



**Cortland County
Legislature
Legislative Session
~ Agenda ~**

Legislative Chambers
60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045
www.cortlandcountyny.gov

Thursday, February 26, 2026

6:00 PM

Legislative Chambers

Public Hearings

Call to Order

Salute to the Flag

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Legislator Douglas Bentley				
Legislator Cathy Bischoff				
Legislator Reed Cleland				
Legislator Mitchel Eccleston				
Legislator Beau Harbin				
Majority Leader Paul Heider				
Legislator Linda Jones				
Legislator Dominick Mantella				
Legislator William McGovern				
Legislator Joseph Nauseef				
Legislator Christopher Newell				
Legislator Jason Prentice				
Minority Leader Sandra Price				
Legislator Ronald J. Van Dee				
Legislator Keith VanGorder				
Legislator Eugene Waldbauer				
Chair of the Legislature Kevin Fitch				

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Cortland County Legislature - Legislative Organizational meeting January 2, 2026**
- 2. Cortland County Legislature - Legislative Session - January 22, 2026**
- 3. Cortland County Legislature - Special Session - January 29, 2026**

Privilege of the Floor

Proclamations & Recognitions

1. **Recognizing Heart Health Awareness Month**
2. **March 2026 Women's History Month in Cortland County**

Presentation of Petitions, Communications, Presentations and Notices

1. **Believe 31 Presentation**

Reports of Standing, Special and Ad Hoc Committees

Receive and File

1. **2025 County Clerk Annual Report**

Articles Postponed to Day Certain

Unfinished Business

New Business

Resolutions

Resolutions from the Chair

ON MOTION OF KEVIN FITCH

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

Appoint Cortland County Poet Laureate

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 73-25 of the Cortland County Legislature, the Cortland County Legislature established the Cortland County Poet Laureate Program in order to promote poetry, literacy, and the literary arts, and to recognize the importance of cultural expression within the community; AND

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 11-26 of the Cortland County Legislature, a Poet Laureate Selection Committee was established and authorized to solicit nominations, review candidates, and recommend an individual for appointment as Cortland County Poet Laureate; AND

WHEREAS, the Poet Laureate serves as an ambassador for poetry and the literary arts in Cortland County and participates in civic events, public readings, and educational and cultural activities throughout the County; AND

WHEREAS, the Poet Laureate Selection Committee has completed its review process and has recommended the appointment of _____ as the Cortland County Poet Laureate; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that _____ is hereby appointed as the Cortland County Poet Laureate for a term commencing immediately and expiring December 31, 2027, in accordance with the provisions established by Resolution No. 73-25 and Resolution No. 11-26 of the Cortland County Legislature, said appointment serving at the pleasure of the Cortland County Legislature and subject to the Cortland County Code of Ethics; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby congratulates _____ on this appointment and looks forward to their service in promoting poetry and the literary arts throughout Cortland County.

Referred from Government Operations Committee

ON MOTION OF JOSEPH NAUSEEF

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

Establishing and Delegating Authority to the County Administrator to Execute Certain Agreements in Accordance with Established County Procedures - County Legislature

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 126-22 of the Cortland County Legislature authorized the County Administrator to execute contracts that had been previously approved through the adopted County budget, thereby reducing duplicative legislative authorizations and improving administrative efficiency; AND

WHEREAS, the County Legislature retains authority over appropriations, budget adoption, and the establishment of purchasing policies and thresholds, while day-to-day administrative execution of minor contractual matters is appropriately delegated to the County Administrator; AND

WHEREAS, the County's adopted procurement policy establishes a discretionary purchasing threshold of \$2,500, under which formal quoting is not required; AND

WHEREAS, requiring individual legislative approval for contracts at or below the discretionary procurement threshold creates unnecessary administrative delay and consumes legislative and staff time disproportionate to the fiscal impact of such agreements; AND

WHEREAS, authorizing the County Administrator to execute contracts within this existing discretionary threshold, when sufficient budgeted appropriations exist, will improve operational efficiency, reduce administrative burden, and maintain appropriate fiscal controls; AND

WHEREAS, such authority would apply only to contracts that comply with all applicable procurement laws, County purchasing policies, and budgetary controls, and would not diminish the Legislature's fiscal oversight role; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Administrator to execute contracts and agreements on behalf of Cortland County in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 per contract, consistent with the County's discretionary procurement threshold, provided that:

- Sufficient funds have been appropriated in the adopted County budget; and
- The contract complies with all applicable provisions of New York State General Municipal Law, County procurement policies, and any other applicable laws or regulations; and
- The contract is for routine operational purposes and does not involve the acquisition or disposition of real property, long-term obligations, or matters otherwise requiring legislative approval by law;

; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that this authorization is intended to further the policy established by Resolution No. 126-22 by eliminating unnecessary duplicative legislative approvals for minor contracts, while preserving legislative oversight through the budget process and established procurement thresholds; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator shall file quarterly with the Clerk of the Legislature a report identifying all contracts executed pursuant to this authorization, including the vendor name, contract purpose, and dollar amount of each contract.

Establishing a Standardized Policy Development Framework for County Operations

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature is the policy-making body of the County and is responsible for establishing overall legislative direction; AND

WHEREAS, the County Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day administration of County operations and utilizes policies and procedures as administrative tools to implement legislative direction and ensure consistent, effective, and transparent County operations; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County currently lacks a uniform, countywide framework for the development, review, and implementation of operational policies and procedures, resulting in inconsistent practices across departments; AND

WHEREAS, Departments have historically relied on legacy practices or informal guidance without a standardized process for review, coordination, documentation, or revision; AND

WHEREAS, establishing a standardized policy development framework will promote consistency, accountability, transparency, and continuity across county government while preserving legislative authority; AND

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to organize the process by which policies and procedures are developed and administered, without limiting its authority to adopt, amend, or rescind policy by resolution; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby adopts the following policy development framework for countywide operational policies and procedures:

Section 1. Establishment of Framework

The Cortland County Legislature hereby establishes a standardized framework for the development, review, and administration of policies and procedures.

Section 2. Legislative Authority

The Legislature retains full authority to:

- Adopt policy direction by resolution;
- Direct the County Administrator to develop policies and procedures; and
- Review, amend, or rescind any administrative or operational policy or procedure developed pursuant to this framework.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to limit or diminish the authority of the Legislature.

Section 3. Role of the County Administrator

The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to:

- Develop and draft policies and procedures consistent with legislative intent;
- Consult with Department Heads, or other resources, as appropriate;
- Submit proposed policies and procedures to the relevant statutory committee for review;

- Implement approved policies and procedures following committee review; and
- Maintain a centralized repository of all adopted policies and procedures and revisions thereto.

Section 4. Role of Legislative Committees

Statutory committees shall provide subject-matter oversight and review of policies and procedures within their respective jurisdictions.

Each policy or procedure shall identify a responsible department for implementation. The statutory committee with jurisdiction over that department shall review the policy or procedure. Any question regarding committee jurisdiction shall be resolved by the Chair of the Legislature.

Committee review shall include consideration of:

- Alignment with legislative intent;
- Clarity, effectiveness, and potential impacts; and
- Readiness for implementation.

Section 5. Role of Department Heads

Department Heads may establish department-level procedures tailored to their operational needs, provided such procedures do not conflict with adopted countywide policies.

Department-level procedures:

- Shall be submitted to the County Administrator for review to ensure consistency, unless otherwise exempt;
- Must comply with applicable countywide policies;
- Must be maintained in writing; and
- Must be periodically reviewed and updated.

Section 6. Policy Structure and Content Principles

Policies and procedures developed under this framework shall follow a generally uniform structure sufficient to promote consistency, clarity, and effective implementation.

As appropriate to their subject matter, such policies and procedures shall address:

- Purpose and intent;
- Scope of applicability;
- Relevant legal or regulatory authority;
- Roles and responsibilities for implementation; and
- Any procedures or guidance necessary to support consistent administration.

The specific format, level of detail, and supporting documentation for policies and procedures shall be determined by the County Administrator, in consultation with affected Departments, and may evolve over time to reflect operational needs and best practices. All approved policies must be indexed and titled according to said format determined by the County Administrator.

All approved policies must reference the date approved and legislative committee that approved said Policy.

Referred from Public Works Committee

ON MOTION OF PAUL HEIDER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Amend 2026 County Road Fund Budget with Rollover Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) Funding - Public Works

WHEREAS, there are funds remaining for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) from the 2025 County Road Fund Budget, in an amount of \$3,152,819.51; AND

WHEREAS, these remaining funds are eligible to be rolled-over to the 2026 County Road Fund Budget; AND

WHEREAS, these funds may be used for Construction Projects; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the 2026 County Road Fund Budget be amended as follows:

Increase Revenues

D511243.43501	County Road Fund CHIPS Revenue	\$2,050,033.54
D511243.43501.PAVE	County Road Fund PAVE Revenue	\$ 556,327.74
D511243.43501.POP	County Road Fund POP Revenue	\$ 176,460.98
D511243.43501.EWR	County Road Fund EWR Revenue	\$ 369,997.25

Increase Expenses

D51125.54077	Construction Expenses	\$3,152,819.51
--------------	-----------------------	----------------

ON MOTION OF PAUL HEIDER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

Authorize Supplemental Agreement No. 2 with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. for East River Crossing Over Tioughnioga River Bridge (BIN 3312310) Replacement - Department of Public Works

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature authorized an agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation for the East River Crossing Bridge (BIN 3312310) Replacement, PIN 375687, through Resolution No. 44-24; AND

WHEREAS, the East River Crossing Bridge Replacement Project is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended which calls for the apportionment of the costs of such program to be borne at the ratio of 80% Federal Funds, 20% non-federal funds; AND

WHEREAS, the said projects costs may also be eligible for reimbursement of 15% of the project costs through NYSDOT AID (Marchiselli Aid) provided the funds are appropriated by the State of New York; AND

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works solicited and received proposals from firms interested in providing design services for said project; AND

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee appointed a Selection Committee to review said

proposals, and make a recommendation to the Public Works Committee of a firm that would best provide Professional Engineering Services; AND

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee recommended that Barton and Loguidice Engineers, D.P.C. of 443 Electronics Parkway Liverpool, NY 13088 provide Professional Engineering Services to the Cortland County Public Works; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature approved said agreement with Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C through Resolution No. 244-20; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature approved an agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for the Acquisition of Right of Way (ROW) property through Resolution No. 57-21; AND

WHEREAS, during the course of the Design Phase of said project, it was determined that the Bridge carrying East River Crossing was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, which requires the preparation of a finding document, an alternative analysis and a memorandum of agreement to meet section 106 a 4 (f) requirements; AND

WHEREAS, during the preliminary design phase it was also determined that the right of way phase of the project would be completed by the consultant instead of the NYSDOT because of possible schedule concerns; AND

WHEREAS, the additional scope of work for the design phase of the said project needs to be changed to include the ROW incidentals and acquisition; AND

WHEREAS, contingent upon funding by the NYSDOT, the Cortland County Public Works Committee wishes to further said project, by authorizing Supplemental Agreement # 2 with Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C. which adds \$252,000.00 to the Construction Agreement; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney, or designee, is hereby authorized to execute Supplemental Agreement No. 2 with Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C, for the continued Construction, Construction Inspection, and Construction Services of the East River Crossing Bridge Replacement; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the 2026 Capital Project Budget be amended as follows:
Increase:

HH5122554055.ERRBR	Professional Services	\$252,000.00
HH512244.44597.ERRBR	Federal Revenue	\$201,600.00
HH99015.45031.ERRBR	Interfund Transfer In	\$ 50,400.00
A99095.59950.ERRBR	Interfund Transfer Out	\$ 50,400.00
A359900	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 50,400.00

WHEREAS, the Kiwanis Club of Cortland County, a long-standing civic organization dedicated to serving the children and families of our community, generously funded and donated a new playground that was approved for installation at Dwyer Memorial County Park by Resolution No. 183-25; AND

WHEREAS, the Kiwanis Club of Cortland County has received grant funding and proposes utilizing the grant funding to donate a metallophone playground instrument as an addition to the existing playground; AND

WHEREAS, the donation of this metallophone will provide an engaging, inclusive, and interactive musical play experience for children and families in Cortland County, further enhancing the overall amenities and public use of Dwyer Memorial County Park; AND

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee of the Cortland County Legislature has reviewed and recommends acceptance of this additional donation in connection with the previously approved playground project; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature wishes to again express its appreciation for the Kiwanis Club's continued commitment to public service and community recreation; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby accepts the donation of a metallophone playground instrument from the Kiwanis Club of Cortland County, to be installed as part of and in conjunction with the previously approved Kiwanis playground at Dwyer Memorial County Park; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Public Works Commissioner, or their designee, is authorized to coordinate the installation of the metallophone in accordance with County policies and applicable safety standards; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Kiwanis Club of Cortland County and all others deemed necessary and proper.

ON MOTION OF PAUL HEIDER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

Award Dwyer Park Playground Installation Project - Public Works

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Public Works Department received quotes for the installation of the Dwyer Park Playground equipment donated by the Kiwanis Club of Cortland County; AND

WHEREAS, the quotes received are as follows:

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>QUOTE AMOUNT</u>
Willygoat LLC PO Box 59278 Birmingham, AL 35259	\$20,010.00
ATG Installations LLC 1838 Rt 13N Cortland, NY 13045	\$12,700.70
P&P Installations PO Box 222	\$11,483.00

Marathon, NY 13803

; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Works Committee, the Cortland County Legislature hereby awards the Playground Installation project to the lowest responsible quote being; P & P Installations for the quoted price listed above; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator or Chair of the Legislature, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee, is hereby authorized to sign an agreement with P&P Installations for an amount not to exceed \$11,483.00; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Finance Director is hereby authorized and directed to make payment from Account A71105.52015 for the Playground Installation to P&P Installations.

ON MOTION OF PAUL HEIDER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

Authorize Lease Extension of 49 Grant Street

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 66-24, authorizing the lease of 49 Grant Street to Catholic Charities April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2026; AND

WHEREAS, a request was received from Catholic Charities to extend the lease agreement for 49 Grant Street with no increase in rent; AND

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Cortland County Legislature's Public Work's Committee to extend the lease agreement for 49 Grant Street by two (2) months from April 1, 2026 to May 31, 2026 with no increase in rent and no continued month-to-month basis thereafter; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator upon approval of the County Attorney or designee is hereby authorized to execute an extension on the current lease for 49 Grant Street through May 31, 2026 with no increase in rent; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that such extension shall expire on May 31, 2026, with no provision for a month-to-month tenancy beyond that date.

Referred from Judiciary & Public Safety Committee

ON MOTION OF SANDRA PRICE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

Authorize Agreement with Axon Justice Premier Plus - Public Defender

WHEREAS, the County was awarded and has already received block grant funds from the Division of Criminal Justice Services for the State's Aid to Defense for Discovery Reform Program in the amount of \$129,309.00 and supplemental block grant funds in the amount of \$127,983.00, for a total of \$257,292.00; AND

WHEREAS, the Grant Award Notice specifically states: "This funding must be used to support public defense services and expenses related to discovery reform implementation, including, but not limited to, digital evidence transmission technology, administrative support, computers, hardware and operating software, data connectivity, development of training materials, staff training..."; AND

WHEREAS, AXON is a company that provides digital evidence management and storage; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County District Attorney's office, the New York State Police, the Cortland City Police Department, and the SUNY Cortland University Police Department currently use Axon for

video/digital evidence gathering; AND

WHEREAS, AXON has agreed to provide such services to the Cortland County Public Defender's Office at a cost of \$72,229.60 for five years, January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2030; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or her designee, be and hereby is authorized to sign the AXON Justice Premier+ contract, as discussed above, for the period from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030 for a cost of at the rate of \$72,229.60 for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby authorizes the Director of Finance to amend the 2026 Cortland County Budget as follows:

Increase:

A117055.43389	Other Public Safety State Aid	\$72,229.60
A117055.54015	Maintenance Agreements	\$72,229.60

ON MOTION OF SANDRA PRICE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

Appoint Member to the Cortland County Jury Board/ Louis Fulmer Supreme Court Law Library

WHEREAS, it is required pursuant to Article 16, Section 503a, 1 of Judiciary Law that one Legislator be appointed to the Cortland County Jury Board; AND

WHEREAS, a seat is designated for a County Legislator as Trustee for the Louis H. Folmer Supreme Court Law Library; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Sandra Price, of 1189 Church Street, Cortland, NY 13045, is hereby appointed to the Cortland County Jury Board, as the Legislative Representative, for a term commencing immediately and ending December 31, 2027; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Sandra Price is hereby appointed as the Legislative Representative and sitting Trustee for the Louis H. Folmer Supreme Court Law Library for a term commencing immediately and ending December 31, 2027.

ON MOTION OF SANDRA PRICE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

Accept and Authorize Emergency Services Information (ESI) Grant Award - Department of Emergency Response & Communications

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES) has awarded the Cortland County Department of Emergency Response and Communications an Emergency Services Information Network 911 Grant (ESI) grant for FY2026 in the amount of \$689,655 resulting in no new county costs, in support of strengthening 911 operations; AND

WHEREAS, the grant performance period for the ESI grant is January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2030; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Cortland County Department of Emergency Response and Communications is hereby directed to expend the grant funds according to the stated grant guidance; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the 2026 budget is amended as follows:

Current Change Revised

INCREASE REVENUE BUDGET:

A302043.43306.ESI	DHSES Grant	\$0	\$0	\$689,655
-------------------	-------------	-----	-----	-----------

INCREASE EXPENDITURE BUDGET:

A30205.52015.ESI	Dept Specific Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$689,655
------------------	-------------------------	-----	-----	-----------

; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee and subject to appropriation of funding, be and hereby is authorized to sign the grant contract with the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services at an amount not to exceed \$689,655; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Director of Finance shall carryover all unused grant funds to the subsequent year(s) budget covered by the grant, per the approved grant agreement.

ON MOTION OF SANDRA PRICE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

Appoint Probation Director - Probation Department

WHEREAS, Cortland County has a current vacancy for the position of Probation Director; AND

WHEREAS, Legislators Sandy Price, Cathy Bischoff and Keith VanGorder, County Administrator Michael Ponticiello and Personnel Officer Laurie Leonard conducted interviews and offered a recommendation for this appointment; AND

WHEREAS, the County Legislature has received the recommendation for the appointment of _____ as Probation Director; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature does hereby appoint _____ as Probation Director at an annual salary of \$_____ (Grade 6, Step __, Management Compensation Plan, competitive class, full-time) effective March 30, 2026.

Referred from Agriculture/Planning/Environment Committee

ON MOTION OF WILLIAM MCGOVERN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

Appoint Member to the Transportation Advisory Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 289-19 authorized the formalization of the Transportation Advisory Committee as a Citizen's Advisory Committee; AND

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee, as a formal advisory committee of the Agriculture, Planning, and Environmental Committee, will consist of a membership from a wide variety of community service agencies and government agencies; AND

WHEREAS, Legislator Beau Harbin has resigned from his position on the Transportation Advisory Committee, creating a vacancy for the remainder of his unexpired term; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature desires to fill said vacancy; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Sandra Price, 1189 Church Street, Cortland, New York 13045, is hereby appointed to serve as a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee for the remainder of the unexpired term, ending December 31, 2027; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ON MOTION OF WILLIAM MCGOVERN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

Appoint Members to the Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors

WHEREAS, according to the Soil and Water Conservation District Law as passed by the legislature of the State of New York, "When a county has been declared a soil and water conservation district, a board of directors consisting of five members shall be appointed by the county board. This board of directors shall consist of two members of the county board and three persons not members of the county board... two of whom shall be practical farmers. One of these farmers shall be appointed from a list submitted by the county grange, one of these farmers shall be appointed from a list submitted by the county farm bureau"; AND

WHEREAS, the terms of members is one year for Legislative Representatives and three years for other members of the Board; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the following be and hereby are appointed to serve as members of the Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors:

NAME	ADDRESS	CAPACITY	TERM
Linda Jones	2087 E. River Rd., Homer, NY 13077	Legislative Representative	12/31/2026
William McGovern	28 West Main St., Marathon, NY 13803	Legislative Representative	12/31/2026
Jeremy Boylan	4361 Locust Ave., Homer, NY 13077	At Large Representative	12/31/2028

ON MOTION OF WILLIAM MCGOVERN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

A Resolution Urging the New York State Legislature and Governor Kathy Hochul to Enact the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (S.1464/A31749)

WHEREAS, in New York State, more than 18 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) is generated each year, or about five pounds per day and two-thousand pounds per year for every person who lives in the state; AND

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the waste sector represent about 12 percent of statewide emissions; AND

WHEREAS, the most significant GHG emissions impact during the lifecycle of products and packaging result not from disposal but from the production of products and packaging that eventually become waste; AND

WHEREAS, in addition to the climate impacts of waste, the costs associated with its recycling and disposal impose a significant burden on Cortland County taxpayers; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Strategic Development Plan, adopted by the Cortland County Legislature in December 2024, identifies Sustainability as its third primary focus area and states that Cortland County will “preserve its natural resources for future generations;” AND

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Council’s Final Scoping Plan recommends New York State enact legislation to create a product stewardship framework or target products with the greatest GHG impact, such as packaging, printed paper, carpets, tires, textiles, solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, appliances, and mattresses; AND

WHEREAS, S.1464/A.1749 would enact the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act to create an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging materials; AND

WHEREAS, S.1464/ A.1749 would make producers legally and financially responsible for mitigating the environmental impacts of their packaging; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County faces an imminent waste management crisis, with the county landfill set to reach capacity within the next 10 years; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature previously adopted Resolution No. 54-25, titled ‘A Resolution Urging the Enactment of the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (S.1464/A.1749),’ in March 2025; AND

WHEREAS, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act would not only provide meaningful relief to Cortland County taxpayers and all local government budgets in Central New York with total savings of up to \$46 million dollars, according to an economic analysis from Beyond Plastics, but also reduce GHG emissions from the production and disposal of consumer goods by incentivizing producers to reduce waste and design products that are more sustainable; AND

WHEREAS, S.1464/A.1749 would also prohibit certain toxic and dangerous chemicals in packaging, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), orthophthalates, bisphenols, halogenated flame retardants, heavy metals such as lead, and other chemicals posing a threat to human health and safety and the environment; AND

WHEREAS, the New York State Senate previously passed the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act 2025 as S.4246-B/A.5322-B during the 2025 Legislative Session; AND

WHEREAS, the New York State Assembly did not bring up S.4246-B/A.5322-B for debate at the end of the 2025 Legislative Session; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, the Cortland County Legislature calls on both houses of the New York State Legislature to pass and Governor Kathy Hochul to sign S.1464/A.1749 during the 2026 Legislative Session; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Cortland County Legislature calls on Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to also enact an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for paper products, which is currently excluded from this legislation, in recognition of their significant contribution to GHG emissions and municipal recycling costs; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Cortland County Legislature strongly encourages the various municipal governments throughout Cortland County to consider adopting their own resolutions in support of S/1464/A.1749 to demonstrate unity of cause and purpose behind this effort; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Cortland County Legislature shall authorize the Clerk of the Legislature forward

copies of this resolution to the Offices of Governor Kathy Hochul, Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Amanda Lefton, NYS State Senator Lea Webb, NYS Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, NYS Assemblymember Anna Kelles, NYS Assemblymember Jeff Gallahan, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), and to the Town Supervisors and Village Mayors of the various Cortland County municipalities.

Referred from Health & Human Services Committee

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16

Authorize Lease Agreement with Crescent Commons Master Tenant, LLC for Lease of Property

WHEREAS, Cortland County Office for Aging (Lessee) is in need of leasing property at Crescent Commons, 165 Main Street, Suite B2, Cortland, New York, from Crescent Commons Master Tenant, LLC (Lessor) to be used as the Age Well Center for Cortland County residents; AND

WHEREAS, the term of the lease is for five (5) years commencing August 1, 2026 and ending July 31, 2030; AND

WHEREAS, the rent, which includes utilities, is to be paid in monthly installments of \$2,200 per month, or a total of \$26,400 per year; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee as to form and subject to any appropriation of funding by the Legislature, be and hereby is authorized and directed to sign a lease with Crescent Commons Master Tenant, LLC and authorizes the Cortland County Treasurer’s office to release funds accordingly.

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17

Authorize 2025 County Budget Amendment for Increased Juvenile Delinquent Expenditures - Department of Social Services

WHEREAS, expenditures for youth in Non-Secure Detention increased for 2025 and exceed the amended amount appropriated in the 2025 budget; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the 2025 County Budget be and hereby is amended as follows:

INCREASE:

EXPENDITURES

A60105.56123 Juvenile Delinquent	current \$10,000	INCREASE \$43,544	new = \$53,544
----------------------------------	------------------	-------------------	----------------

DECREASE:

EXPENDITURES

A60105.56140 Safety Net	current \$4,617,804	DECREASE \$43,544	new = \$4,574,260
-------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	-------------------

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18

Appoint Member to the Cortland County Board of Health

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the Cortland County Board of Health to be filled by the current Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, or their designee; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Sandra Price of 1189 Church Street, Cortland, New York 13045, be and hereby is appointed to the Cortland County Board of Health for a term to expire December 31, 2027.

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19

Appoint Member Older Americans Act Advisory Council – Office for Aging

WHEREAS, the By-Laws of the Older Americans Act Advisory Council of the Cortland County Office for Aging state membership shall be 15-25 voting members with at least fifty percent of the membership to be at least sixty years of age that represent target group seniors according to the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, and shall also include representatives of health care provider organizations, including veterans and supportive services provider organizations, be broadly representative of all aspects of the county, and include local elected official and the general public; AND

WHEREAS, Article 4, Section 4, states the term shall be for three years, or appointed to complete a term of a person who has resigned, the new person's length of term is defined as the period of the original member's term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the following be and hereby are appointed to the Older Americans Act Advisory Council as follows:

Eline Haukenes – Community Member (1st Term) Term to expire 12/31/2028

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 20

Accept Funds Resource Allocation Plan New York State Office of Children and Family Services - Health Department

WHEREAS, the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus has made available the sum of \$2,775 to Cortland County, through the County Youth Bureau; AND

WHEREAS, the County Youth Bureau will use these funds to increase the number of youth and youth serving professionals participating in positive youth development and leadership networking; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the 2026 Adopted County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Expenditure:

A73125.54035	EDUCATION/TRAINING	\$2,075
A73125.54045	TRAVEL	\$700

Increase Revenue:

A73125.43820.YBYOUTH BUREAU	\$2,775
-----------------------------	---------

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 21

Accept Children and Youth w/ Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Supplemental Funding and Authorize Memorandum of Understanding with Local Municipalities - Health Department

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health has awarded Cortland County Supplemental funding for the Children and Youth w/Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN), Contract C41711GM for \$31,340 for the contract period of 10/1/2025-9/30/2026; AND

WHEREAS, the funds will be used to purchase adaptive swings for parks within local municipalities in Cortland County to address and improve community inclusion and accessibility within the parks; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Health Department will be entering into a formal, written Memorandum of Understanding with local municipalities in Cortland County to provide them with an adaptive swing to be installed and utilized within their park to increase community inclusion and accessibility to help facilitate grant deliverables; AND

WHEREAS, the local municipality within Cortland County will be responsible for any construction, installation and maintenance of the provided adaptive swings; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator and/or Chair of the Legislature, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee, are hereby authorized to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the participating Cortland County Municipalities; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the 2026 Adopted County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Expenditure:

A40595.52015.4052	Department Specific Equipment	\$20,860
A40595.54048.4052	Program Supplies	\$10,480

Increase Revenue:

A40595.44451.CSH	CYSCHN Grant	\$31,340
------------------	--------------	----------

Referred from Finance & Administration Committee

ON MOTION OF CATHY BISCHOFF

AGENDA ITEM NO. 22

Authorize 2026 Cortland County Tourism Marketing Grants

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 235-25 which authorized an agreement with the Cortland County Convention & Visitors Bureau for provision of public benefits services for promotion and publicity; AND

WHEREAS, the Convention & Visitors Bureau, per Resolution No. 235-25, shall be responsible for the distribution of occupancy funds as outlined in the Cortland County Occupancy Tax Funding Request Guidelines; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 179-25 designating the Cortland County Convention & Visitors Bureau as the Official Tourism Promotion Agency for Cortland County in accordance with New York State Tourism Promotion Act 5A; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Convention and Visitor Bureau's Tourism Marketing Grant Review Group met to review applications for use of occupancy tax funding for tourism marketing which encourages overnight stays at Cortland County lodging properties, and has recommended that certain amounts of funding be made available to the agencies that sought funding; AND

WHEREAS, that recommendation has been presented to the Legislature's Finance and Administration Committee for review and consideration as follows:

1890 House Museum	\$11,000
Brockway Truck Preservation Society	\$13,000
Center for the Arts of Homer	\$85,000
Central NY Maple Festival	\$3,000
Cortland County Historical Society	\$16,500
Cortland Main Street Music Series	\$2,000
Cortland Repertory Theatre	\$55,000
Cortland Arts Connect	\$8,000
Holiday in Homer	\$3,500
Homer Cortland Community Agency (CNYLHC)	\$30,000
Homeville Museum	\$3,000
Lime Hollow Nature Center	\$30,000

; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature be and hereby approves the 2026 Tourism Marketing Grants as presented and authorizes the Cortland County Convention & Visitor's Bureau to distribute the funds to the listed agencies shown above upon these agencies securing a signed contract with the Convention & Visitor's Bureau and providing eligible invoices and supporting documentation.

ON MOTION OF CATHY BISCHOFF

AGENDA ITEM NO. 23

Authorize Agreement with Pracademic Partners for Recruiting Services for the Position of Deputy County Administrator

WHEREAS, the current Deputy County Administrator position is vacant and included in the 2026 budget; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature recognizes the importance of an efficient and professional search process to identify qualified candidates for the position of Deputy County Administrator; AND

WHEREAS, Pracademic Partners, located at 6534 Florence Lane, Livonia, NY 14487, has been identified as a qualified recruitment agency specializing in public sector executive searches; AND

WHEREAS, the County Legislature finds it in the best interest of Cortland County to enter into an agreement with Pracademic Partners to conduct a comprehensive recruitment process; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Pracademic Partners of 6534 Florence Lane, Livonia, NY 14487, for professional recruitment services to assist in the hiring of a Deputy County Administrator, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00, to be paid from Account No. A14305.54055; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the 2026 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

INCREASE

A14305.54055	Professional Services	\$13,000.00
--------------	-----------------------	-------------

DECREASE

A14305.51005	Personnel Services	\$13,000.00
--------------	--------------------	-------------

ON MOTION OF CATHY BISCHOFF

AGENDA ITEM NO. 24

Authorize Fourth Quarter 2025 Sales Tax Distribution - Finance Department

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 221-18, which provides for the distribution of sales tax from the County to local municipalities; AND

WHEREAS, the sales tax sharing agreement provides for the deduction directly from the gross sales tax distribution received from the State of New York a fixed sum of \$1,500,000 for County purposes, with the remaining balance of the revenues to be distributed for use by the County, City of Cortland, and the various municipalities within Cortland County; AND

WHEREAS, the gross deduction for County purposes will be provided for quarterly; AND

WHEREAS, the 2025 fourth quarter sales tax information has been provided by the New York State Comptroller's Office showing a total collection for fourth quarter 2025 to be \$10,512,527.57; AND

WHEREAS, the total amount available for distribution is \$10,137,527.57, after the direct deduction for County purposes; AND

WHEREAS, individual municipalities by resolution have opted to apply a portion of their sales tax dollars to off-set the property tax levy and that amount (\$635,000.00) is to be withheld from the quarterly distribution; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County receives (55%), or \$5,575,640.16 of the total net quarterly distribution; AND

WHEREAS, respective payments are now ready for disbursement; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature authorizes the Director of Finance or designee to release sales tax payments for the fourth quarter of 2025 as so stated below from Account No. A19855.54101 in either the form of a county check or by direct bank transfer as per the request of the receiving municipality:

Municipality	Distribution Amount Pre Tax Credit	Applied Tax Credits	Net Distribution After Tax Credit	Balance Owed Against Tax Credits
Cortland, City of	\$1,761,902.29	\$-0-	\$1,761,902.29	\$-0-
Cincinnatus, Town of	\$74,529.51	\$-0-	\$74,529.51	\$-0-
Cortlandville, Town of	\$870,992.12	\$-0-	\$870,992.12	\$-0-
Cuyler, Town of	\$72,782.50	\$(28,750.00)	\$44,032.50	\$-0-
Freetown, Town of	\$59,883.45	\$-0-	\$59,883.45	\$-0-
Harford, Town of	\$85,410.23	\$-0-	\$85,410.23	\$-0-
Homer, Town of	\$292,871.69	\$-0-	\$292,871.69	\$-0-
Homer, Village of	\$204,972.19	\$-0-	\$204,972.19	\$-0-

Lapeer, Town of	\$112,764.35	\$-0-	\$112,764.35	\$-0-
Marathon, Town of	\$86,950.69	\$-0-	\$86,950.69	\$-0-
Marathon, Village of	\$44,193.46	\$-0-	\$44,193.46	\$-0-
McGraw, Village of	\$38,235.53	\$-0-	\$38,235.53	\$-0-
Preble, Town of	\$164,297.84	\$-0-	\$164,297.84	\$-0-
Scott, Town of	\$93,959.04	\$-0-	\$93,959.04	\$-0-
Solon, Town of	\$88,101.92	\$-0-	\$88,101.92	\$-0-
Taylor, Town of	\$44,042.83	\$-0-	\$44,042.83	\$-0-
Truxton, Town of	\$116,703.63	\$-0-	\$116,703.63	\$-0-
Virgil, Town of	\$272,949.89	(\$25,000.00)	\$247,949.89	\$-0-
Willet, Town of	\$76,344.25	\$-0-	\$76,344.25	\$-0-
Total	\$4,561,887.41	(\$53,750.00)	\$4,508,137.41	\$-0-

; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or her designee, be and hereby is authorized to enter into any agreements necessary relative to the distribution of sales tax with a municipality; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Finance Director or designee is hereby directed to deposit the County's "off the top" sum of \$375,000 in the appropriate reserves and accounts as designated in Resolution No. 283-21.

ON MOTION OF SANDRA PRICE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 25

Award Bid/Authorize Agreement - Animal Transportation and Sheltering Services - County Administration

WHEREAS, the County of Cortland, in limited circumstances, is responsible for providing animal transportation and sheltering services; AND

WHEREAS, the County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for animal transportation and sheltering services for the 2026-2027 contract year, with four (4) one-year renewals for a maximum length of five (5) years; AND

WHEREAS, all proposals were solicited in accordance with County policy; AND

WHEREAS, one (1) proposal was received and the contractor meets all the County's requirements; AND

WHEREAS, the funding for this agreement is available in account number A35105.54815; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the contract for animal transportation and sheltering services for the 2026-2027 contract year be and hereby is awarded to Cortland County SPCA, of 879 McLean Road, Cortland, NY 13045 at the bid prices as listed per the RFP response; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Cortland County Legislature authorizes the County Administrator, upon review and approval of the County Attorney or designee, to enter into an agreement with Cortland County SPCA, of 879 McLean Road, Cortland, NY 13045, for a one-year term, with an optional four (4) one-year extensions.

Announcements

Adjournment