

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
ORGANIZATION MEETING**

JANUARY 4, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: The organization meeting of the Board of Legislators was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Veterans' Service Agency Director Michael D. Hennessy.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Legislator David Pullen.

ROLL CALL: 15 Legislators Present: Scott Burt, Curtis Crandall, Philip Curran, David Decker, Dwight Fanton, Karl Graves, Dwight "Mike" Healy, Judith Hopkins, Charles Jessup, Kevin LaForge, Aaron McGraw, Timothy O'Grady, David Pullen, Debra Root, Norman Ungermann, Jr.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 1-16

**REAPPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATOR CURTIS W. CRANDALL TO
CHAIRMANSHIP OF BOARD OF LEGISLATORS; AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE NUMBER
OF BOARD MEMBERS ON COMMITTEES**

Offered by: Legislator Dwight R. Fanton

Pursuant to County Law § 450

RESOLVED:

1. That Legislator Curtis W. Crandall is reappointed Chairman of this Board of Legislators, with term of office commencing immediately and expiring December 31, 2016.
2. That said Chairman is authorized to determine the number of Board members to serve on each of the standing and special committees of this Board which have been or may be established by this Board.

Moved by: Mr. Fanton
Seconded by: Mr. Graves

Adopted: Voice Vote

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED:

Allegany County Judge Terrence Parker administered the Oath of Office to Chairman Crandall, who was accompanied by his wife, Cathy, following adoption of Resolution No. 1-16. Chairman Crandall assumed leadership of the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-16

REAPPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATOR DWIGHT R. FANTON AS VICE CHAIRMAN

Offered by: Legislator Karl Graves

Pursuant to Rule 70 of County Board Rules
as enacted by Resolution No. 77-89

RESOLVED:

1. That Legislator Dwight R. Fanton is reappointed Vice Chairman of this Board of Legislators to act pursuant to, and during the designated time periods specified in, County Board Rules.

Moved by: Mr. Graves
Seconded by: Mrs. Root

Adopted: Voice Vote

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED:

Allegany County Judge Terrence Parker administered the Oath of Office to Vice Chairman Dwight Fanton, who was accompanied by his wife, Linda, following adoption of Resolution No. 2-16.

APPOINTMENTS:

The Clerk of the Board announced that Chairman Curtis W. Crandall has made the following appointments:

ACCORD Board of Directors (1-year term)

Kevin LaForge, an elected official is appointing Reita Sobeck-Lynch
Curtis W. Crandall, Chairman, is appointing Vicki Grant

Allegany County Affordable Government Group

Kevin S. LaForge, District IV Legislator, Wellsville, NY (Committee Chairman)

Jodi Adams, Assistant to the County Administrator, Little Genesee, NY
H. Kier Dirlam, County Planner, West Almond, NY
Darwin Fanton, Wellsville, NY
Charles O. Jessup, District V Legislator, Alfred Station, NY
Ronald Oakerson, History & Political Science Professor, Houghton, NY
Brenda Rigby Riehle, Clerk of the Board, Belmont, NY
Terri L. Ross, County Treasurer, Angelica, NY

Comprehensive Plan Implementation Group (1-year term)

Edward Eicher, Wellsville	Lynn Bliven, Belmont
Donald Cameron, Alfred Station	Linda Clayson, Belmont
Bryan Gamache, Belmont	Lee Gridley, Wellsville
Gretchen Hanchett, Belmont	Steve Havey, Wellsville
Lee James, Cuba	Charles O. Jessup, Alfred Station
Michael Johnsen, Dalton	Steven B. Rennie, Fillmore
William Shuler, Cuba	Scott Torrey, Belmont

Cornell Cooperative Extension (1-year term)

David T. Pullen, Fillmore (Legislative Representative)
Judith D. Hopkins, Fillmore (Legislative Representative)

Emergency Food and Shelter Program (Local Board) (1-year term)

Jeffrey N. Luckey, Fillmore

Emergency Interim Successor (1-year term)

Charles O. Jessup, Alfred Station

Emergency Management and Fire Director (1-year term)

Jeffrey N. Luckey, Fillmore

EMS Coordinator (1-year term)

Jeffrey N. Luckey, Fillmore

Hazard Mitigation Team

Jeffrey Luckey, Allegany County Office of Emergency Services
Karl Graves, Allegany County District IV Legislator, Member of Resource Management Committee
Guy R. James, Allegany County Public Works Superintendent
Kevin (Fred) Demick, Allegany County Highway Superintendent Association President

H. Kier Dirlam, Allegany County Planner (GIS Mapping)
Scott Torrey, Allegany County Soil and Water Conservation District Executive Director
Ryan Paulsen, Allegany County Soil and Water Technician
Jason Carmen, Disaster Program Specialist, American Red Cross

InterCounty Association (1-year term)

Voting Members:

Charles O. Jessup, Alfred Station
Kevin S. LaForge, Wellsville
Brenda Rigby Riehle, Belmont

Alternate Voting Members:

Philip B. Curran, Alfred Station
Debra A. Root, Scio

Open Space Advisory Committee (1-year term)

H. Kier Dirlam, Angelica

Resource Conservation and Development Board

County Representative Member:

Scott Torrey, Belmont, NY
Alternate: Philip B. Curran, Alfred Station, NY

Legislative Member:

Norman G. Ungermann, Jr., Cuba, NY

Member At Large:

Thomas Parmenter, Fillmore, NY

Solid Waste Hearing Board (1-year term)

Members must include the Chairman of Public Works and two Legislators that are not on the Public Works Committee.

Dwight R. Fanton, Chairman of Public Works
Scott R. Burt, District III Legislator
Debra A. Root, District III Legislator

Alternates

David A. Decker, District II Legislator
Dwight "Mike" Healy, District II Legislator

STOP-DWI Coordinator (1-year term)

Linda S. Edwards, Houghton

Transportation Task Force (1-year term)

Dwight R. Fanton, Wellsville
Dwight "Mike" Healy, Belmont

CHAIRMAN APPOINTMENTS SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL:

Region 9 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Legislative Representative Member: Dwight R. Fanton

Alternate Legislative Representative Member: Aaron M. McGraw

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS, ETC.:

1. Communication from the Republican Party members recommending that the Chairman designate Dwight "Mike" Healy as Majority Leader for 2016.
2. Communication from the Conservative Party members recommending that the Chairman designate Kevin S. LaForge as Minority Leader for 2016.
3. County Clerk Robert L. Christman filed his Designation of Succession to the Office of County Clerk in the Clerk of the Board's Office on January 4, 2016.
4. Any Legislator wishing to attend the NYSAC Conference in Albany from February 1 through February 3, 2016, should let Brenda Rigby Riehle know today or as soon as possible.
5. The Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, has been cancelled. The meeting will be rescheduled in February.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

"To my fellow Legislators, I humbly say "thank you" for the privilege and honor of being your Chairman for 2016. I accept this position with the utmost sincerity, and I continue my promise that I will treat this position with the dignity it deserves, and you with the respect you deserve. As your Chairman, I will do all I can to help this Board not only meet, but exceed the responsibilities each of us has accepted as County Legislators. It's truly a blessing to serve and work with this Board of Legislators and to witness your dedication to making Allegany County a better place to live. As Chairman I have been fortunate to have Legislative colleagues that have been ready, willing, and able to sort through information,

address the issues, and make tough choices to overcome obstacles and advance the County in a variety of positive ways. Each decision by the Board, is recognized as a Board decision; as Chairman, I have been proud in representing the Board at various events and honored to recognize the Board of Legislators as I point out the positive impacts we have had.

I would like to recognize and welcome our newest member, Legislator Judy Hopkins. Judy comes to our Board in a way that only a few months ago would seem unthinkable, and that is by the loss of her husband and our colleague Ted Hopkins. Mrs. Hopkins, on behalf of the entire membership of our Board, welcome, we look forward to working with you. With two lady Legislators now on the Board, I was recently asked if this was a first for Allegany County. It is not. In 1984, Delores Cross of Cuba and Frances Barnes of Belmont served on the Board at the same time. Delores Cross went on to become the first female Chair of the County. Other female Legislators that have served on our Board include Ruth Faulkner of Bolivar and Sue Myers of Friendship. Another first occurred in 1984 when John Margeson took his position at the dais for the first time, not as County Administrator but as Administrative Assistant to the Chairman of the Board, since the office of County Administrator had not yet been established. With that being said, I would like to recognize and welcome our "interim" County Administrator John Margeson. Mr. Margeson, it's comforting to see you back on the dais lending your expertise as the Board of Legislators seeks candidates to fill the office of County Administrator on a permanent basis and transitions to that goal.

I would like to recognize our dedicated Department Heads, fellow elected officials, and County employees that work so hard to meet the constant demands and challenges of County government. The personal responsibility you take in meeting these demands and challenges does not go unnoticed, and your ongoing efforts are greatly appreciated. As Legislators, we are quick to point out and quote "our wins," but easily fail in acknowledging those of you that truly make these wins possible for the people of Allegany County. Thank you all for your dedication.

In recent years, I have talked about our success in improving the financial position of Allegany County, having a healthy fund balance, getting more favorable bond ratings, and being able to reduce the tax rate for six years straight as we go into 2016. I have been excited as we addressed major issues that were left undone before we took our positions as Legislators such as the opening of the Public Safety Facility which continues to meet the \$1.6 million annual bond obligation by housing in prisoners under the capable leadership of Sheriff Whitney. Completion of projects like the Court Facilities Project that brought Allegany County into compliance after many years of procrastination and tackling other departmental space needs that were long overdue, let's not forget about the little house at the foot of the hill for our Office for the Aging. The adoption of the first Comprehensive Plan for our County in 2008 and needed revisions to the plan that were adopted in 2013. We made major improvements in containing our health insurance costs in recent years. As we tackled tough issues, we began to look ahead, not to just maintain status quo, but we looked at how we could continue to make a difference while we serve as Legislators.

Today, we are, yet again, at another historic highpoint for Allegany County. Our planning and drive forward has produced increasing challenges along with great opportunities. With the recent resignation of our former County Administrator, I asked him to compile a list of current projects that need attention for the upcoming year, here is just part of what he handed me.

- Continue work on the Broadband/E911 Grant projects - \$7 million plus in outside funding.
- Continue renovations to 3rd Floor of County Office Building - \$250,000 in grant funding.
- Complete the work on the Solar Array at the Landfill with Solar City - \$90,000 in annual savings.
- Address the Landfill closure - the time has arrived; this is the year we have been talking about.
- Work with Bonadio & Co in examining programs in DSS (per contract).
- Address the condemnation of the Cornell Cooperative Extension building.
- Continue Economic Development on the Crossroads Project – Great things are on the verge of becoming a reality.
- Utilize the contract with Alfred State to provide Economic Development services – a new and innovative approach to development, we are now in the “do it mode” not the “planning mode.”
- Complete the renovation project at the Jail which is critical for the E911 Communication Grant.
- Explore further the Land Bank Project Grant – potentially a huge opportunity for Allegany Co.
- Work with the County Attorney’s Office on succession planning for that department.
- Implement Email and Computer Use Policy updates and the new iPads for the Legislators.

As I said, these represent only a few of the projects facing us in the upcoming year. I am excited about the prospect of all that we face, and I know from past experience what this Board is capable of and what our Department Heads and employees are capable of. These projects and opportunities challenge many of our departments, but more specifically our County Attorney Tom Miner. Mr. Miner, thank you for your ongoing professional legal guidance. Our County Treasurer Terri Ross - Madam Treasurer, thank you for your help in making it financially possible to meet the challenges and create further opportunities. The Clerk of the Board of Legislators Brenda Rigby Riehle - Madam Clerk, thank you for your dedication and extra effort in helping us to move these projects forward.

Before we roll up our sleeves and dive into 2016, I have dug out the photo album (thanks to my wife Cathy) and compiled a slide show for a brief reflection on past events. Sit back and relax, this lasts about 13 minutes. It’s a partial re-run with help from John Wayne, but with some updated photos, I hope you enjoy it. I look forward to 2016.

Thank you.
Curtis W. Crandall, Chairman’

Following the slide show, Chairman Crandall distributed committee assignments to the Legislators.

COMMENTS:

Legislator Decker stated that he understands the organization meeting must be held by January 8, but he would propose having the organization meeting scheduled the same

day as committee meetings. He feels it would save the taxpayers from having to pay for extra mileage reimbursement to the legislators. **Refer to Ways & Means**

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.