

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
ORGANIZATION MEETING**

JANUARY 3, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: The Organization Meeting of the Board of Legislators was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Gretchen Hanchett.

ROLL CALL: 15 Legislators Present: Gary Barnes, Janice Burdick, Philip Curran, Adam Cyr, Kevin "Fred" Demick, Dwight Fanton, Gretchen Hanchett, Brooke Harris, Steven Havey, Dwight "Mike" Healy, John Ricci, Jennifer Ricketts-Swales, Debra Root, James Rumfelt, Philip Stockin

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS SWORN IN:

The Oath of Office was administered by Allegany County Judge Terrence Parker to all fifteen members of the Board of Legislators, marking the beginning of a new four-year legislative term.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 1-22

**APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATOR PHILIP G. STOCKIN 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 Philip G. Stockin is appointed Chairman of this Board of Legislators, with term of office commencing January 1, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2022.

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. Harris

Adopted: Voice Vote

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED:

Allegany County Judge Terrence Parker administered the Oath of Office to Chairman Philip G. Stockin, who was accompanied by his wife, Donna, following adoption of Resolution No. 1-22. Chairman Stockin assumed leadership of the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-22

APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATOR BROOKE HARRIS AS VICE CHAIRMAN

Offered by: Legislator Janice L. Burdick

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

RESOLVED:

1. That Legislator Brooke Harris is appointed Vice Chairman of this Board of Legislators to act pursuant to, and during the designated time periods specified in, County Board Rules.

Moved by: Mrs. Burdick
Seconded by: Mr. Ricci

Adopted: Voice Vote

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED:

Allegany County Judge Terrence Parker administered the Oath of Office to Vice Chairman Brooke Harris, following adoption of Resolution No. 2-22.

Allegany County Judge Terrence Parker administered the Oath of Office to Allegany County Treasurer Terri L. Ross, who was accompanied by her sister.

A brief recess was held to allow the Legislators an opportunity to sign the Oath of Office Book.

RESOLUTION NO. 3-22

REAPPOINTMENT OF CARISSA M. KNAPP AS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Offered by: Legislator Debra A. Root

Pursuant to Local Law No. 1 of 2019

RESOLVED:

1. That Carissa M. Knapp is reappointed County Administrator with term of office commencing January 1, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2025.

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

Adopted: Voice Vote

RESOLUTION NO. 4-22

**REAPPOINTMENT OF BRENDA RIGBY RIEHLE AS
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**

Offered by: Legislator Janice L. Burdick

Pursuant to County Law § 475

RESOLVED:

1. That Brenda Rigby Riehle is reappointed Clerk of this Board of Legislators who shall serve during the pleasure of this Board until her successor is appointed and qualified.

Moved by: Mrs. Burdick
Seconded by: Mr. Rumfelt

Adopted: Voice Vote

RESOLUTION NO. 5-22

REAPPOINTMENT OF SARAH M. DECKER AS JOURNAL CLERK

Offered by: Legislator Adam Cyr

Pursuant to County Board Rules 100.C.

RESOLVED:

1. That Sarah M. Decker is reappointed Journal Clerk of this Board to serve at the pleasure of this Board.

Moved by: Mr. Cyr
Seconded by: Mr. Ricci

Adopted: Voice Vote

RESOLUTION NO. 6-22

REAPPOINTMENT OF CARISSA M. KNAPP AS BUDGET OFFICER

Offered by: Legislator Brooke Harris

Pursuant to County Law §351(3) and Section 5 of Local Law No. 1 of 2019

RESOLVED:

1. That Allegany County Administrator Carissa M. Knapp, a County officer, is reappointed Budget Officer to serve during the pleasure of this Board of Legislators and until her successor is appointed and has qualified.

Moved by: Mr. Harris
Seconded by: Mr. Curran

Adopted: Voice Vote

RESOLUTION NO. 7-22

REAPPOINTMENT OF CARISSA M. KNAPP AS COUNTY AUDITOR

Offered by: Legislator Brooke Harris

Pursuant to County Law § 600

RESOLVED:

1. That Carissa M. Knapp is reappointed County Auditor with term of office commencing January 1, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2025.

Moved by: Mr. Harris
Seconded by: Mr. Havey

Adopted: Voice Vote

RESOLUTION NO. 8-22

**REAPPOINTMENT OF KEITH M. HOOKER AS
DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Offered by: Legislator Gretchen Hanchett

Pursuant to Local Law No. 5 of 1993

RESOLVED:

1. That Keith M. Hooker is reappointed Director of Information Technology to serve during the pleasure of this Board of Legislators and until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

Moved by: Mrs. Hanchett
Seconded by: Mrs. Ricketts-Swales

Adopted: Voice Vote

RESOLUTION NO. 9-22

REAPPOINTMENT OF ANITA MATTISON AS DIRECTOR OF OFFICE FOR THE AGING

Offered by: Legislator Janice L. Burdick

Pursuant to Local Law No. 8 of 1974

RESOLVED:

1. That Anita Mattison is reappointed Director of the Office for the Aging to serve during the pleasure of this Board of Legislators and until a successor is appointed and qualified.

Moved by: Mrs. Burdick
Seconded by: Mrs. Hanchett

Adopted: Voice Vote

RESOLUTION NO. 10-22

REAPPOINTMENT OF H. KIER DIRLAM AS DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Offered by: Legislator Debra A. Root

Pursuant to Local Law No. 2 of 2015

RESOLVED:

1. That H. Kier Dirlam is reappointed Director of Planning to serve during the pleasure of this Board of Legislators and until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

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

Adopted: Voice Vote

RESOLUTION NO. 11-22

REAPPOINTMENT OF J.R. SANTANA CARTER AS PUBLIC DEFENDER

Offered by: Legislator Steven A. Havey

Pursuant to Local Law No. 2 of 1974

RESOLVED:

1. That J.R. Santana Carter, a resident attorney-at-law, is reappointed Public Defender with term of office commencing January 1, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2025.

Moved by: Mr. Havey
Seconded by: Mr. Rumfelt

Adopted: Voice Vote

RESOLUTION NO. 12-22

REAPPOINTMENT OF BRIAN PERKINS AS YOUTH BUREAU PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Offered by: Legislator James Rumfelt

RESOLVED:

1. That Brian Perkins is reappointed Youth Bureau Program Director to serve during the pleasure of this Board of Legislators and until a successor is appointed and qualified.

Moved by: Mr. Rumfelt
Seconded by: Mr. Ricci

Adopted: Voice Vote

RESOLUTION NO. 13-22

CHANGING THE DATE OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS TO THE SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF EACH CALENDAR MONTH

Offered by: Ways & Means Committee

RESOLVED:

1. Notwithstanding Rule 110. A. of County Board Rules and in anticipation of a formal amendment to such Board Rule, going forward, the regular meeting of this Board will be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each calendar month effective as of this date.

Moved by: Mr. Havey
Seconded by: Mr. Curran

Adopted: Voice Vote

APPOINTMENTS:

ACCORD Board of Directors (1-year term)

Edna Kayes
Reita Sobeck-Lynch

Allegany County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board (4-year term)

Jennifer Ricketts-Swales (coterminous with her term of office as a County Legislator)

Scott Torrey (coterminous with his designation as Executive Director of the Soil & Water Conservation District Board)

Cattaraugus-Allegany Workforce Development Board (3-year term)

(Joint Measure with Cattaraugus County Chair Howard V. VanRensselaer, Sr.)

Lisa Lee
Jeremy Martin
Frank McAndrew
Richard Zink
Jamie Gleason
Greg Kloss

Comprehensive Plan Implementation Group (1-year term)

Gary Barnes, Wellsville
Edward Eicher, Wellsville
Richard Ewell, Wellsville
Aaron Dale Foster, Andover
Jon Gorton, Grove
Charles Jessup, Alfred
John D. Ricci, Cuba
Debra A. Root, Scio

Cornell Cooperative Extension (1-year term)

Jennifer Ricketts-Swales, Fillmore (Legislative Representative)
Gary R. Barnes, Wellsville (Legislative Representative)

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

Jeffrey N. Luckey, Fillmore

Emergency Interim Successor (1-year term)

Dwight R. Fanton, Wellsville

Emergency Management and Fire Director (1-year term)

Jeffrey N. Luckey, Fillmore

EMS Coordinator (1-year term)

Jeffrey N. Luckey, Fillmore

InterCounty Association (1-year term)

Voting Members:

Gary R. Barnes, Wellsville
Brooke Harris, Alfred
Brenda Rigby Riehle, Belmont

Alternate Voting Members

Philip B. Curran, Alfred Station
James M. Rumpfelt, Andover

Law Library Board of Trustees (2-year term)

Philip G. Stockin, Houghton

Majority Leader

Steven A. Havey, District IV Legislator

Open Space Advisory Committee (1-year term)

H. Kier Dirlam, Angelica

Resource Conservation and Development Board (1-year term)

County Representative Member

Scott Torrey, Belmont, NY

County Alternate: Philip B. Curran, Alfred Station, NY

Legislative Member

Kevin (Fred) Demick, Angelica, NY

Member At Large

Norman G. Ungermann, Jr., Cuba, 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

John D. Ricci, District II Legislator

Philip G. Stockin, District I Legislator

Alternates

Kevin "Fred" Demick, District I Legislator

Dwight "Mike" Healy, District II Legislator

STOP-DWI Coordinator (1-year term)

Brian Perkins, Andover

Transportation Task Force (1-year term)

Dwight R. Fanton, Wellsville

Gary R. Barnes, Wellsville

CHAIRMAN APPOINTMENTS SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL:

Fish & Wildlife Management Board (2-year term)

Sportsmen's Representative Members:

Robert Jones, Angelica

Alternate: Joseph C. Herdman, III, Belmont

Planning Board (3-year term)

Charles Jessup, Alfred (District V)

Amanda Joyce-Phelps, Andover (District IV)

Jean Louis (John) Roederer, Houghton (District I)

Ex-Officio Members (1-year term)

Justin Henry, Public Works Superintendent, Almond

Terri L. Ross, County Treasurer, Angelica

Brooke Harris, Ways & Means Committee Chairman, Alfred

Veterans Service Agency Director

Michael Hennessy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS, ETC.

1. Communication from Republican Party Board members recommending that the Chairman designate Steven A. Havey as Majority Leader for 2022
2. Communication from the Republican Party Board members recommending that the *Alfred Sun* of Alfred and *The Spectator* of Hornell be designated their official newspapers for 2022.
3. County Treasurer Terri L. Ross appointed Jenna L. Kelley to serve as Deputy Treasurer of Allegany County effective January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2025.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

Good afternoon. I stand here before you this afternoon as the newly elected Chairperson of the Allegany County Board of Legislators. I am fully aware of my predecessor's very big shoes I am being asked to fill. Regardless, with reasonable expectations and with your support, I am confident the challenge will be met.

Even though I have worked with many of you for the last few years, I suspect there are a good number present here and joining us online who are wondering just who this old man is and what can be expected as we move through the months ahead. My hope in the next few minutes is to share a bit about myself, my leadership philosophy, and my desire for our collaboration as we address Allegany County's needs and desires.

To make my biographical information a bit more interesting, I want you to consider the various random things I am going to mention and decide which are true and which are false. The true statements, of course, all contribute to shaping me into the person I am today. Let's get started:

- *I was born...at an early age...in an Allegany County hospital north of I-86.*
- *My parents were professors at Houghton College.*
- *I graduated from Houghton with a degree in Business Administration.*
- *In 1966, I spent about 15 hours with Cazzie Russell...the number 1 pick in the NBA draft that year.*
- *After college, I went to Puerto Rico for 4 years to serve in a mission school -- teaching, coaching, and as Business Manager*
- *In 1971, I returned to Houghton and began 40 years of service at Houghton Academy with the last 28 years as Head of School.*
- *I earned a Master's degree in Christian School Administration.*
- *In 1967, I shared a meal and the evening with Don Nelson who went on to become the winningest coach in NBA history.*
- *I've had the privilege of visiting 17 foreign countries...4 as a tourist...13 in relation to responsibilities at Houghton Academy...and 8 of those 13 multiple times.*
- *I rode a camel on an overnight adventure in Israel's Negev desert.*
- *I was written up in Sports Illustrated magazine.*
- *I have served 38 years with the Caneadea Town board...31 as Supervisor.*
- *In 2000, with the towns of Hume and Rushford, we formed the first code enforcement consortium in NYS. It now includes 11 towns and 3 villages.*
- *For 21 years, I was a member of the NYS Education Commissioner's Advisory Council for Non-Public Schools.*
- *I played basketball in three cities in Russia.*

- *I have served on a number of church and community boards.*
- *I have driven a bus in 13 states and Canada.*
- *I have a collection of over 200 neckties, and today I am wearing a chain-mail tie made for me by a former student. In my new role as Chair, I may find it comforting to wear this one more often as I do not own a Kevlar tie.*
- *My wife, Donna, and I have been married 53 years....to each other....and we have 3 daughters and 13 grandchildren.*

So what does all that tell you? Only that I have been around the block a few times -- around a number of different blocks, all of which combined, have yielded many experiences and perspectives which should aid me in serving as Chairperson of the Legislature. I am, however, under no illusions as to the task ahead.

The question I have been asked most often in recent weeks is, why did you want to be the Legislature's Chair? The answer is the same as it has been for most every service position I have been privileged to hold. It has always been a three-step process: I was asked by others to serve, I discussed it with family and close friends, and I prayed about it. When those three meshed into the conviction to move forward, I allowed elections or appointments to take their course, and it has been the same with this position. I am honored to be your Chairperson, and I look forward to serving, but if circumstances took this away from me; even today, I would be just fine.

They tell me I now have power...authority. So, what is my understanding of positions of authority? Very simple.... positions of authority are for service.... not power. I repeat.... positions of authority are for service, not power.

In recent weeks I have been asked numerable times, what are you going to do about this or that? What are you going to do when you have the power? I find these questions a bit amusing as I just don't think that way. The question for me is not what am I going to do. The question is -- What are WE going to do?

I realize the Chair has to lead the body and guide the process. However, this is not at all about my agenda. It is what are we, Legislators, A-Team, department heads, employees....what are WE going to do to move Allegany County forward?

Here are my expectations for how to best work together.

- *Listen to and respect each other.* *There is an African proverb that translates roughly, "Young folks run fast, but old folks know the road." Now this primarily refers to age but I would suggest in the context of county government, consider this to refer to experience. We lost a huge amount of experience...of institutional knowledge...with the retirement of five legislators. However, we still have some veterans, particularly among our A-Team and Department Heads.*

In terms of county government, I do not consider myself a veteran...one of the "old folks." I am still on the learning curve. And nothing in NYS is as easy to accomplish as it might be. So, voice your ideas, share your dreams, but listen carefully and respect the "old folks" among us who have been down the road.

- *Attack issues....not people. I don't think much more needs to be said about this expectation. We will not always agree, but we can always be civil in our dialogue.*
- *Trust and believe. I would encourage us to believe what others say until there is evidence to the contrary. There is a great story in the Good Book.....Joshua, Chapter 22. Israel was taking the land that had been promised to them. Some stayed on the east side of the Jordan River while most of them settled on the west side. The east-siders helped the west-siders conquer the land and then returned to the east side. By the river, they built a stone structure. Some member of the west-siders...for whatever reason....started the rumor among the west- siders that the east-siders had created their own altar for worship which was not perceived to be a positive initiative. The west-siders....emotions high....were going to go in mass and straighten out those east-siders....go to war if necessary. Then someone suggested they just send a few guys to check it out....find out what was really going on. They went, asked the east-siders, what's the deal? They were told the structure was not an altar for worship but a memorial so they would not forget the victory and that they were all one nation. ... Come check us out anytime. The guys went back to the west-siders and gave their report. And here is the part I really like....the rest of the west-siders... who had been stirred up....said...Ok...cool...we accept and believe the report. No mention of some grumbling about how you can't really trust those east-siders, etc. Conflict was averted. Believe and trust until there is a legitimate reason not to.*
- *Confidentiality. This is a must. The Board has been very good in this regard during the term just completed, and that needs to continue and be raised to an even higher level.*

The suggestions I have just recounted...listen and respect...attack issues, not people....trust and believe...maintain confidentiality.... these are really common sense things for optimal success in any group. I have great confidence in the 2022 Legislature. We have opportunities before us and I have no doubt we will see some significant strides forward while dealing at the same time with inevitable challenges.

COVID will continue to be a challenge as will NYS mandates. I am confident we will see further development at the Crossroads and in a number of our vacant commercial properties. We will continue to work on reducing the County tax rate. The ARPA funds will provide resources for a number of long-desired

projects to be completed, and we will continue and enhance the many and varied services offered to County residents of all ages. Yes, there is a lot going for Allegany County right now. Those who went before us have brought the County to a truly strong position. To be part of this Legislature at this point in time is indeed a privilege.

In closing....just a word about committee appointments. The list will be distributed at the close of our session, but I will tell you that everyone has a Chair or Vice-Chair. Everyone is on four committees. Every District is represented on each committee, and 13 legislators are serving on committee of first choice. We are in this together.

One last request....you will notice that Legislator Harris has a number of new positions. Please help me in keeping an eye on him. If his ambitions grow, he could well have increasing interest in my demise.

Oh...almost forgot....those true or false statements with which I began....they are all True.

I am honored and humbled to serve as your Chairperson. May God grant us the wisdom that comes from above and guide us as....together....we serve the good folks of Allegany County.

Thank you.

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

2022 ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS STANDING COMMITTEES

1. HUMAN SERVICES:

Chairman: Burdick, **Vice Chairman:** Ricketts-Swales
Committee Members: Hanchett, Harris, Root, Rumfelt

2. PERSONNEL:

Chairman: Ricci, **Vice Chairman:** Hanchett
Committee Members: Burdick, Havey, Ricketts-Swales, Root, Rumfelt

Special – Negotiations Liaison Committee (Sub-Committee of Personnel)
Chairman: Ricci

3. **PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**
Chairman: Root, **Vice Chairman:** Barnes
Committee Members: Curran, Cyr, Hanchett, Healy, Ricci, Ricketts-Swales

4. **PUBLIC SAFETY:**
Chairman: Havey, **Vice Chairman:** Rumfelt
Committee Members: Barnes, Cyr, Demick, Harris, Healy

5. **PUBLIC WORKS:**
Chairman: Fanton, **Vice Chairman:** Demick
Committee Members: Barnes, Curran, Cyr, Healy, Rumfelt

6. **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**
Chairman: Curran, **Vice Chairman:** Cyr
Committee Members: Barnes, Fanton, Hanchett, Ricketts-Swales

7. **WAYS & MEANS:**
Chairman: Harris, **Vice Chairman:** Fanton
Committee Members: Burdick, Curran, Demick, Havey, Ricci, Root

Special – Budget Committee (Sub-Committee of Ways & Means)

Chairman: Harris, **Vice Chairman:** Healy

Committee Members: Burdick, Demick, Fanton, Havey, Ricci

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m. on a motion made by Legislator Havey, seconded by Legislator Ricci, and carried.