, as a laborer for the County Highway Department; he was promoted to Motor Equipment Operator on January 1, 1987, and on December 5, 1993, he was promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator, and on January 1, 2005, he was promoted to Construction Equipment Operator in which he has served in this capacity for eighteen years, and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Mark for his dedication to the outstanding performance of his duties during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire and honor of this Board to honor Mark Hunt

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, do hereby commend and honor

MARK HUNT

for his many years of service and dedication as a Hamilton County employee and extend our heartfelt thanks for a job well done and offer our good wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, have hereunto set our hand to this Proclamation this 22nd day of December 2023.

Ms. Ruiz read Jane Zarecki's proclamation.

The Chairman stated at the first Republican Picnic he attended he met Ms. Zarecki. He stated that she would truly be missed. He presented her with her framed proclamation as he thanked her and stated that he appreciated all of what she had done. Ms. Zarecki thanked everyone.

Hamilton County Board of Supervisors  
Proclamation  
for Jane Zarecki  
On the Occasion of her Retirement  
December 31, 2023

WHEREAS, we would like to express special recognition to Jane Zarecki and honor her for thirty-two years of distinguished service with Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, Jane began her career on February 3, 1992, as Deputy County Clerk which she served for eight years until January 1, 2000, when she was elected as County Clerk which she has served for the past twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Jane for her dedication to the outstanding performance of her duties during her tenure; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire and honor of this Board to honor Jane Zarecki

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, do hereby commend and honor

JANE ZARECKI

for her many years of service and dedication as a Hamilton County employee and extend our heartfelt thanks for a job well done and offer our good wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, have hereunto set our hand to this Proclamation this 22nd day of December 2023.

Ms. Ruiz read the proclamation for Beth Hunt.

The Chairman stated that they weren't saying goodbye to Ms. Hunt they were saying see you soon and he was grateful. They have had conversations concerning next year. He knows from the years of service here, from what she has done as an employee, what she will be doing as a representative for the Town of Wells and as a member of Board of Supervisors gave them a sense of relief because they know she is going to put her whole heart into it. He thanked Ms. Hunt and presented her with her framed proclamation.

Ms. Hunt stated she thanked everyone very much and she would see everyone next year.

Hamilton County Board of Supervisors  
Proclamation for Beth Hunt  
On the Occasion of her Retirement  
December 30, 2023

WHEREAS, we would like to express special recognition to Beth Hunt and honor her for thirty-two years of distinguished service with Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, Beth began her career as the Commissioner of Elections on January 28, 1991, and served for five years until May 31, 1996. Beth then transferred to the Personnel Department and was appointed as the Personnel Officer on June 1, 1996, for about six and a half years until her resignation on December 8, 2003. On December 9, 2003, Beth was appointed by the Governor of New York State to be County Treasurer and was elected on January 1, 2004. Beth has continued as County Treasurer for the past twenty years. During her tenure, Beth has represented Hamilton County by serving on the Board of Directors for PERMA, NYSAC, and as the past president of the New York State County Treasurers' and Finance Officers' Association; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Beth for her dedication to the outstanding performance of her duties during her tenure; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire and honor of this Board to honor Beth Hunt

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, do hereby commend and honor

BETH HUNT

for her many years of service and dedication as a Hamilton County employee and extend our heartfelt thanks for a job well done and offer our good wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, have hereunto set our hand to this Proclamation this 22nd day of December 2023.

Ms. Ruiz read the proclamation for William Farber.

The Chairman stated that he has had the privilege and the honor of working with Mr. Farber for the past 12 years. It has been a tremendous learning experience, and he is still learning today from the examples that he has set. It is an honor and he hoped everyone would stay later because there will be a special presentation for Mr. Farber.

The Chairman introduced a special guest. He is a former Supervisor for the Town of Long Lake who had served with Mr. Farber for many years. He gave the floor to John Hosley.

Mr. Hosley wanted to honor them all in their retirement. He stated that he had been there a few years when Mr. Farber came onboard, and Mr. Farber had referred to him that morning as one of the old guys he had depended on. Mr. Hosley stated that Mr. Farber was instrumental in bringing the Board together. There were a series of years when they were trying to move some of the jobs from this County center to Indian Lake, Long Lake, and Inlet. It got pretty divisive but, in those days, when you had loud arguments in this room, when the gavel decided to close the meeting, they left as friends even though some of the arguments were lengthy and heated. Mr. Farber was the recipient of some of that heat and he had a magnificent way of rendering all those discussions into the past instantly and moving forward. He witnessed this morning in a committee meeting that attitude is still prevalent and this is many, many years later. He wanted to say to Mr. Farber that back in the Korean War when his father was drafted, he was the only doctor in Hamilton County at the time and it was Mr. Farber's Grandfather who called the Draft Board in the State of New York, and he told them that they only had one doctor in the whole County and they are not drafting him and they rescinded his draft notice. Many years later his father kind of regretted it. He stated that he would have liked to have gone to war and his mother reprimanded him at that point. Mr. Hosley wanted to tell that story showing the intermix of their families was nearly a century old. He told Mr. Farber that he had done a fine job and that his heirs would depend on what he built. He thanked him for his service.

Mr. Farber thanked him along with everyone else. He stated that it was simply a labor of love. There is no other way to describe it.

Hamilton County Board of Supervisors  
Proclamation  
for William Farber  
On the Occasion of his Retirement  
December 31, 2023

WHEREAS, we would like to express special recognition to William Farber and honor him for thirty-six years of distinguished service with Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, William began his career as a Board Supervisor on January 1, 1988, and has remained a Board Supervisor for his entire tenure. William was appointed Chairman of the Board of Supervisors on January 1, 1994, for a two-year term. He was again appointed Chairman of the Board on January 1, 1998, and continued to serve as Chairman for the next twenty-four years until December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its sincere appreciation to William for his dedication to the outstanding performance of his duties during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire and honor of this Board to honor William Farber,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, do hereby commend and honor

**WILLIAM FARBER**

for his many years of service and dedication as a Hamilton County employee and extend our heartfelt thanks for a job well done and offer our good wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, have hereunto set our hand to this Proclamation this 22nd day of December 2023.

Meeting recessed for photos.

The public left except for Anthony Fernandez, Beth Hunt and John Hosley.

RESOLUTIONS:

**REPORT OF TAX COMMITTEE**

Your Tax Committee has examined the several tax rolls of the County of Hamilton and finds that the taxes as set forth therein have been properly and accurately extended and it, therefore, recommends that the amounts as set forth as the taxes in said rolls be levied, assessed and fixed and determined as the taxes due from such persons, corporations and parcels of land set forth in the tax rolls. Your committee has also examined the tax warrants of each of the tax districts, as attached to said tax rolls and finds that the forms of said tax rolls are in accord with the provisions of the Real Property Tax Law, Sections 900 and 904, and that the amounts set forth in said Warrants be examined by the Clerk and Chairman of the Board, the County Seal affixed thereto and said rolls be delivered to the collectors of the several tax districts of the County.

Dated: December 22, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 395-23**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING REPORT OF TAX COMMITTEE**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. ARSENAULT:**

RESOLVED, that the Report of Tax Committee dated December 22, 2023 be accepted and that the several recommendations therein contained be adopted as the act and determination of this Board, that the Chairman and the Clerk be authorized to sign and seal said warrants for collections of said taxes on or before the first day of April 2024.

Seconded by Mr. Farber and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 396-23**

**LEVYING 2024 COUNTY AND TOWN TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS, APPROVING  
THE COMPLETED TAX ROLLS, AND DIRECTING THE EXECUTION AND  
DELIVERY OF THE TAX WARRANTS**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

WHEREAS, there has been presented to this Board of Supervisors a duly certified copy of the annual budget for each of the nine towns of Hamilton County for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors has duly adopted its annual budget for the fiscal year 2024 on November 27, 2023, which budget provides for appropriation of funds in the total amount of \$25,363,584 and for a total tax levy of \$9,635,792, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Town Law §115, the amounts specified in the annual town budgets, as adopted by the respective Town Boards, to be raised by tax or assessment shall be levied, assessed, raised and collected against, from, and upon the real property of the respective towns liable therefore at the time and in the manner provided by law for the levy of county taxes, and be it further

RESOLVED, that pursuant to County Law §360, the amounts specified in the 2024 County budget to be raised by tax, amounting to \$9,635,792 be levied, assessed, raised and collected against, from, and upon the real property of the County liable therefore at the time and in the manner provided by law, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town and County taxes be extended against each parcel on said rolls, with such taxes as extended being hereby determined to be the taxes due on each such parcel as set forth thereon, and be it further

RESOLVED, that there be annexed to each of said rolls a tax warrant in the form prepared by the Director of Real Property, as provided by Real Property Tax Law §904, that such warrants should be in the respective amounts heretofore authorized to be levied upon said rolls, that under the seal of Hamilton County Board of Supervisors the said rolls with said warrants are to be forthwith collected within and from the several tax districts of the County, and be it further

RESOLVED, that such taxes and assessments, when collected, shall be paid to the Supervisor of the respective town and to the Hamilton County Treasurer in the amounts as shown on the Contents of Collectors Warrants for distribution by them in the manner provided by law.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 397-23**

**AUTHORIZING THE RELEVY OF UNPAID SCHOOL TAXES AND VILLAGE OF SPECULATOR TAXES ON THE 2024 TAX ROLLS**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

WHEREAS, the School Districts within Hamilton County have transmitted to the Hamilton County Treasurer the amounts of unpaid school taxes duly verified and certified as provided by Real Property Law §§1330, and

WHEREAS, the unpaid school taxes, together with an additional 7% thereon, are subject to re-levy and collection pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §§1330, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Speculator has transmitted to the Hamilton County Treasurer the amounts of unpaid school taxes duly verified and certified as provided by Real Property Law §§1442, and

WHEREAS, the unpaid Village of Speculator taxes, together with an additional 7% thereon, are subject to re-levy and collection pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §§1442, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs that the amounts of 2023-2024 School Taxes remaining unpaid as of December 1, 2023 be levied upon the 2024 tax roll, and that any payments which are mailed and contain a postmark as



of December 1, 2023 shall be deemed to have been actually received by the County Treasurer on said date, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs that the amounts of 2023-2024 Village of Speculator Taxes remaining unpaid as of November 1, 2023 be re-levied upon the 2024 tax roll, and that any payments which are mailed and contain a postmark as of November 1, 2023 shall be deemed to have been actually received by the County Treasurer on said date.

Seconded by Mr. Rhodes and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 398-23**

**RESOLUTION TO PAY 2024 SALARIES**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MS. BAIN:**

WHEREAS, this Board on November 27, 2023 adopted the Budget for 2024, and

WHEREAS, such Budget sets up salaries to be paid during the year 2024, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be authorized to pay said salaries bi-weekly, as set up in the Adopted Budget for 2024.

Seconded by Mr. Snyder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 399-23**

**RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE YEAR 2024**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 214 Subdivision 1 of the County Law, the Hamilton County Express be designated as the official Newspaper for the year 2024 for the County of Hamilton for publishing of official publications and notices and that this designation be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and notice of the designation be forwarded to the Secretary of State before January 1, 2024.

Seconded by Mr. Arsenault and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 400-23**

**AUTHORIZING PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2024 – A  
LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE INCREASES IN THE COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN  
COUNTY OFFICERS**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. ARSENAULT:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that proposed Local Law No. 1 of the year 2024 entitled, “A Local Law to Provide Increases in the Compensation of Certain County Officers” be and the same is hereby introduced to the Board of Supervisors, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of the aforesaid proposed Local Law be laid upon the desks of each member of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors shall hold a public hearing on the said proposed Local Law at the County Office Complex, Route 8, Lake Pleasant, New York, on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024, at 2:30 PM, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors publish or cause to be published a public notice in the official newspaper of the County of said public hearing at least five (5) days prior thereto.

Seconded by Mr. Rhodes and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2024

A LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE INCREASES IN THE COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN  
COUNTY OFFICERS

BE IT ENACTED, by the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors as follows:

SECTION 1. As per Section 201 of County Law, the Board of Supervisors can only increase the salary of a county officer who is elected for a fixed term or appointed for a fixed term, in the middle of that term of office, if Section 24 (2)(h) of the Municipal Home Rule Law is complied with. In keeping with that compliance, Local Law No. 1 of 2024 is hereby enacted setting the annual salaries for the year 2024 for the following county officers who are elected or appointed for a fixed term, and whose terms did not expire on December 31, 2023.

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>2023 ANNUAL SALARY</u>
Director of Public Health	\$127,724.48

This salary shall be effective as of November 17, 2023.

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>2024 ANNUAL SALARY</u>
Director of Public Health	\$134,499.00
Highway Superintendent	\$118,888.00
Sheriff	\$115,265.00
Commissioner of Social Services	\$109,773.00
Real Property Tax Director	\$91,625.00
Personnel Officer	\$58,626.75
Commissioners of Board of Elections	\$57,429.00

These salaries shall be effective as of January 1, 2024.

SECTION 2. This Local Law shall take effect forty-five (45) days from the date of adoption by the Board of Supervisors unless a petition is filed in accordance with Municipal Home Rule law, and after filing with the Secretary of State. All Department Head salary changes will be implemented uniformly after such filing.

**RESOLUTION NO. 401-23**

**AUTHORIZING THE LEVY OF CHARGEBACKS TO TOWNS**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized and directed to levy, from towns as accumulated charge backs accrued, consisting of charge backs from corrections to the tax bills and for tax refunds, as well as any other incidental charges to the towns of Hamilton County as follows:

Town	Drug and Alcohol Testing	Assessment Roll/Bill Printing	Election Expenses	Refund Overpays Court Orders Clerical Errors	Consolidated Health District
Arietta	751.45	2,184.29	6,902.51		
Benson	575.72	888.19	7,356.18		
Hope	517.14	1,063.11	7,253.15		
Indian Lake	634.29	4,934.63	14,971.98		
Inlet	1,161.43	2,573.02	6,891.21		
Lake Pleasant	927.18	3,081.73	6,891.21		68,500.00
Long Lake	751.45	3,944.66	14,073.68		
Morehouse	634.29	1,725.51	6,351.61		
Wells	751.45	2,065.32	8,420.62		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$6,704.40</b>	<b>\$22,460.46</b>	<b>\$79,112.15</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$68,500.00</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the charge backs be included in the appropriate town’s share of the 2024 County tax levy and to be included in the County tax rate applicable to each town.

Seconded by Mr. Tomlinson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 402-23**

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS – TAXES & ASSESSMENTS ON MUNI PROPERTIES**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. RHODES:**

WHEREAS, prior to the auction the County was in possession of properties with higher than usual assessments, and

WHEREAS, the school taxes were due and owing at the time the County owned the properties, and

WHEREAS, paying the school taxes created a shortage in Account No. A.1950.0401 Taxes & Assessments on Muni Properties, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that \$1,911.63 be transferred from Account No. A.1990.0401 Contingent to Account No. A1950.0401 Taxes and Assessments of Muni Properties and the County Treasurer be so authorized to make said transfer.

Seconded by Mr. Snyder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 403-23**

**APPOINTMENT OF PERSONNEL OFFICER**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. RHODES:**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 72-23 adopted March 2, 2023 appointed Kimberly Byrne as Personnel Officer for a six (6) year term effective March 28, 2023 through March 27, 2029, and

WHEREAS, Kimberly Byrne has resigned from the position of Personnel Officer effective December 31, 2023, be it

RESOLVED, that Carole Ruiz be appointed Hamilton County Personnel Officer effective January 1, 2024 for the remainder of said term, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the salary for the Hamilton County Personnel Officer be at a salary of \$58,626.75 per annum, paid in bi-weekly installments and the County Treasurer be so advised.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 404-23**

**2023 TRANSFER OF FUNDS – PH AND CHHA**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

WHEREAS, there are shortages in the CHHA On-Call and Public Health payroll accounts,  
and

WHEREAS, the Home Health Aides were given a raise in grade through Resolutions 140-  
23 and 141-23, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be authorized to make the following transfers:

FROM:

A4050.121 Director of Patient Services	\$ 5,146.51
A4050.126 Temp RN	\$ 10,101.00

TO:

A4010.110 CHHA On-Call	\$ 2,500.00
A4050.128 Certified Home Health Aide	\$ 4,275.39
A4050.129 Certified Home Health Aide	\$ 3,029.96
A4050.130 Certified Home Health Aide	\$ 2,901.91
A4050.131 Certified Home Health Aide	\$ 2,540.25

Seconded by Mr. Rhodes and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 405-23**

**AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO  
PROVIDE RELATED SERVICES FOR THE PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION  
PROGRAM – LONG LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. RHODES:**

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service is required to provide for Related Services (Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy Services) for children aged 3-5, who reside within Hamilton County and have a developmental delay as defined through a comprehensive evaluation, through the Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) process, and

WHEREAS, Long Lake Central School District can provide these related services through the New York State Department of Education, and

WHEREAS, the frequency and duration of services for each child is based on the findings of the comprehensive evaluation and rules applying to section 4410 of the NYS Education Law, as determined by the CPSE committee in preparing an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and

WHEREAS, the compensation for related services are set at rates in conjunction with the Rate Setting Unit of the NYS Department of Education, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors is authorized to enter into a contract with said provider to provide the aforesaid services for the period of December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2024 pursuant to an aforesaid IEP for each eligible child, with compensation for services rendered at the current approved rates set forth for Hamilton County by the Rate Setting Unit of the NYS Education Department, upon approval of the County Attorney, and the County Treasurer be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 406-23**

**CSW TRANSFER OF FUNDS – COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. SNYDER:**

WHEREAS, funds will be exhausted in Hamilton County Department of Community Services Account No. A.4310.0112, Mental Health Social Worker, due to the employee being paid at 40 Hours not 35 Hours for 2023, and

WHEREAS, due to the increase in the hours Account No. A.4310.0112, Mental Health Social Worker will be exhausted prior to year-end 2023, be it

RESOLVED, that the following transfer be made:

FROM: A.4310.0117 Mental Health Clinical Social Worker C	\$10,620.00
TO: A.4310.0112 Mental Health Social Worker	\$10,620.00

and the County Treasurer be so authorized.

Seconded by Mr. Tomlinson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 407-23**

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS – CORONER**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of funds in County Coroner Account No. A1185.0403 Autopsies, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be hereby authorized to make the following transfer:

FROM: A1990.0401 Contingent	\$25,000.00
TO: A1185.0403 Autopsies	\$25,000.00

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 408-23**

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS – PUBLIC DEFENDER**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**



**BY MR. SNYDER:**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 254-23 authorized a 28 hour work week for the Administrative Assistant in the Public Defender's Office effective September 11, 2023 but did not fund the change, and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of funds in the Public Defender Account No. A1170.0401 Public Defender Defense, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized to increase Account No. A1170.0102 PD Admin Staff by \$3,543.63 to be totally offset by increasing Revenue Account No. A3025.0100 Public Defense by \$3,543.63, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized to transfer \$15,000.00 from Contingent Account No. A1990.0401 to Account No. A1170.0401 Public Defender Defense.

Seconded by Mr. Farber and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 409-23**

**2023 INCREASE COURT SECURITY ACCOUNT**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of funds in Account No. A3110.0114 Court Security, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized to increase Account No. A3110.0114 – Court Security by \$7,000.00 to be totally offset by increasing Revenue Account No. A3330 – Court Security by \$7,000.00.

Seconded by Mr. Tomlinson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 410-23**

**2023 INCREASE PUBLIC SAFETY ACCOUNT**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of funds in Account No. A3020.0401 Public Safety, Communications System, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized to increase Account No. A3020.0401 Public Safety, Communications System by \$609.40 to be totally offset by increasing Revenue Account No. A2260.0100 911 System by \$609.40.

Seconded by Mr. Rhodes and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; Mr. Arsenault confirmed with Mr. Farber that these couple of resolutions were the ones he was discussing in committee. Mr. Farber stated that they just need to finalize some pieces of the APA application, having the finalized agreements in place with Inlet and Hope. The DANC Board at their December meeting voted to finally codify and authorize the project that will build fiber from here out to Arietta and then to Morehouse. Those are the resolutions on the agenda next.

**RESOLUTION NO. 411-23**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AN EASEMENT WITH  
THE TOWN OF HOPE FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATION PROJECT**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

WHEREAS, the planning for and work on the Hamilton County Emergency Communications Project has reached the point in Phase II where the County needs to secure the use property belonging to the Town of Hope, for the Tower site in that community, and

WHEREAS, Jacqui Murray of the Murray Law Firm has drafted an Easement acceptable to both parties, which secures the County's rights and the necessary use, while also being acceptable to the Town of Hope, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign an Easement with the Town of Hope to secure space and access on their property, in order to implement the Hamilton County Emergency Communication Project, and be it further

RESOLVED, that said easement will also provide the necessary long-term access to manage and maintain the site and equipment, and be it also

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Emergency Services Director, Jacqui Murray, the Town of Hope, and C&S.

Seconded by Mr. Arsenault and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 412-23**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AN EASEMENT WITH  
INLET VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES INC. FOR THE HAMILTON  
COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PROJECT**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

WHEREAS, the planning for and work on the Hamilton County Emergency Communications Project has reached the point in Phase II where the County needs to secure the use of space on the Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc. property and within their building, and

WHEREAS, Jacqui Murray of the Murray Law Firm has drafted an Easement acceptable to both parties, which secures the County's rights and the necessary use, while also being acceptable to the Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign an Easement with the Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc. to secure space and access on their property and within their building, in order to implement the Hamilton County Emergency Communication Project, and be it further

RESOLVED, that said easement will also provide the necessary long-term access to manage and maintain the site and equipment, and be it also

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Emergency Services Director, Jacqui Murray, Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc., and C&S.

Seconded by Mr. Arsenault and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; Mr. Farber stated that this resolution makes the County a partner with DANC to connect their emergency communications tower. It's also going to allow a more complete utilization of the three miles of fiber that Newport Telephone Company built in partnership with the County between Technidock and Evergreen. That will provide them with more robust redundancy on several fronts that will benefit the County. DANC helped us when they rebuilt the road up Blue Mountain Lake. They helped create the connection between the top of Blue Mountain and the Jail via fiber. That has not worked as well as was planned because part of that must run through Frontier's network. DANC is in the process of building their own fiber from Blue Mountain down through Indian Lake out across 28 and they are working on a project to build from Indian Lake to Speculator. They have fiber that will go out the other way so it would give them solid redundancy. By working with them and having fiber at these telecommunication sites and on their tower it's really what opens the opportunity for the County to have cellular and fix wireless on the towers which benefits the community. He encourages the Board to keep working with DANC going forward and looking for more opportunities. As a public authority they are a great ally, and they have abilities that they aren't going to find in private sector companies to do some of these long-haul fiber runs.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 413-23**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE NORTH COUNTRY TO CONSTRUCT, OWN, AND OPERATE A FIBER CONNECTION BETWEEN THE LAKE PLEASANT DISPATCH CENTER AND THE ARIETTA/MOREHOUSE TOWERS**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

WHEREAS, Hamilton County has a long-standing relationship with the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC), a public authority with the expertise and capacity to operate a Fiber Network, and

WHEREAS, DANC has an existing open access Fiber Network throughout a portion of Hamilton County, and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County currently contracts with DANC for a Fiber connection between Lake Pleasant and the Blue Mt Towers, and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County now has the need to connect our Lake Pleasant 911 Dispatch Center to two new Tower sites coming online in 2024, in Arietta and Morehouse, and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County has funding for this Fiber Connection as part of our Emergency Communications Targeted Grant, and

WHEREAS, DANC has agreed to construct, own, and operate said fiber connection, also creating the opportunity for enhanced cellular and Broadband coverage within the three Towns, and

WHEREAS, by Resolution #2023-12-88 of December 14, 2023, the DANC Board approved this project for an amount not to exceed \$550,000.00 to be paid by Hamilton County, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors hereby formally approves contracting with DANC for \$550,000.00 to construct, own and operate a Fiber connection between Lake Pleasant, Arietta, and Morehouse, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign said contract with the approval of the County Attorney, and be is also

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be provided to the Hamilton County Emergency Services Director, DANC, and Jacqui Murray.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 414-23**

**AWARD OF BID FOR HEATING FUEL FOR THE YEAR 2024**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, Hamilton County DPW solicited bids for the County's purchase of Heating Fuel Oil and Kerosene for all owned County Buildings, Facilities and the School Districts of Indian Lake and Long Lake pursuant to invitation to bidders and in accordance with Specification No. 15-2023, and

WHEREAS, two (2) bids were received in response to the said invitation to bidders, as follows:

1. G. A. Bove & Sons, Inc.  
1537 State Hwy 30  
Wells, NY 12190

Bid: Location

Item 1 – Hamilton County Sites 3 & 4	\$0.35 over “OPIS”
Item 1 – Hamilton County Sites 1,2,5 & 6	No Bid
Item 2 – Indian Lake Central School Dist.	No Bid
Item 3 – Long Lake Central School Dist.	No Bid

2. Petroleum Traders Corp.  
7120 Pointe Inverness Way  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Bid: Location

Item 1 – Hamilton County Sites 1-6	No Bid
Item 2 – Indian Lake Central School Dist.	\$0.3286 over “OPIS”
Item 3 – Long Lake Central School Dist.	\$0.3842 over “OPIS”

be it

RESOLVED, that award be made as follows:

Item 1 – Hamilton County Sites 3 & 4 to G. A. Bove & Sons, Inc., 1537 State Hwy 30, Wells, NY 12190

Item 2 – Indian Lake Central School District to Petroleum Traders Corp., 7120 Pointe Inverness Way, Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Item 3 – Long Lake Central School District to Petroleum Traders Corp., 7120 Pointe Inverness Way, Fort Wayne, IN 46804, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to enter into a purchase agreement with G. A. Bove & Sons, Inc. for the fiscal year 2024 for heating fuel for Item 1 – Hamilton County Sites 3 & 4 with the approval of the County Attorney, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Indian Lake and Long Lake Central School Districts enter their own purchase agreements with Petroleum Traders, Corp for their locations and the County Treasurer, Building Superintendent, Clerk of the Board, Indian Lake Central School District and Long Lake Central School District be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Arsenault and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 415-23**

**AWARD OF BID FOR UNLEADED GASOLINE 2024**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, Hamilton County Public Works Department solicited bids for the County's purchase of Unleaded Gasoline pursuant to invitation to responsible bidders and in accordance with Specification No. 13-2023, and

WHEREAS, two bids were received in response to the said invitation to bidders, as follows:

1. Petroleum Traders Corporation  
7120 Point Inverness Way  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804

Bid: All Locations \$0.3233 over "OPIS" per gallon

2. Mansfield Oil Company of Gainesville, Inc.  
1025 Airport Parkway SW  
Gainesville, Georgia 30501

Bid: All Locations \$0.3496 over "OPIS" per gallon

be it

RESOLVED, that the award be made as follows:

Petroleum Traders Corporation

7120 Point Inverness Way  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804

Bid: All Locations \$0.3233 over "OPIS" per gallon

be it further

RESOLVED, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to enter into a purchase agreement with Petroleum Traders Corporation beginning on January 1, 2024 for Unleaded Gasoline with the approval of the County Attorney and the County Treasurer, Highway Superintendent and Clerk of the Board be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Snyder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 416-23**

**AWARD OF BID FOR DIESEL FUEL 2024**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, Hamilton County Public Works Department solicited bids for the County's purchase of Diesel Fuel pursuant to invitation to responsible bidders and in accordance with Specification No. 14-2023, and

WHEREAS, two bids were received in response to the said invitation to bidders, as follows:

1. Petroleum Traders Corporation  
7120 Point Inverness Way  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804

Bid: All Locations \$0.4045 over "OPIS" per gallon,

2. Mansfield Oil Company of Gainesville, Inc.  
1025 Parkway SW  
Gainesville, GA 30501

Bid: All Locations \$0.3805 over "OPIS" per gallon



and

WHEREAS, DPW Superintendent Tracy Eldridge raised concerns at the December 7, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting about awarding to Mansfield Oil Company of Gainesville, Inc. due to problems with billing, timely and accurate deliveries, and communication that have been issues with said vendor consistently in the 2023 contract year, and

WHEREAS, the DPW Superintendent with the approval of the Public Works Committee and the County Attorney recommends rejecting the bid from Mansfield Oil Company of Gainesville, Inc. and recommends awarding the 2024 Diesel Fuel Contract to Petroleum Traders Corporation, be it

RESOLVED, that award be made as follows:

Petroleum Traders Corporation  
7120 Point Inverness Way  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804

All Locations \$0.4045 over "OPIS" per gallon  
be it further

RESOLVED, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to enter into a purchase agreement beginning on January 1, 2024 with Petroleum Traders Corporation for diesel fuel with the approval of the County Attorney and the County Treasurer, Highway Superintendent and Clerk of the Board be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Arsenault and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 417-23**

**AMENDING AMOUNT OF APPROPRIATION AND REVENUES FOR GAS AND  
DIESEL AND AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 302-23 amended the 2023 budget appropriation and revenue amounts for Gas and Diesel for 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Appropriation and Revenue amounts need to be adjusted for year end of 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent recommends the 2023 appropriations and revenues adjustments as follows:

Appropriations -  
DM5130.0405 Gas and Diesel - Increased - \$125,000.00

Revenue –  
DM2655.000 Sale of Fuel - Increased - \$50,000.00

and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent recommends \$75,000.00 be transferred out the County General Fund balance to accomplish the adjustments stated hereon, be it

RESOLVED, that hereby the County Board of Supervisors approves the above mentioned amendments to appropriation and revenues and that \$75,000.00 be transferred out of the Unappropriated County General Fund Balance in accordance with Section 366 Subdivision 1 of the County Law to Account No. DM5130.405 Gas and Diesel and the County Treasurer be so authorized and the Clerk of the Board and DPW Superintendent be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Snyder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 418-23**

**AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS CAPITAL PROJECT FOR DAMAGE REPAIR  
FROM DR4723 JULY 2023 FLOODING**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 277-23 authorized the funding for repairs from the July 2023 Flooding event, Federal Declaration DR4723, and

WHEREAS, in the first instance the DPW Superintendent recommended the transfer of \$100,000.00 from the County Road Fund balance to fund the permanent repairs, and

WHEREAS, the repairs have been 90% completed and the total cost of the repairs to date is \$121,994.58, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent recommends the transfer of \$21,994.58 to fund the repairs to date, be it

RESOLVED, that \$21,994.58 be transferred from County Road Fund Balance to Capital Account No.H2.8760.401 July 2023 Flooding and that hereby the County Treasurer is authorized to make the said transfer and the Clerk of the Board and County DPW Superintendent be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Farber and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; Mr. Farber stated that he thought the resolution spoke to how many hours the highway employees put in outside the normal workday between storm issues and working with paving companies that are no longer just available on the County schedule. We must go out and work with them on their schedule. He encouraged them to thank the highway employees when they saw them. They put in a lot of extra hours. Not that we didn't pay them, but we know how inconvenient it is when they must set aside plans to be out and pave or respond to storm winds and emergencies.

**RESOLUTION NO. 419-23**

**AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS – COUNTY ROAD FUND PERSONAL SERVICES 2023**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, due to the July 2023 flooding event the Public Works department worked many hours of overtime on the local county road system and the state road system, and

WHEREAS, County Road Fund Account No. D5110.0101 Personal Services is over expended and the Superintendent estimates an additional \$120,000.00, and

WHEREAS, DPW Superintendent recommends the transfer of \$120,000.00 from the Unappropriated General Fund balance to fund the County Road payroll obligations for the remainder of 2023, be it

RESOLVED, that \$120,000.00 be transferred from Unappropriated General Fund Balance in accordance with Section 366 Subdivision 1 of the County Law to the County Road Account No. D5110.0101 Personal Services and that hereby the County Treasurer is authorized to make the said transfer and the Clerk of the Board and County DPW Superintendent be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 420-23**

**APPROVAL OF AUDITS IN COUNTY HIGHWAY FUNDS**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

RESOLVED, that the bills in the Machinery Fund amounting to \$22,296.38 and bills in the County Road Fund amounting to \$138,915.28 presented by the County Superintendent of Highways and audited this day by the County Public Works Committee, be, and the same hereby are approved and audited.

Seconded by Mr. Rhodes and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

**RESOLUTION NO. 421-23**

**APPROVAL OF AUDITS IN THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND AND CAPITAL  
PROJECT 2023-1 JULY 2023 FLOODING**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

RESOLVED, that the bills audited this day in the County General Fund in the amount of \$182,441.66 the following committees:

Public Works (Buildings) Committee.....	\$11,827.43
Public Works (Solid Waste).....	22,050.86
Finance Committee .....	10,679.00
Health Committee.....	8,513.82
Human Services Committee.....	55,763.66
Central Government Committee .....	14,279.69
Emergency Prep./Emergency Response.....	56,470.59
Publicity, Tourism, Economic Development & Planning Committee.....	2,856.61
Internal Management Committee .....	-0-

be it further

RESOLVED, that the bills audited this day in the following Capital Projects:

July 2023 Flooding Capital Project 2023-1.....	\$68,505.19
--	-------------

are hereby approved.

Seconded by Mr. Snyder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

Mr. Farber asked if he could move Resolution No. 28 Adoption of Updates to Hamilton County Employee Handbook. It is not on the agenda. They finalized the language in it late and he apologized for that. He thinks that it now captures what they intended and what they discussed with the Sheriff. They are eligible as early as 41 years old. The County Board concluded they don't want to be fully responsible for health insurance from 41 years old on in the same way they are when somebody retires at 55 or 62 years old. So, this provides an incremental increase in benefits. Not only does that save the County money but it also encourages people to work longer if they are able to. Hopefully it strikes the right balance. With Correction Officers there can be difficulty getting to 62 years old, so it lets them leave at 55 years old but one cautionary note that the County is going to need to be consistent in is reminding those Correction Officers that sometimes they are going to take a hit on their state retirement leaving early. They put that language in there specifically so it would be in the handbook and encourages them to talk to state retirement. Lastly, this addresses the issue of where the Sheriff has been successful in working with other outside agencies to bring in transferees that are already working in law enforcement. It saves the County a significant amount of training cost and lets them hit the ground running. He's hoping that this is one more recruiting tool. It simply allows them into the health insurance even if they haven't got the full 20 years that they now require of county employment. Starting at 10 and prorating up through so that they gain the longer they stay with the County, but it does give them a safety net if they are at a point where they need to retire after 20 years. They get a

significantly reduced health insurance benefit with a much bigger contribution from them, but it does make sure that the County is there for them if they should need it. Mr. Arsenault stated that as chair of the Internal Management Committee he thinks that Mr. Farber changed the verbiage in the resolution to make sense. It clearly dictates what the County is doing. He cleaned it up well and they met with Ms. Ruiz because the Personnel Officer was not available, and it made sense to her as well.

**RESOLUTION NO. 422-23**

**ADOPTION OF UPDATES TO HAMILTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

**DATED: DECEMBER 22, 2023**

**BY MR. FARBER:**

WHEREAS, there was a need to update and add to the Hamilton County Employee Handbook, and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the handbook, the Personnel Officer has recommended the adoption of said updates and additions to the handbook, and

WHEREAS, the following additions, changes and deletions, be created in the employee handbook:

Change/Addition – Section 808 – Medical Insurance for Retirees, page 800-14 and 800-15 (Attached/Changes Highlighted);

RESOLVED, that the provisions and policies contained in the Employee Handbook are intended to supersede any and all prior manuals, guidelines or related policies issued by Hamilton County, and be it further

RESOLVED, that unless specified, this Employee Handbook supersedes and replaces any previous personnel policies issued by the County concerning all policies contained in the Employee Handbook, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Personnel Officer will provide all employees with a copy of updated employee handbook with said changes highlighted for their convenience.

Seconded by Mr. Arsenault and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, WELLS, BAIN, ARSENAULT, AND FARBER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREY AND CREWELL

## 808 Medical Insurance for Retirees

**Coverage** – The County currently provides medical insurance coverage to an eligible full-time employee or elected official who retires from the County. Coverage is also currently available for eligible dependents (including spouse) if they were covered under the County’s medical insurance plan at the employee’s date of retirement. In the event the retiree predeceases the dependents, the dependents may continue medical insurance coverage provided they pay the full cost of the premium. Coverage of a dependent at the time of divorce or legal separation is in accordance with plan documents and COBRA requirements.

### Hired prior to January 1, 2010

**Eligibility** – To be eligible for coverage, a Hamilton County employee, including elected and appointed officials, must meet each of these requirements: a) have at least ten (10) years of continuous service with the County; b) entitled to receive a retirement benefit from the New York State Retirement System; c) employment was not terminated for cause; d) did not voluntarily terminate his or her employment with Hamilton County prior to obtaining 55 years of age as fixed by the New York State Retirement System. Termination of employment caused by failing to be re-elected or re-appointed shall not be considered as a voluntary termination from county employment nor one for cause. Failing to be re-elected shall also include the official who chooses not to run for the elected position. Such elected or appointed official shall be entitled to the foregoing benefits upon obtaining the earliest age of retirement (now 55 years of age) as allowed by the New York State Retirement System, whether or not actually receiving such retirement benefits.

**Premium Payment** (Hired Prior to January 1, 2010) – The County will pay 100% of the premium for individual, two-person or family medical insurance coverage, as the case may be, for each retiree.

**Eligibility – Special Sheriff’s Retirement Plan (Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Deputy Sheriffs)** – To be eligible for coverage, each of the following requirements must be met: a) entitled to retire under the New York State Special Sheriff Retirement Plan; b) have at least twenty (20) years of continuous service with the County; c) retire directly into New York State Retirement System; d) employment was not terminated for cause; If a), b), c), and d) criteria are met but the retiree has not reached age 55, they would be eligible under the following criteria:

1. At forty-one (41) years of age, the retiree is eligible for individual coverage at the same contribution percentage (%) the employee was paying prior to retirement. For a two-person or family coverage, the difference in premium from a single plan, is entirely the responsibility of retiree.
2. At fifty (50) years of age, the retiree is eligible for two-person or family coverage at the same contribution percentage (%) the employee was paying prior to retirement.
3. At fifty-five (55) years of age, the retiree’s benefits follow the standard benefit for the Non-Special Sheriff’s Retirement Plan available to other Retirees who began County employment prior to January 1, 2010.

### **Hired effective January 1, 2010 or Later**

**Eligibility** – To be eligible for coverage, a Hamilton County employee, including elected and appointed officials, must meet each of these requirements: a) have at least twenty (20) years of continuous service with the County; b) retire directly from the County into the New York State Retirement System; c) employment was not terminated for cause; d) did not voluntarily terminate his or her employment with Hamilton County prior to obtaining 62 years of age as fixed by the New York State Retirement System. Termination of employment caused by failing to be re-elected or re-appointed shall not be considered as a voluntary termination from County employment nor one for cause. Failing to be re-elected shall also include the official who chooses not to run for the elected position. Such elected or appointed official shall be entitled to the foregoing benefits upon obtaining the earliest age of retirement (now 62 years of age) as allowed by the New York State Retirement System

**Premium Payment** (Hired effective January 1, 2010 or Later) – The Retiree will continue to pay the % of the premium they were contributing as an employee for individual, two-person or family medical insurance coverage, as the case may be.

**Eligibility – Special Sheriff’s Retirement Plan (Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Deputy Sheriffs)** – To be eligible for coverage, each of the following requirements must be met: a) entitled to retire under the New York State Special Sheriff’ Retirement Plan; b) have at least twenty (20) years of continuous service with the County; c) retire directly into New York State Retirement System; d) employment was not terminated for cause; If a), b), c), and d) criteria are met but the retiree has not reached age 55, they would be eligible under the following criteria:

- 1.) At forty-one (41) to fifty-four (54) years of age, the retiree is eligible for individual coverage at the same contribution percentage (%) the employee was paying prior to retirement. For a two-person or family coverage, the difference in premium from a single plan, is entirely the responsibility of retiree.
- 2.) At fifty-five (55) years of age, the retiree’s eligibility follows the standard eligibility for the Non-Special Sheriff’s Retirement Plan above.

**Special Sheriff’s Retirement Plan for Transfer Hires** – To meet the requirements for eligibility, a Sheriff, Under Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff that Transfers employment to Hamilton County, must have at least (10) years of continuous service with Hamilton County. If the retiree only has half of the (20) requirement or (10) years of Hamilton County Service, the retiree would be eligible for one half of the full benefit. If the retiree’s Hamilton County Service is more than (10) years, but less than the full (20) years required, the retiree health insurance benefit would be prorated as follows: 10 years – 50% of full benefit, 11 years – 55% of full benefit, 12 years – 60% of full benefit, etc.; up to the standard benefit at (20) as normally offered.

**Eligibility – Correction Officers** – To be eligible for coverage, each of the following requirements must be met: a) have at least twenty (20) years of continuous



service with the County; b) retire directly from the County into the New York State Retirement System; c) employment was not terminated for cause; d) did not voluntarily terminate his or her employment with Hamilton County prior to obtaining 55 years of age as fixed by the New York State Retirement System. Correction Officer retiring at 55 years of age should know that they will be subject to a penalty with New York State Retirement.

**For all retirees, a retiree that meets the required criteria, who elects not to participate in the medical insurance plan made available to them by the County at the time of retirement, may elect to participate later by written request. Participation is required to be during an open enrollment period or due to an eligible qualifying event. These eligibility requirements are subject to change by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.**

#### Other Reports:

Mr. Tomlinson: He knows that they have discussed a County Manager in the past, but he thinks they need to do it as soon as possible when they are back after the new year. He would like to open discussions. He thinks that Mr. Farber has gone above and beyond for years. He has picked up the slack in many areas. After having a meeting this morning just seeing the things that he has done going above and beyond, it is not fair to the Chairman and in the future moving forward. The work needs to be done but they need somebody to do it. He stated that he wasn't underestimating what the Clerk of the Board does or downplaying it. They appreciate what she does but it's not her job either. He really thinks that they need to start thinking about hiring a County Manager and figuring out a way to move forward to do it. Mr. Arsenault stated that they are one of the few counties that don't have one. Also, like he had said in that brief meeting this morning, there is nobody that is going to spend the kind of time that Mr. Farber spent in that Chairman seat. It's not humanly possible and he is not sure how he did it. Mr. Farber stated that he shouldn't have done it if they wanted the truth. Mr. Arsenault stated that Mr. Farber was here day in and day out every day of the week and it's not feasible for the Chairman to do that. They all have their towns to run, and he truly thinks it does make sense to start looking down that avenue of a County Manager as well. He thinks it's going to help the Chairman and the County. It is not going to come cheap. Mr. Farber stated that if they look back in the record there has been extensive conversations in 1997 about the same subject. He had been told that just before he came on the Board from John Heffernan that several Supervisors had approached him with a similar conversation when he was getting ready to retire as County Treasurer with the idea of creating an Administrator position and having him do that job. It is not a new subject. There is a lot. He often talks about Hamilton County being a \$25Million plus a year business but they are not even as simple in some ways as a business. They have very complex responsibilities from Mental Health to DSS to Public Health Nursing and operating the CHHA. Mr. Tomlinson thanked Mr. Farber for the time he put in. They decided to have a meeting. Mr. Arsenault stated that when they had discussed this prior, he had reached out to other counties and had taken some notes down. He will look to see if he can find those. He thinks they all should make some phone calls and talk to other counties. The Chairman stated that Hamilton County is unique and thinks it is up to them to develop it the way they want it. Ms. Hunt reminded them that NYSAC is a big help in that regard.

Ms. Bain: Thank you again to Mr. Farber. Welcome aboard Butch Fernandez and she looks forward to working with him.

As there was no further business, motion to adjourn by Mr. Arsenault, seconded by Mr. Tomlinson.  
Carried.