

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
GENESEE COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024 FOLLOWING PUBLIC SERVICE MEETING  
OLD COURT HOUSE, 7 MAIN ST. BATAVIA, NY**

The Genesee County Legislature held a Committee of the Whole on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Legislative Conference Room in the Old Court House. Chair Stein called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m.

Legislator attendance: Stein, Clattenburg, Maha, Torrey, Deleo, Klotzbach, Dibble, and Yunker. Established Quorum. Also present: Emergency Management Coordinator Tim Yaeger, Highway Superintendent Tim Hens, Assist County Engineer Laura Wadhams, Deputy Highway Superintendent Paul Osborn, Human Services Director Anita Cleveland, County Manager Matt Landers, County Attorney Mark Boylan, Deputy County Manager Tammi Ferringer, Legislative Clerk Casey, The Daily News Reporter, Brian Quinn and Video News Service, Mike Pettinella.

Legislative Clerk announced roll call - a quorum was established. Legislator Hawley was absent.

Approval of the minutes from the March 13, 2024 Committee of the Whole, no changes, stand approved by Chair Stein.

Chair Stein asked County Manager Landers to discuss the Operations of Emergency Management Department Concept. County Manager Landers announced a request came forward by the department head, Tim Yaeger requesting a department name change from Emergency Management Services to Office of Emergency Management. This would provide clarity of the department rather than being confused with “EMS” which is an acronym that describes emergency medical services which often gets confused. Also, Mr. Yaeger had requested a title change from Emergency Management Coordinator to Director. Human Resource Director Anita Cleveland announced guidance will be sought pertaining to the exempt positions from New York State officials. Once an approval comes through, the Human Resource Director Anita Cleveland will bring forth a separate resolution. Legislators agreed to change the title of the department by moving this proposal to the Ways and Means Committee Meeting on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

A discussion for DPW Department concept was brought forward by County Manager Landers expressing to change the department name from Highway to Department of Public Works. This would be done by a Local Law. Also a job title change that Mr. Hens has had for 26 years. The job title change from Highway Superintendent to County Commissioner of Public Works. The reasoning is for better labeling current responsibilities of the Highway Superintendent who is more of a Commissioner of Public Works which aligns with a department change from Highway to Department of Public Works. County Manager noted the highway department would be dissolved to become DPW along with the current Deputy Highway Superintendent’s would now be Deputy Commissioners of DPW. Highway Superintendent Hens spoke of his title which was never accurate since he supervised over the years: the airport, parks, facilities, highway, fleet and water operations. He stated other counties have moved to this change as well such Wayne and Orleans Counties. He stated the department and job title changes would be beneficial to my successor. This would start out on the correct path instead of dealing with the change down the road. County

Attorney stated the local law describes the change accurately and announced an addition of a sentence “the County Highway Department is hereby dissolved” will be added to the Local Law before going to the committee. Legislators agreed to move this proposal to the Ways and Means Committee meeting on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Legislature Chair Stein adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 5:50 p.m.