



YATES COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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Leslie Church
Chairwoman
Emilee D. Miller
Clerk

GOVERNMENT OPERATION COMMITTEE MINUTES-APRIL 6, 2026
PAT KILLEN, COMMITTEE CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Killen, Leigh MacKerchar, Dick Harper, Ed Bronson, Sarah Purdy, Nonie Flynn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Banach, Doug Paddock, George Lawson, Leslie Church, Jessica Mullins, Emilee Miller, Len Kataskas, Bob Brechko, Sheila Burt, Kerry Brennan, Sandi Basetdo, Colby Petersen, Molly Linehan

Committee Chair Killen called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

Killen & Harper will do the audit this month.

Minutes of the March 2nd meeting were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

HISTORIAN: Len Kataskas

Mr. Kataskas reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Report-2026 Q1 Goal Status
 - 37 people signed up for the AFNIS conference on April 18th
 - 250th Anniversary Events
 - Everything has been submitted to the state, hopeful to actually receive the \$15,000 in funding
 - The funding will be used at the parade in Branchport and the 250th plaques that's being created and set next to those graves that are being cleaned in recognition of the anniversary
 - Essay and Coloring contest throughout the local schools
- Rushville's Lesser Known Famous Citizen

ELECTIONS: Robert Brechko & Sheila Burt

Mr. Brechko & Ms. Burt reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Issues of significance
- March Objectives Achieved
- April Objectives Proposed
- 2026 Q1 Goal Status
- Additional
 - It's not official yet, because it's not 5 o'clock, but petitions pretty much have been all turned in

- There's a lot of petitions because of the odd to even year, election change
 - 15 town and county positions
- Mr. Brechko plans to retire at the end of August

SOIL & WATER: Colby Petersen

Mr. Petersen reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Watershed Inspection/KWIC
 - They've been busy getting letters out for septic inspections
 - Part of the upgrade to the KWIC system is it is kind of automated making it much faster and simpler which makes them more efficient
- Agriculture Environmental Management
 - Tom Eskildsen did a good job getting all the Ag Grants closed out
 - Despite the blackout period from New York State, the checks still came in
- Environmental Protection Fund
 - Numbers from the anticipated budgets all look favorable
- Cover Crops
- Final Report Summary of the Finger Lakes Cover Crop Round 2 Project (sent via email)
- Additional
 - Seneca Mills Restoration
 - The walls will come down about 7.5 feet and then everything will be regraded
 - At some point in the future having ADA access down to the ramp or to the wall to make that more compliant, usable, and safe may be something to consider

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION: Sandi Bastedo

Ms. Bastedo reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Announcement
 - People can still register for Gardening Matters Day,
 - April 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - Earth Day Extravaganza is April 18th, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - Registration is strongly advised
 - Farm Bureau's Spring Has Sprung Celebration, April 18th at 4:30 p.m.
 - Tickets are still available
 - They have graciously allowed CCE to have a table at their event
- Collaborations
- Yates CCE Agriculture and Horticulture Program Report January/February
 - Caroline Boutard-Hunt has been doing some sampling at the Cornell Vegetable Program's high tunnel project
 - They're wrapping that up, and Julie from the Cornell Vegetable Program will be there next month for the report
 - Seed to Supper has two sessions going at once in Dundee and Penn Yan
 - Going well
 - Caroline attended a Farm to School Summit
 - This is through the Rooted in Learning Grant that they are collaborating on with Ontario Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Master Gardener Program Updates
- Upcoming Projects and Presentations

Agendas, Minutes, Audio, and more at <https://www.yatescountyny.gov/AgendaCenter/Government-Operations-7>

- Invasive Species/Water Quality/Forestry
 - The MFO training for the Master Forest Owner Program started last week
 - She's got 11 trainees
 - Climate Stewart training has started in April
 - Still doing the show program with students
 - Did wildlife around town with DEC
- Money In Your Pocket – Vallie Castner
- 4H and Youth Development
 - Jen Clancey has been out doing Ag Literacy for Ag Literacy Week
 - The FFA students covered all the Penn Yan classes for them
 - Jen was in Dundee and St. Michael's
 - Jen continues to do the trails program on Mondays after school

IT: Chad Pierce

Mr. Pierce reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Help Desk
- I.T. Project Update Summary
- 2026 Q1 Goal Status
 1. Email Migration to Microsoft Office O365-In progress
 2. Creating Standard Operating Procedures and Clearer Documentation-In progress
 3. Project Management Implementation-Not started

COUNTY CLERK: Molly Linehan

Ms. Linehan reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Records Management
 - Late last week, they received the final payment from the State for the LGRMIF, or what they call the Laserfiche Grant
 - They can pay those two final invoices and close out that grant once they are done with that one
- DMV
 - The February 2026 figures can be disregarded
 - The State has changed them 3 times and they do not have accurate fees at this time for February or March
 - Celebrating Donate Life
- County Clerk's Office
 - Will print the Official Booklets/Directories

Mr. Killen questioned the Committee to see if the following resolution(s) should proceed to the Legislative Meeting. After discussion/edits, there were no official objections.

- Authorize the Chair of the Legislature to Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hopdox, LLC for E-Recording
- Financial Reports-Year-to-Date Comparisons

HUMAN RESOURCES: Kerry Brennan

Mrs. Brennan reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Community Giving Update

- Employee Relations Initiatives
- 2026 Q1 Goal Status
 1. Digitize and Standardize HR Forms and Workflows-In progress
 2. Develop Internal Paid Family Leave with Sick Bank Committees/Unions-In progress
 3. Establish Procedures for General Liability Insurance-In progress
- Law Enforcement Bargaining Units Labor Management Meetings
- NYS Retirement Consultations
- Blood Drive

Mr. Killen questioned the Committee to see if the following resolution(s) should proceed to the Legislative Meeting. After discussion/edits, there were no official objections.

- Grant Unpaid Leave of Absence (K. Vanaman)
- Appoint Information Technology Director (C. Pierce)

- March Recruitment and Turnover Report
 - Have been doing a lot more on campaigning, trying to get positive press out there for the County, for employees, and trying to encourage that they do foster a positive work environment for folks on social media

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: Jessica Mullins

Mrs. Mullins reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Congratulations! New Director of IT, Chad Pierce. Welcome.
- 2026 Q1 Goal Status
 - No Q1 updates at this time

LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS: Leslie Church

Mr. Killen questioned the Committee to see if the following resolution(s) should proceed to the Legislative Meeting. After discussion/edits, there were no official objections.

- Ratify Letter of Support for Cornell University’s Grape Genetics Research Units (GGRU) Request for Funding to Expand their USDA Grape Improvement Center

LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Emilee Miller

Mrs. Miller reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- 2026 Q1 Goal Status
 - Sort/organize at least one to two full drawers in the filing cabinet labeled A-Z-In Progress
 - Continue updating the Clerk’s Guide (at least 3-4 sections)- Not Started
 - Update the appointment list and initiate any reappointments/appointments needed-In Progress
- Inter-County Meeting Hosted by Yates County
 - Need to know who all plans to attend, by the April 10th at 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Purdy moved to enter into executive session on the basis of:

1. The employment history of a particular individual(s), attendees being members of the Committee, other legislators present, Director of Human Resources, and the County Administrator.

Seconded by Mr. Bronson.

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilee D. Miller

Emilee Miller
Yates County Clerk of the Legislature

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