

***FIRST DAY
FOR ORGANIZATION AND SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON
Pursuant to Resolution 449 of 2024, adopted November 25, 2024***

Johnstown, NY

January 2,

2025

Roll Call – Quorum Present

Supervisors: Blackmon, Bradt, Breh, DeGiacomo, Fagan, Fogarty, Goderie, Groff, Isabella, Kinowski, Lauria, Lehr, Orfan, Palcovic, Potter, Praught, Roehl, VanValkenburgh, Young

TOTAL: Present: 19 Absent: 1 (Supervisor Howard)

The Organizational Meeting was called to order by Administrative Officer/Clerk of the Board Jon R. Stead, at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Stead welcomed everyone and wished them a “Happy New Year”.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Mr. Stead asked for a moment of silence in memory of those lost in the cowardly terrorist attack on New Year’s Day 2025 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mr. Stead acknowledged some special guests in attendance: Assemblyman Robert Smullen, former Supervisor Jack Wilson as well as Ronald Peters and Dennis Wilson from the Fulton County Center for Regional Growth and Robin Wentworth. He went on to state that the nation is mourning the loss of former President Jimmy Carter, noting formal funeral services will be held in Washington, D.C. on January 9, 2025.

He asked that we dedicate today’s meeting to police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, as well as those continuing to serve. Across the nation, police officers have to operate in a very difficult “atmosphere”. Mr. Stead stated that there will be a new outlook and leadership after this past year’s November Presidential election and Fulton County will likely be caught between the federal administration and the State’s approach to policies. “We will be tugged in multiple directions, but hopefully a “new era overall” for our citizens and children will result.”, he opined.

Supervisor Blackmon then moved for a Republican Caucus. The Board recessed for the Caucus at 10:07 a.m. and reconvened into Regular Session at 10:15 a.m.

Mr. Stead then called for nominations for Temporary Chairman, with Supervisor Bradt nominating Supervisor DiGiacomo. Supervisor Groff seconded the nomination. The Clerk then called for other nominations. There being no other nominations, the polls were closed upon a motion by Supervisor Potter, seconded by Supervisor Breh and members voted to support the nomination.

Supervisor DiGiacomo was escorted to the dais by Supervisors Bradt and Groff. Temporary Chairman DiGiacomo then asked for nominations for Chairman of the Board for 2025.

Supervisor Fagan placed the name of Jared Goderie, of City of Johnstown, in nomination for Chairman of the Board. Supervisor Fagan stated that he has known Mr. Goderie and his family for many years. Mr. Goderie's involvement in his family's business has grown, and he believes that he will have the skillset to be a great Chairman. Supervisor Fagan then expressed that it is an honor to nominate Jared Goderie for Chairman of the Board for 2025. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kinowski. The Temporary Chairman then asked if there were other nominations. The polls were closed upon a motion by Supervisor Fogarty, seconded by Supervisor Praught. The motion for Chairman of the Board carried unanimously in the form of Resolution No. 1.

Supervisors Fagan and Kinowski escorted Chairman Goderie to the dais.

Chairman Goderie thanked everyone and offered the following comments:

"I'd like to take a moment to recognize Mr. Blackmon. His leadership and dedication to the Board of Supervisors and the people of Fulton County, not just over the last year as Chairman, but the whole of his tenure serving as a Supervisor, has been nothing short of admirable. John – thank you.

I would also like to recognize Assemblyman Smullen. Mr. Smullen has worked tirelessly to represent the people of the 118th assembly district, including the people of Fulton County. Thank you, Bob, for all that you've done and all that you will continue to do.

A few years ago, I was having a conversation with Mr. Fogarty and a few other Supervisors, and he made a comment where he referenced me being Chairman of the Board. In not so many words, I told him he was nuts. But here we are. Dick, if you happen to see anything else in your crystal ball that may help me out, please let me know.

I often get asked why I do it. For me the answer is simple; Fulton County is my home. My wife, Anna, and I were born and raised here, and this is where we have chosen to work, play, and raise our family. We have a vested interest in the betterment and wellbeing of everyone in this county.

We will certainly have our challenges in the upcoming year. Fighting the continued unfunded state mandates passed down from the Governor's office, while trying to maintain the essential services and opportunities our residents need and deserve, will be a priority.

The state cuts in Medicaid funding has created a financial burden to NYS counties, especially smaller agricultural ones like ours. This will only increase property tax rates on our citizens.

While on the topic of agricultural, the three-member Farm Laborers Wage Board needs to be expanded to more members, including actual working farmers. Their decision to reduce the 60-hour farm worker overtime threshold to 40 hours, starting in 2032, is wrong. Anyone who has worked in the agriculture industry knows how quickly the 40-hour mark is met. This will further the burden on hard working family farms that make up so much of our local economy.

But there is also promise. The continued expansion of sewer infrastructure along the Route 30 corridor, from Gloversville to Northville, is progressing at a great rate. This will open opportunities for new businesses to come to the area and further support our economy.

The construction of the Great Sacandaga Discovery Center in Northville, as well as Parkhurst Field and the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame on Harrison Street in Gloversville, will continue to promote tourism in Fulton County. This is a great thing for local businesses and our economy.

Supervisor Roehl asked me to keep this brief, so Tom, I hope I've abided by you.

In closing, I'd like to recognize and thank the most important people in my life. My wife Anna, my daughter Isla, my son Ashton, my parents Pete and Sandy, and my father and mother in law, Noel and Sue. Without all of you, I wouldn't be able to do this, and I can't express the gratitude, appreciation, and love I have for all of you enough."

Chairman Goderie then called for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board for 2025. Supervisor Bradt nominated Supervisor DiGiacomo. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Groff. Chairman Goderie then asked if there were other nominations. Supervisor Potter moved that the polls be closed. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Breh and members voted to close the polls. Resolution No. 2 appointing the Vice Chairman was approved unanimously.

Action was then taken on Resolutions 3 through 5.

Mr. Stead thanked reporter Tyler McNeil from the Leader Herald for attending the meeting and for his coverage of County government over the last year.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman Goderie distributed the 2025 Standing Committee and Special Committee assignments.

There being no other business, Supervisor Orfan moved that the Board adjourn until January 13, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Palcovic and unanimously carried. The Board adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Certified by:

*Jon R. Stead, Administrative Officer/ DATE
Clerk of the Board*

Resolution No. 1

Supervisor FAGAN offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NAMING CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF FULTON FOR THE YEAR 2025

RESOLVED, That Jared Goderie of Johnstown, NY, be and hereby is named Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fulton for the year 2025.

Seconded by Supervisor KINOWSKI and adopted by the following vote:

TOTAL: Ayes: 19 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Supervisor Howard)

Resolution No. 2

Supervisor BRADT offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NAMING VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF FULTON FOR THE YEAR 2025

RESOLVED, That Joseph DiGiacomo of Broadalbin, NY, be and hereby is named Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fulton for the year 2025.

Seconded by Supervisor GROFF and adopted by the following vote:

TOTAL: Ayes: 19 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Supervisor Howard)

Resolution No. 3

Supervisor POTTER offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RULES OF ORDER FOR THE YEAR 2025

RESOLVED, That the Rules of Order, as adopted January 8, 1990, and any and all amendments made thereto (last revised June 12, 2023) be and hereby are adopted as the Rules of Order of the Board for the year 2025.

Seconded by Supervisor FOGARTY and adopted by the following vote:

TOTAL: Ayes: 19 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Supervisor Howard)

Resolution No. 4

Supervisor PRAUGHT offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION APPOINTING WILLIAM ESCHLER REPUBLICAN
BOARD OF ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER

WHEREAS, the term of Republican Board of Elections Commissioner expired on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 662 of 2008 fixed a two-year term for Board of Elections Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Fulton County Republican Committee has filed with the Board of Supervisors a recommendation that William Eschler be appointed Board of Elections Commissioner; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED That the Fulton County Board of Supervisors, upon the recommendation of the Fulton County Republican Committee, hereby appoints William Eschler, of Northville, NY, as Board of Elections Commissioner of Fulton County, effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the County Treasurer, William Eschler, Personnel Director, Fulton County Republican Committee, Fulton County Clerk, as provided by Section 30, Subdivision 3 of the Election Law, Administrative Officer/Clerk of the Board, and to each and every other person, institution or agency which will further the purport of this Resolution.

Seconded by Supervisor ROEHL and adopted by the following vote:

TOTAL: Ayes: 19 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Supervisor Howard)

Resolution No. 5

Supervisor LAURIA offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROBIN B. WENTWORTH DEMOCRAT BOARD OF ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER

WHEREAS, the term of Democrat Board of Elections Commissioner expired on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 662 of 2008 fixed a two-year term for Board of Elections Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Fulton County Democrat Committee has filed with the Board of Supervisors a recommendation that Robin B. Wentworth be appointed Board of Elections Commissioner; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED That the Fulton County Board of Supervisors, upon the recommendation of the Fulton County Democrat Committee, hereby appoints Robin B. Wentworth, of Gloversville, NY, as Board of Elections Commissioner of Fulton County, effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the County Treasurer, Robin B. Wentworth, Personnel Director, Fulton County Democrat Committee, Fulton County Clerk, as provided by Section 30, Subdivision 3 of the Election Law, Administrative Officer/Clerk of the Board, and to each and every other person, institution or agency which will further the purport of this Resolution.

Seconded by Supervisor YOUNG and adopted by the following vote:

TOTAL: Ayes: 19 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Supervisor Howard)