



Tioga County Worksession Minutes **March 19, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.**

Legislators Present:

Legislator Aronstam
Legislator Brown – *arrived at 10:02am*
Legislator Cantella
Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Flesher
Legislator Monell
Legislator Rose
Legislator Standinger – *arrived at 10:07am*

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Bunce

Guests:

Matt Freeze, Morning Times (*departed at 10:23 a.m.*)

Staff present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Jackson D. Bailey II, County Administrator
Breige Graven, Deputy Legislative Clerk (*departed at 10:23 a.m.*)
Linda Parke, Personnel Officer (*departed at 10:23 a.m.*)
Sara Zubalsky-Peer, Planning Director (*departed at 10:11 a.m.*)
Tara Patton, Housing Development Specialist (*departed at 10:11 a.m.*)

Call Meeting to Order: Legislative Chair Monell opened the ***Third Special Legislature Meeting of 2026*** at 10:00 a.m. for Legislature consideration of the following:

- ***Authorize Economic Development and Planning to Submit Application for ESD County Infrastructure Grant Program and Authorize Legislative Chair Signature on Grant Related Documents***
- ***Authorizing and Approving a Settlement Agreement with Associated Pharmacies Inc., J M Smith Corporation, Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company, Inc., Morris and Dickson Co., North Carolina Mutual Wholesale Drug Company, Inc., and United Natural Foods, Inc. Concerning Claims Related to the Opioid Crisis***

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call and Legislator Cantella led in the prayer, pledge and voting process. Special Meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m. with regular worksession immediately following.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Flesher, seconded by Legislator Brown, the March 5th, 2026 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items: Currently, there are no action items.

Other:

- **Kiehl Hutchings Meeting** – Chair Monell invited Personnel Officer Linda Parke to speak about an upcoming opportunity to meet with health care insurance representative, Kiehl Hutchings. Personnel Officer Parke explained that Mr. Hutchings handles the Tioga County employee benefits program, and that he was looking to introduce himself and talk with any interested Legislators about past and future disability and health insurance options on April 23, 2026. Personnel Officer Parke explained that the meeting could take around forty-five minutes to an hour. Legislator Ciotoli inquired what time the meeting would take place, to which Legislative Clerk Haskell answered that it would happen after the worksession that day around noon. Chair Monell, and Legislators Rose and Ciotoli expressed interest in talking to Mr. Hutchings.
- **Inquiry into Local Law No. 3 of the Year 2025** – Legislator Rose inquired about the New York Short-Term Rental Law for establishing a short-term rental registry, a matter previously dealt with before she had been sworn in as a Legislator. County Attorney Peter DeWind and Legislative Clerk Haskell explained that a resolution was already discussed and passed in November of 2025, establishing a Local Law to opt-out of the requirements of the New York Short-Term Rental Law. Legislator Rose mentioned that they have until June of 2026 to change their minds and asked why they voted to opt out of the program, given it's potential to bring in more revenue. County Attorney DeWind explained, "the infrastructure that we required in order to monitor, permit and make sure that people were in compliance was not worth the revenue that we'd achieve."

Legislative Clerk Haskell noted that in addition to this, the Treasurer's Office does a very good job in tracking Airbnb's, hotels and other short-term rentals and monitoring these establishments to ensure we are collecting what is due.

Legislator Rose stated that she understood the reasons for previously opting out. She then shared that at the recent NYSAC conference, a vendor presented the technology they worked with that allowed them to go into Airbnb and similar vendors' databases and collect very accurate information about the actual number of short-term rentals in a given community. Legislator Rose stated that since reporting on short-term rentals could be inaccurate due to owners either intentionally or unintentionally evading regulations to do so, she believes there is a benefit to looking into working with a preferred vendor with such technology to check their findings against the Treasurer Office's data.

County Administrator Bailey inquired as to who the preferred vendor was that Legislator Rose was referring to, to which Legislator Rose answered that it was Deckard Technologies. Mr. Bailey stated that the previous County Treasurer, Jim McFadden, had talked with three large companies, including Deckard, about the possibility of working with them and their tracking programs. Mr. Bailey further reported that based on the research done by the Treasurer at the time, Mr. McFadden determined that it wasn't worth the cost of hiring someone to perform these services.

Legislator Flesher inquired what it would cost to hire a vendor such as Deckard, to which Legislator Aronstam responded that it would be around \$15,000 for the year. Legislator Flesher agreed that this was not worth that cost. Legislator Rose responded that there is no downside in asking a vendor to run a pre-check for Tioga County's numbers for free before hiring them.

County Attorney DeWind commented that Legislator Rose could talk to the current Treasurer, Barbara Roberts, to gain more insight into the issue.

- **A.I. in The Workplace** – Legislator Rose stated that A.I. is rapidly gaining a presence in the workplace and believes it would be wise as an employer and community agency to think about taking advantage of certain tools it can offer. Legislator Rose inquired as to whether the Legislature would consider forming a committee dedicated to looking into what the presence of A.I. would mean for the future of Tioga County and its businesses, and how they could best navigate and utilize it. She acknowledged the fact that the ITCS department is currently very busy as it is and stated that's why a group could be a good way to start laying the groundwork for potential A.I. implementation.

County Administrator Bailey stated that he has been communicating about the topic of A.I. with Chief Information Officer, Brandon Clark. Right now, the main concern is where companies that use A.I. stand in terms of cybersecurity compliance, especially for municipalities. Legislator Rose agreed that cybersecurity is a concern, but she still thinks it's worth discussing.

Legislator Flesher noted that a speaker at the NYSAC conference discussed the use of A.I. in monitoring police bodycam footage. County Attorney DeWind remarked that this could be a useful tool given how much time and money is spent going through footage manually, but there would still be a question as to how accurate the A.I. was.

Legislator Cantella noted that no matter what, there will always be a need for a human to review the work of A.I.

Legislator Brown stated that even if using A.I. at this moment meant cutting down on time and expenses for projects, it would only be marginal considering the work would still need to be checked.

Legislator Flesher stated that Onondaga County uses A.I. to screen 911 calls, implementing it as a tool to do more fact checking on addresses and times than replace the work their employees do. County Attorney DeWind agreed that it is best used to

double-check information than anything else, adding that the CDC used it successfully in exposure tracking. He added that he still hasn't seen or heard anything about a company that has convinced him that they're ready to turn over any material for A.I. to review, although he knows that time could come quickly.

Chair Monell and Legislator Flesher stated that A.I. is very expensive. Legislator Rose agreed and stated she was happy to hear that someone had at least started to look into it.

Executive Session: Legislators Aronstam, Brown, Cantella, Ciotoli, Flesher, Monell, Rose and Standingger were in attendance along with Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, and County Administrator Bailey. Motion by Legislator Ciotoli, seconded by Legislator Brown, to move into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person at 10:23 a.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Legislator Flesher, seconded by Legislator Cantella to adjourn Executive Session at 10:50 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, April 9th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Breige Graven

Deputy Legislative Clerk