

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ORGANIZATION-BOARD MEETING – THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014**

The Board convened at 2:00 p.m. in the Supervisors Chambers, second floor, County Office Building, Wampsville, New York with all members present except for Supervisor Bargabos (27 votes).

Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Urtz opened the meeting and called on Madison County Clerk Denise Roe to administer the oath of office to the Supervisors which included five new Supervisors; William Zupan, Town of Cazenovia, Clifford Moses, Town of Eaton, David Jones, Town of Fenner, Paul Walrod, Town of Georgetown and John Pinard, Town of Lenox. Also helping Mrs. Roe was Theresa Sgarlata, newly appointed Deputy County Clerk.

Clerk Urtz called for a motion to open the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board for the term 2014-2015.

Supervisor Salka made the motion to open the floor for nominations, seconded by Supervisor Henderson and carried. The Clerk then opened the floor for nominations:

Supervisor Rafte nominated Supervisor John Becker for Chairman, stating that “it is with great pride” that he be nominated. That nomination was seconded by Supervisors Stepanski, Henderson, Reinhardt and others.

The Clerk then asked for any further nominations. There being none, the Clerk then asked for a motion to close the floor for nominations, offered by Supervisor Salka, seconded by Supervisor Degear and carried.

The Clerk then called for a voice vote for Supervisor Becker for Chairman which was carried as follows:

**AYES – 1473 NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 27 (Bargabos)**

Chairman Becker then took his seat at the dais, thanking everyone and welcoming the newly elected Supervisors on board.

**At 2:15 p.m. Chairman Becker called for a motion to open the scheduled public hearing on Local Law No. 8 of 2013 – Fixing Salaries of Certain County Official for 2014. Supervisor Henderson made the motion to open the hearing, seconded by Supervisor Rafte and carried. After asking twice for speakers, and there being no one who wished to speak, Chairman Becker asked for a motion to close the hearing. The motion was made by Supervisor Stepanski, seconded by Supervisor Henderson and carried.**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**By Supervisor Degear:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1-14**

**APPOINTING A COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**RESOLVED**, pursuant to Section 500 of the County Law, that S. John Campanie be and he hereby is reappointed as County Attorney of Madison County to serve for the life of this Board.

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1473 NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 27 (Bargabos)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2-14**

**APPOINTING A CLERK TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**RESOLVED**, pursuant to Section 47 of the County Law, that Cindy Urtz be and she is hereby reappointed as Clerk to this Board, to serve for the life of this Board and until her successor is appointed and shall have qualified.

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1473 NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 27 (Bargabos)**

**By Supervisor Rafte (Vice Chairman):**

**RESOLUTION NO. 3-14**

**FIXING TIME FOR HOLDING MEETINGS DURING 2014**

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to provisions contained in Section 152 of the County Law, the Madison County Board of Supervisors shall hold meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, such meeting to be called at 2:00 p.m.; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the session held in November shall be designated as the "**ANNUAL SESSION**" and shall convene on the Monday following Election Day;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby sets the first day of "Annual Session" for Monday, November 10, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

**Supervisor Goldstein offered an amendment to this resolution changing the time from 2:00 p.m. to 10:30 a.m. Supervisor Ball seconded the motion to amend and the following vote was taken:**

**DEFEATED: NAYS – 1226**

**AYES - 247 (Jones, Shwartz, Goldstein, Ball)**

**ABS. - 27 (Bargabos)**

**A final vote was then taken:**

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1226**

**NAYS – 247 (Jones, Shwartz, Goldstein, Ball)**

**ABS. - 27 (Bargabos)**

**By Supervisor Bradstreet:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-14**

**AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO ESTABLISH A FEE**

**WHEREAS**, part of the Madison County STOP DWI Program is to facilitate a Victim Impact Panel; and

**WHEREAS**, the Victim Impact Panel may be required by a Court as part of or as a condition of a sentence per NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law section 1193(f); and

**WHEREAS**, the STOP DWI Coordinator is recommending a fee be established for attendance at a Victim Impact Panel of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00), to be paid by the court ordered attendee; and

**WHEREAS**, this Resolution has been reviewed and approved by the Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Telecommunications Committee; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors establish a fee of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) to be assessed to each person who, under Court order, attends a Victim Impact Panel in Madison County, effective immediately.

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1473 NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 27 (Bargabos)**

**By Supervisor Degear:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 5-14**

**DESIGNATING NEWSPAPERS FOR 2014**

**WHEREAS**, Subdivision 2 of Section 214 of the County Law states that the Board of Supervisors shall annually designate two newspapers to publish local laws, notices and other matters required by law to be published; and

**WHEREAS**, in designating such newspapers, “. . .consideration shall be given to those newspapers [with] general circulation throughout the county”; and

**WHEREAS**, Subdivision 1 of Section 214 of County Law requires that a majority of the members of the Board of Supervisors from each party designate a newspaper for the publication for concurrent resolutions, election notices issued by the secretary of state, and the official canvass; and

**WHEREAS**, a majority of the members of the Board of Supervisors from each party have designated the *Oneida Daily Dispatch* and the *Mid-York Weekly* as the papers to publish the concurrent resolutions, the election notices issued by the secretary of state, and the official canvass;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Supervisors hereby designates the following newspapers for the following official publications:

<b>Concurrent Resolutions</b>	<b><i>Oneida Daily Dispatch</i></b> <b><i>Mid-York Weekly</i></b>
<b>Official Canvass</b>	<b><i>Oneida Daily Dispatch</i></b> <b><i>Mid-York Weekly</i></b>
<b>Election Notices</b>	<b><i>Oneida Daily Dispatch</i></b> <b><i>Mid-York Weekly</i></b>
<b>Official Notices</b>	<b><i>Oneida Daily Dispatch</i></b> <b><i>Mid-York Weekly</i></b>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of each County legal advertisement shall be distributed by the official County newspapers to all of the following located in Madison County: Town Clerks, Village Clerks, City Clerks, Public Libraries and Reading Centers, County Clerk, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County Veterans and County Board of Elections.

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1473 NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 27 (Bargabos)**

**By Supervisor Bono:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 6-14**

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO ENTER INTO  
AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN LOSS PREVENTION SERVICES, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, Madison County is required by the Property Maintenance Code of New York State, Section 606.1.1 and the ASME Section 8.11.1.1, to have a third party inspect and witness testing of elevators located in the County Office Building, Veterans Memorial Building, Social Services Building and the Public Health Building; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Buildings and Grounds Committee have reviewed and approve of this service contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the maintenance agreement is for three years, commencing June 1, 2014, in the amount of \$1,120.00 annually, the same as the previous contract period;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Madison County Board of Supervisors Chairman be and hereby is authorized to enter into a maintenance agreement with American Loss Prevention Services, Inc., a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1473 NAYS - 0 ABSENT – 27 (Bargabos)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 7-14**

**IN OPPOSITION TO DECREASING FUNDS FOR  
COURT HOUSE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE**

**WHEREAS**, Madison County is required by New York State law and does provide space for County Court and related offices operated under the Office of Court Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, Madison County has a contract for Court House Cleaning and Minor Repairs with the Office of Court Administration, administered through the Sixth Judicial District Administrative Offices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Court House currently is the subject of litigation under the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

**WHEREAS**, all construction and/or reconstruction remedies to satisfactorily end the above-referenced litigation are prohibitively costly for Madison County taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Office of Court Administration is not contributing funds toward that construction and/or reconstruction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Madison County Building Maintenance Department is not a revenue-generating department; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 20, 2013, the Office of Court Administration through the Sixth Judicial District Administrative Office informed Madison County of its intention to cut its reimbursement from 10 percent to 5 percent, estimated to be about \$6,200 for the 2013-2014 budget period and at least \$5,000 for 2014-2015 budget period; and

**WHEREAS**, Madison County routinely provides cleaning and maintenance services far exceeding those required by New York State; and

**WHEREAS**, this reduction would further burden Madison County by nature of its being an increasingly inadequately funded mandate;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Madison County Board of Supervisors formally opposes the Office of Court Administration's plan to reduce its planned reimbursement to Madison County because of the detrimental effect this action will have on the taxpayers of Madison County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Madison County opposes the intended reduction of reimbursement, which would shift the cost of providing County Court services to Madison County and its residents, which, during this time of economic hardship, is fundamentally unfair to those who already are saddled with numerous other unfunded mandates; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Governor and the Legislature of the State of New York are requested not to remove any money from the budget for providing Court facilities for Madison County and to return any money already removed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator David J. Valesky and Assemblyman William Magee and the New York State Association of Counties.

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1473 NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 27 (Bargabos)**

**By Supervisor Degear:**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 8-14**

#### **ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR THE YEAR 2013**

**WHEREAS**, there has been duly introduced Local Law No. 8 for the year 2013 entitled "FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN COUNTY OFFICIALS FOR 2014"; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing on said local law was duly held by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Madison on January 2, 2014;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Local Law No.8 for the year 2013 be and the same is hereby adopted.

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1473 NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 27 (Bargabos)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**No Speakers.**

At this time Chairman Becker had the Clerk hand out the new (2014) Committee Assignments to all Supervisors and did his State of the County Address as follows:

# **STATE OF THE COUNTY**

## **2013-14**



### **JOHN M. BECKER**

### **MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF**

### **SUPERVISORS CHAIRMAN**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

2013 started out on a fairly quiet note with business as usual, though we knew we would have another tough budget year. Thanks to the creative budgeting help from department heads, the County

continues to provide top-notch programs and services for our constituents.

Here are some of the highlights.

## **911 TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

A \$4.2 million grant from Homeland Security will improve communications for first-responders. The grant covers additional channels, upgrading dispatch consoles and 911 logging recorders, vehicle location and emergency vehicle data equipment, and tower site and 911 Center surveillance equipment. The CAD system will be upgraded early next year.

## **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Elections consolidated districts in one town and consolidated districts within towns for the 2013 primaries, requiring fewer inspectors and ballots and signed a multi-year ballot-printing contract, saving nine cents per ballot and providing free absentee envelopes, postcards and notices.

Consolidating primaries will continue, with potential savings of more than \$40,000.

## **BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance smoothly integrated Central Service into its oversight this year and settled staff into their positions after a new hire, promotions and lateral moves in late 2012. As of Dec. 15, the crew addressed nearly 9,300 service requests, periodic/preventive maintenance tasks, emergencies and building projects.

The biggest challenge the department faces in 2014 is the ongoing maintenance and replacement of aging equipment critical to facilities operation in a climate of shrinking budget dollars.

## **COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE**

The County Clerk's Office has seen increased dealer work and acquired more than 4,000 renewals from a rental company, which increases revenue.

We initiated a web-based application for researchers of public records held by the Clerk's Office with no taxpayer support needed. This funds further records digitization.

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The Health Department helped form the Rural Health Council, a group of health and social service providers working to identify and resolve health-related challenges.

The Department addressed post-flood health issues including mosquito control, mold, sanitation, vaccinations and safe operation of shelters and food operations in Oneida.

## **HIGHWAY**

The Department recycled 13.40 of 19.86 miles paved; 44.26 miles were preserved by chip-sealing. Structurally deficient bridges in Sullivan and Lebanon were replaced. FEMA-declared flood damage totaling nearly \$300,000 was repaired. The Department will replace the North Court Street bridge and work to obtain funds for other required bridge projects.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

In 2013, IT utilized a state Homeland Security grant secured by Joe DeFrancisco to install a disaster recovery site at DSS, a redundant system that ensures uninterrupted IT operations should our primary system fail. This year, the department will determine the most cost-effective solution to replace the aging tape backup library with the various technologies available today.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

The department successfully transitioned the ADAPT Program to a private agency in 2013. The department will examine the operations

in the clinic to improve processes and make things more efficient and continue to examine the best way to provide mental health services to the residents of Madison County.

## **PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**

The Department negotiated a contract with the Teamsters, coordinated civil service for 1,600-plus public sector employees at the county, towns, villages and schools, administered 36 exams, provided new employee orientation for 25 and conducted mandatory employee training, partially grant-funded. Personnel continues to balance responsibilities to taxpayers and employees.

## **PLANNING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Planning constructed a bridge at Oxbow Falls, assisted with the Oneida Rail Trail TEP grant, launched the Buy Madison Program, and trained 200-plus planning and zoning board members.

The Career Center served more than 14,000 people in 2013; uncertain funding will impact the continued operation of the Center.

## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

Probation continued to protect the community, promote offender rehabilitation and adapt to new legislation and (often unfunded) state mandates. We are implementing software that will integrate our computerized probation functions, increase efficiency and streamline recordkeeping; this will continue to be a time-consuming endeavor and significant transition for staff.

## **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

2013 saw the video surveillance system installed, STOP DWI Program integrated into the office, NY Safe Act implementation, apprehension of 22 individuals using the Top 10 Most Wanted List and assisting with flood issues.

Challenges will be adequate staffing to meet state requirements and locating the criminal division together.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

DSS saw four children adopted, designed a landlord/tenant handbook and implemented a universal assessment tool for home care. A DCJS grant will provide diversion services to juvenile delinquents.

As the Affordable Care Act is implemented, the impact will be significant on DSS. The state healthcare marketplace has helped residents find health insurance.

## **SOLID WASTE**

Solid Waste sent 122,660 pounds of agricultural and rigid plastics for recycling, earned \$135,000 from the landfill gas-to-energy facility, will install a second solar array at the landfill and celebrated the first anniversary of the Reuse Store.

ARE Park development continues; Johnson Brothers Lumber will build a drying kiln there.

## **TREASURER**

The Treasurer's Office received an unqualified opinion on the County's audit again this year; it is the best possible result. This provides County taxpayers assurance that public funds are properly accounted for. The county's bond rating was upgraded by Standard & Poors from A+ to AA- with stable outlook.

The Office now offers online taxpayer services.

In 2014, the new Enterprise Resource Planning System will be implemented, which will involve all County departments; this office will play an integral role in ensuring its success.

## **VETERANS AGENCY**

The Veterans Agency advocates for veterans, active duty service members and dependents, conducts outreach activities and provides services through its Morrisville satellite office.

We promote Homeless Veteran Prevention programs and secure \$24 million annually for veterans through a variety of benefits.

## **YOUTH BUREAU**

The Youth Bureau coordinated job-shadowing experiences for 27 students representing five school districts, and the Bureau and its community-based contract agencies positively impacted more than 1,500 young people through its cost-effective prevention and youth development programs. Continuing to serve youth with dwindling resources from the state will be a challenge.

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

In late April, the County was looking forward to the Supreme Court decision in May – just weeks away – on the long-awaited Oneida reservation question.

Then the phone call comes.

The Governor's office wants to meet. After a flurry of meetings, telephone conferences and emails over a 30-day period, we had an agreement. Not the best, but not the worst, either. To do nothing or go it alone would have put our whole County in a very bad position, costing taxpayers millions more in attorneys' fees, with only a slim hope of besting not only the Oneida Nation, but also New York State.

The agreement is here; it may be ratified sometime in 2014, then we can get on with our lives. Our agreement not only gives us a continual stream of revenue from the state, but also the back taxes owed up front.

If this all goes through, Madison County should be in good shape for quite some time. It is funny how things turn out sometimes.

A relationship with the Governor that did not start out very well at all was salvaged.

As we talked and worked through our issues, I think his perception of myself and our team, as a County, changed for the better.

Since that time, the County was hit with devastating floods. When the first flood hit Oneida, the Governor's Office was on the phone with me asking what we needed. Again, when DeRuyter, Eaton and

Nelson were all hit, a personal call from the Governor came with, “What do you need, Mr. Chairman?”

The next day, it was done.

Oneida was hit hard in the area referred to locally as “the flats.” The County – through the efforts of the Highway Department, Public Health and the Sheriff’s Office, to name a few – worked with Oneida city officials and Oneida Indian Nation representatives to help those affected by the devastation.

DeRuyter, Eaton and Nelson, also saw damage to infrastructure, though very little displacement of residents. A number of roads in DeRuyter were impassable due to the water damage. Eaton also suffered extensive damage to culverts and roads.

I want to single out one County employee for recognition of his work throughout this event: Joe DeFrancisco. Though it is his job, Joe went way beyond the call of duty in coordinating efforts to get through this crisis and mitigate the impacts on victims affected by these types of catastrophic events.

A big push will begin this year to prepare for and prevent wherever possible the catastrophic damages we have seen in the past. The state and federal governments cannot and will not continue to pay for the same damages in the future, event after event. To that end, I am appointing a task force on emergency preparedness to look at future potential disasters and do what we can to prevent them now. This task force will be made up of about nine people from various facets of emergency response and members of the Board of Supervisors.

Through working to help the towns, the County as a whole, getting FEMA’s ear, talking and working with State Division of Homeland Security Director Gerry Hower, a good working relationship with the Governor’s Office has sprung up through the process of negotiating the Oneida deal.

That is a plus for Madison County.

As we moved through 2013, the fall brought us yet another tough budget year. As we progressed, it was abundantly clear that the 2-percent tax cap would not hold.

Even though we passed a nearly 8-percent increase this year, I will still stand by my record on this board, for the silent majority of property owners, for the past eight years, we have increased the county's tax levy by 15 percent or 1.9 percent per year, staying well below the cap, on average, compared to the years 2000 through 2006, a total of 62 percent increase on the levy or 10.4 percent per year, which was absolutely unsustainable.

Under this leadership, we have done our job cutting costs and delivering the best services for the lowest cost. In previous years, we had seen significant cuts to the Highway Department and Sheriff's Office pool of vehicles, the time to restore those cuts was this year, and we did: restoring a road project and equipment to the Highway and eight new vehicles to renew the fleet of aging equipment – some with 200,000 miles or more on them – in the Sheriff's Office.

We also are investing in new software for the Treasurer's Office; this will allow us to get rid of the ancient and cumbersome way we do payroll and replace our outdated (WAY outdated) DOS-based software from the early 1980s. Some have asked why that upgrade needed to be purchased. The answer is simple: if the software crashed, we would be out of business.

Our leadership team, without question, has and will continue to move this County forward, whether it be through spearheading economic development projects, overcoming challenges like the Court House or addressing the many other things that may pop up.

All while under the scrutiny and criticism of armchair quarterbacks.

We will be prepared for those challenges.

Also in 2013, we saw a significant, productive and positive working relationship with our partners in the unions. We will continue to foster this relationship because we realize not just one employee, but all of our employees are part of the team that make Madison County the special place that it is, and we must all work together to make our future even brighter.

Also for 2013, I asked Board of Supervisors staff to create a record of supervisors' attendance at committee meetings. The County pays

very well in total compensation for each supervisor to represent us here. I will be asking for the same thing in 2014 and beyond, and I will be reporting on this data every quarter.

**\*PAUSE TO INSTRUCT ON ATTENDANCE SHEETS\***

For the five new team members, it is very important that you take the obligations of the County very seriously. I look forward to working with each and every one of you – each of you brings unique experience and skill sets to the team that will help execute the day-to-day operation of the County and resolve the crises that arise from time to time.

You will get out of your County experience the effort that you put in.

For the Board of Supervisors to work as a cohesive team toward productive goals, you need to be here and seriously participating in your obligations as a supervisor of this County. When you are late or absent, it lets down your fellow elected officials and department heads, reflects poorly on those who reliably show up for work and damages morale.

When a meeting has to stop to get a latecomer up to speed, it is an inconsiderate waste of time and disrespectful of the time expended by those also involved in the process and who arrived as scheduled.

It can be expected that conflicts will arise from time to time – that is life; however, it is your duty as a responsible member of this Board to notify your committee chair or myself should a major conflict arise that will cause you to be late or absent.

This is a paid position like any other and should be considered the priority any job would be.

**CONCLUSION**

In closing, we lead to make our community a better place. A strong leader gets things done: he or she deliberates and weighs the facts, confident he or she has made the best possible decision with the information available at hand and moves forward. A weak leader

debates, debates, debates, then wonders if they have done the right thing, if anything gets done at all.

We will only know if the right thing was done by living our future, and we cannot live our future unless we move forward together.

Let me lead, and our Committee chairs lead, to get things done with your input and let 25 years from now be the decider of whether we did the right thing or not. I say this because the 1980s brought us new prosperity, but today we are just realizing it.

I believe we are in the same cycle as we were in the late 1960s and '70s, stagnating federal and state government; high unemployment; high inflation, the working – and I emphasize the working – people are stuck in a revolving treadmill and need a reason to feel good about themselves and hopeful about their country and their circumstances.

Let us do our part and start that feeling for the residents of our county and the silent majority when we pay our bills and conduct our business together.

I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and productive 2014. May our challenges be few, but met head-on, and worked out cooperatively as a team.

There being no further business, Chairman Becker asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting which was made by Supervisor Stepanski, seconded by Supervisor Bono and carried.