

Fourth Special Meeting
September 17, 2014

The Fourth Special Meeting of 2014 was called to order by the Chair at 6:00 P.M. All Legislative members were present.

Chair Sauerbrey asked Legislator Weston to have a moment of prayer. "Bless today with chances to grow with friendship and a sense of community, with work to do and leisure to enjoy. Let us be a positive influence on those we meet. May we act with integrity and truth, giving the very best of ourselves in all we do, living in appreciation of the gift of the day."

Legislator Weston led all Legislators and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were approximately 134 persons in attendance.

Chair Sauerbrey spoke. "Good evening and welcome. I am happy to see so many people here as we come together to honor Ron Dougherty. In the Auditorium tonight we have many members of the Dougherty family as you can see for the first six rows. We have Brenda, Ron's wife, their children, grandchildren. We have elected officials and their representatives from Villages, Towns, the County, the State, we have Senator Libous and we have Assemblyman Friend, and the Federal Governments. We have former Legislators, former County employees, current County employees, Department Heads, Presidents of Companies, Heads of Organizations, Board Members, and Community citizens. All of us are a reflection of Ron's life.

"This has been a labor of love because it has given us an opportunity to give back and show appreciation to an individual who has contributed so much to our community and to me. We all have Ron Dougherty stories, don't we. When Ron was on the Legislature I was working for Senator Libous and part of my job was to be the Tioga County Representative for the Senator and keep him up to date on what was going on in the community and on the Legislature. I attended many meetings and I took note of many of Ron's projects. One of these projects involved Glenn Carter and it was a business leaders group. They were high level business leaders who met regularly to discuss ideas and cultivate ideas, opportunities that would benefit the economy and bring jobs to Tioga County and develop a workforce. As I sat in the back of the room I was in awe of the energy that was present and some of the great ideas that came out of

that group, all because Ron believes in teamwork, collaborating, and working together, synergy.

"If you will notice on the back of your program there is a picture and as many of you know Ron is very famous for his flipcharts, so we thought it only appropriate that we would include a flipchart on the program and you will also see the word "synergy" written across it. That is one of Ron's famous and favorite words. Synergy, cooperation, teamwork, interaction, collaboration. These are all characteristics of Ron's leadership along with long hours, hard work, and a thirst for knowledge. As we prepared this resolution we are presenting today, we listed some, not all of the activities and organizations that he was involved in. I am sure that we did not get them all, so I am apologizing ahead of time.

"There are Proclamations on the table displayed from the Village of Owego, the Town of Owego, from Congressman Hanna, and also many people wanted to attend the event, but were unable. They were out of town for one reason or another, but we have collected notes and well wishes in a book for you guys to take home. One of these notes is from Patrick and Cindy Dougherty.

"Dear Dad, while we regret being unable to be present for today's special Legislative session to honor your many contributions to Tioga County, we wish to extend our most heartfelt congratulations to you for the honor you are receiving. So often you have spoken with great admiration and pride of your home County, its heritage, its people, its future. Your commitment, leadership, and tireless efforts have helped to make that future a brighter one for the people of Tioga County. It is a well earned honor to have your name become part of Tioga County's heritage. With love and congratulations, Patrick and Cindy Dougherty."

There was a unanimous motion for the adoption of the following recognition resolution, seconded unanimously.

REFERRED TO:

LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 209-14

*RECOGNITION RESOLUTION
RONALD E. DOUGHERTY*

WHEREAS: Ronald E. Dougherty served as a Tioga County Legislator from April 11, 1988 until December 31, 1995, and served as Chair of the Tioga County Legislature from January 1, 1990 until December 31, 1995; and

WHEREAS: Ron was instrumental in many projects during his tenure as Tioga County Legislator and Legislative Chair, specifically in the creation of the Department of Economic Development and Planning (serving as temporary Director from January 11, 2001 to December 3, 2001), along with the legislature implemented the ½% “Locked Box” Capital Reserve Fund for future needs, creator of the Council of Governments, worked on the team to establish the Consolidated Health Plan in 1992, part of the team that created the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA), along with the legislature established the Tioga County Solid Waste Commission and Recycling Program, partner in establishing the Tioga County Public Safety Complex, Team Leader for the Best Buy Project, initiated state policy for all Soil and Water Districts, and was an original member of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition; and

WHEREAS: Ron was one of the founders of the Tompkins Cortland Community College Foundation serving as Vice President for two years, and was instrumental in the creation of the Lourdes Hospice Foundation serving as President of the Board for two years and participating for many years; School Board Member for 41 years including 8 and 20 years as President at Tioga Central and BOCES respectively; and

WHEREAS: Ron has been a leader, a mentor to many, and a positive influence in Tioga County his entire life, serving on many Boards and Organizations, advising, leading and setting an example for others to follow; such as the Mildred Truman Faulkner Foundation Advisory Committee, Leadership Tioga, Guthrie Health Board of Trustees, New York Rising, Farm Bureau and Tioga State Bank Board of Directors; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature, on its own behalf, as well as on behalf of the citizens of Tioga County, express sincere gratitude and recognize Ronald E. Dougherty for his years of dedicated service to Tioga County as a Tioga County Legislator, Legislative Chair, and outstanding individual who has made significant contributions to Tioga County; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a certified copy be presented to Ronald E. Dougherty.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Unanimously Yes – Legislators Weston, Case, Hollenbeck, Huttleston, Monell, Sauerbrey, Roberts, Standinger, and Sullivan.

No – None.

Absent – None.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

There was a unanimous motion for the adoption of the following recognition resolution, seconded unanimously.

REFERRED TO: LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 210-14 *RENAMING AND DEDICATION OF
TIOGA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING*

WHEREAS: The Tioga County Legislature desires to rename and dedicate the Tioga County Office Building located at 56 Main Street, Owego, New York; and

WHEREAS: Ronald E. Dougherty has been an influential figure in Tioga County for all of his life and has contributed time, effort, and value to Tioga County and its residents; and

WHEREAS: Ronald E. Dougherty served on the Tioga County Legislature from April 11, 1988 through December 31, 1995 and served as Chair of the Tioga County Legislature from January 1, 1990 through December 31, 1995; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature renames and dedicates the Tioga County Office Building located at 56 Main Street to Ronald E. Dougherty as follows:

Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building

ROLL CALL VOTE

Unanimously Yes – Legislators Weston, Case, Hollenbeck, Huttleston, Monell, Sauerbrey, Roberts, Standinger, and Sullivan.

No – None.

Absent – None.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Legislative Clerk Maureen Dougherty read and presented the recognition resolution for Ronald E. Dougherty.

Legislative Clerk Dougherty spoke. "Good Evening. I specifically requested to read this recognition resolution for Ron this evening. Marte talked earlier about Ron's passion for flipcharts. He also had a passion for index cards. I can remember Ron taking several index cards, writing all his notes on them, putting them in order, and then putting them in his front shirt pocket. I jotted down my one word thoughts of Ron on some index cards and I would like to read them. Intelligent, empowering, effective, tireless worker, efficient, compassionate, friendly, sensible, determined, goal-oriented, most of all loyal. Lastly, I would like to say thank you to Brenda for standing by her man through these years. She has been the pillar that has helped make Ron who he is today. This is a well deserved recognition for Ron. Congratulations."

Legislator Case read and presented the resolution renaming and dedicating the Tioga County Office Building to Ron.

"The other privilege I have is to unveil the plaque. Of course, knowing Ron we have to have a Segway to go from the resolution to the plaque, that is his other favorite word in case you did not know. I have a quote that I believe reflects why we are here and it is a quote from a 19 Century philosopher by the name of William James who once said "The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it." All you have to do is look around this room and it is clear Ron's impact will transcend all of us."

Bill Woods, former Tioga IDA member, spoke. "It is an honor and a privilege to speak here this evening. Dougherty, that is what your switchboard operator is going to be saying, it is going to be Ronald E. Dougherty and eventually everyone will learn how to spell the name correctly. I was on the IDA when Ron first arrived and he started the Economic Development Department with Glenn Carter as well with Doyle from Tourism. The results of those efforts are self-evident. They were enumerated in the resolution and, in fact, that is going to shorten up what I have to say.

"The repurposing of the Agway Building in Waverly, the School Building in Berkshire, the transition from Loral to Lockheed, these were all things that have happened in the past and continue to have economic impact and viability on our community today. As was mentioned, the Chairman emeritus, Mr. Dougherty, ramrodded, steered, and made certain that the Best Buy project came to fruition. We started off with Lowe's. Glenn did you remember Lowe's? The mock-ups and the scale models, and all the stuff that was going to be

where Best Buy is, and that became nonworkable. The key to the success of those programs in my opinion was Ron's effort.

"It was interesting to work with his analytical mind. He seems to think the way a modern artist paints. When you have been involved in one of the bewildering conversations that he would run about synergy and silos. There is a picture of a silo on the flipchart, I am surprised that did not get mentioned because silos were a very important part of his presentation. You would walk away understanding that he had a clear grasp of the problem and further a very clear grasp of the possible solutions to those problems. He knew exactly what they were. He knew exactly the pathway and then when you left you would walk away with the sense that you were smarter than you actually are. He had a way of doing that. After he got done explaining things, you did not understand it really, but you figured wow if he took the time to talk to me like that, I must really know something.

"There is an aura of integrity about the man, which obviously has been lived and not learned, and it is impossible to contrive. When you deal with him closely one on one, he emits an aura of trust and in my opinion that trust represents more than 50% of the battle to good leadership. I used to deliver eggs for my father and there was a store on the north side of Endicott that was one of our regular customers that was run by a first generation immigrant. Billy he said to me, you must learn to look far away and I interpreted that to mean there must be vision for the future. As a poet once said, "old men plant trees whose shade they never will enjoy" and that I think personifies Ron Dougherty. Ron your legacy will be the building, but more importantly I think will be the impact that you have had on so many members of our community. As a representative of that community and personally, I extend my grateful thanks."

Wendy Walsh, Director of Soil & Water Conservation District, spoke. "I will try to do this without choking up and getting really nervous because I tend to do that. I was not around during Ron's time as Legislator, but wow, you have made an impact. It is amazing, I was in high school, but I will get on to tell you what I actually have learned from Ron in the last 14 years that I have worked with him.

"I am the District Manager as Marte said of the Soil & Water Conservation District here in Tioga County and I am honored to have a few minutes tonight to recognize the hard work, expertise, and time that Ron Dougherty has provided to both me and my staff over the 14 years I have been with the District. When initially asked to give this speech I was nervous. I think I might have said no, mainly that is because no matter how many times I do one or how often I do them in my job, I still get nervous. I am just not a fan of public speaking, but after I had some thought and some time to think about that, I realized what was being asked of me and I could not pass up an opportunity to share in this

special recognition of Ron and to be able to thank Ron for how he has helped me, shape me both professionally and personally over the years, and it has truly meant a lot.

“Ron has been a Soil & Water Conservation District Director for over 15 years and my hopes are that he will continue for many years. Actually my plan is I will not ever let him go, but we will see how that goes. Ron’s dedication to conservation in our county’s natural resources are not surpassed by many. Ron is always diligent, present, and impactful with his suggestions, thoughts, and direction he provides with the District programming and related work. Ron does not shy away from responsibility, meetings, trainings, or other roles and extends his knowledge and expertise beyond the typical job requirements. Ron truly cares about Tioga County and often reminds me that being in the soil is key to our success and not to forget it. It is often said that when we achieve we usually do so because others have helped. The District’s growth and programming and staff are a direct result of Ron’s help and guidance.

“Ron is someone who is unselfish with his time and is always willing to listen, offer advice, and provide meaningful insight. I am honored to have been asked and given a few minutes tonight to join in his recognition. Ron is truly one of the good guys. He is a director, a friend, and a mentor, and I am extremely grateful that his path has crossed with mine. Thank you Ron and congratulations.”

Legislator Richard Huttleston spoke. “I think Ron Dougherty would be pleased if I did not speak because he shuttered today when he saw me because I am good at roasting people, but not so good at praising. What a ceremony, look at the people, the number of people, and I cannot believe it. I had a County building named after me several years ago and there was no big ceremony like this. I guess when you put your name on a rent-a-john it is a lot different situation.

“I was not in favor of naming this building after you until I discovered a certain factor. Are you aware or maybe you forgot there was a resolution prepared by Tom Emnett, the County Attorney, several years ago and signed by you as Chairman of the Legislature saying that any person that has a County building named after them is responsible for all exterior and interior maintenance at no cost to the County and I hope you have a good lawnmower, weed whacker, snowplow, tool kit, and paintbrush, but anyway.

“One other time when I was discussing the appointment of Ron Dougherty for Chairman with the new Legislature, the person was concerned if he would be a good productive Chairman and I said he would be good and productive, and the person asked how do you know that. Well he has a bunch of kids and

enough for his own baseball team, and the person said case closed. A lot of people are good at what they do, but not good people persons, but Ron is good at what he does and a good people person, and everybody loves him. I never heard a person say a bad word about him and he is a great friend and well deserving of this award.

“Now Ron I suppose you are going to want to get up here and say a few words, and I hope you have your famous flipcharts with you because I do not think you can speak or make any sense without them. I hated those flipcharts. Using Ron's flipcharts rather than the modern day iPads and computers was good because after the meeting we could throw his 100 pages of flipcharts in the garbage and nothing was in the archives or recorded, and nobody had any idea what we were doing. Anyway, congratulations, you are well deserving of this.”

Senator Thomas Libous spoke. “Let's see if I can clean this up a little bit. Thank you Madam Chairwoman and certainly members of the Legislature, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Dougherty family, and Ron and Brenda. I am going to tell you a couple of stories because you have heard all about his accomplishments, but there are couple of stories that kind of stick with me that I would like to share with you.

“In 1988 when I was running for the Senate for the first time, I did not know too many people in Tioga County and I asked around and they said you should give Ron Dougherty a call, and I said who is Ron Dougherty? They said you should just give him a call. I said well what does he do, well he is on the County Legislature and he knows a lot of people in Tioga County. I said why would he take my call? Just give him a call. I called Ron and he was the most pleasant person on that call and it felt like I knew him all of my life, and we got together and we met. When we sat down and met and he told me how many children he had, how many grandchildren, I am thinking if I can get them to vote for me I can win this County by a landslide. I got more excited as the conversation went on.

“One of the things that he taught me on that very first meeting is something that he reflects on and talks about often, and it was already mentioned. I said Ron how do I make some inroads in Tioga County? He said I have to find you some folks that are in the soil and I said excuse me. He said yea, he said folks that are in the soil, people who understand the roots of the County, they go back generations, they understand why the businesses were built in Owego or in Waverly, or whatever and he says these are folks that are in the soil. I thought I kind of understood what he said when I walked away from that, but it was a great lesson. I have now known Ron since 1988 and when we have conversations he still says to me, he says Tom you have to find those folks

that are in the soil and if you think about it, doesn't it make so much sense, doesn't it attribute to his great success and how he has been able to do so many wonderful things here in this County and you know he is also recognized around the State and I am going to get to that in a minute.

"The next story I want to share with you is the Best Buy deal. Ron as was mentioned was the point man, many of you were working on that, and they were very close to closing the deal and Ron says to me if you could be at this next meeting Tom it would be very important, we think we could close this deal up. I said when is the meeting and he told me, and I am like oh boy, I did not have the heart to tell him that was the week of our family vacation, we go to the Jersey Shore the first week in August, been doing it now, did it again this year, for 32 years. I said gee Ron can I call in, is that possible? Yea, sure, not a problem. We had the phone call and I called in, and Ron called me back later and he said you know, he says I think it went really well. He said having you on the phone call was fabulous. He says but every now and then I could of swore I heard the ocean in the background and I had to come clean, I had to tell him where I was and I guess it did not screw up the deal.

"I got elected for the first time and went to Albany, and I can remember the first year, Soil and Water Conservation folks come in and they give me a list, the staff gives me a list with Ron Dougherty's name. Rural schools are coming in to see me, who is coming, here's the list, Ron Dougherty's name. You name it, whatever organization, Ron Dougherty's name was on it and he is to this day so respected around the State by so many people for the work that not only he has done here in Tioga County, but for the work he has done all over this great State as it pertains to our school districts, soil and water, so many different things that he has dedicated his life to. Ron you are truly a remarkable individual and I have become a better person because I know you and because you are part of my life, and Brenda you are a remarkable lady because I am sure there is once or twice where he kind of made you a little mad because he was not home when he should have been, because he was out at a meeting doing what he felt was the right thing to do and left you back with the family, and probably, well we will not go there. Ron I am going to present you with a Senate Proclamation. This is a ceremonial Proclamation. When we go back in January, I am going to have one read into the record of the Senate, one that is official, one that gives you the recognition that you deserve for all of the great things that you have done, but I will present you with the ceremonial one now. Thanks for being a friend."

Ron Dougherty spoke. "I must confess before I even start to talk, I am a little overwhelmed, so bear with me. I will tell you the good news first. When I started out on this, my wife reminded me as so many times in the past, Ron please you have this pension for making easy jobs difficult, please do not do

that, but it is a disease, I admit it, so I started out with something that long in speech and I got down to this, and right now I am down to this, so bear with me. We are going to have some fun and we are going to have some food and enjoyment.

"Thank each of you for those kind words. Senator Libous, it has been my good fortune to have my public service endeavors parallel yours, that has been helpful believe me. You mention the Best Buy deal. We also at one time, the Best Buy package needed roughly 1 million dollars to do the necessary infrastructure around the roads and so on, and Tom came through with that, the State came through, we appreciate that. The Dental Van, which was a \$600,000 project here, which has provided our community with dental services for the schools, I am sure Tom you were a big player in that and it was important.

"Dick Huttleston, I do not know what to say about Dick. I can only say one thing about Dick, as ambivalent as he might have been here, he was always a loyal person on the Legislature. You knew where he stood and he was not afraid to tell you. I think a lot of that came from his extensive business background and Dick thank you for all your help on the Legislature.

"Bill Woods. Thank you for those kind words. Unfortunately that discussion about vision exposed me somewhat. The reason probably I had that technique is I could not do the actual work and that was the problem, you can have the vision, but you got to have the people do the work. There are a lot of people in this room that made me look good. Glenn Carter was mentioned, Rich Eads is here. There are a number of others. Barbara Blanchard here is on the MEGA program, which is so important in our community. I have been blessed and thank you Bill for your kind words.

"Wendy, well there are two sides Wendy to this story, one of them that I was exposed here again reminds me the reason I was nearly late today was we were in Spencer all day, Wendy and the Soil & Water Board looking at the dams that were put in with some visionary people in the 50s in our County, they have flood control dams and we have to go as a matter of inspection and responsibility to review those and that is where we have been. Again, one of my sons John was there today and if I had known he would have been there, I probably should have taken the day off, but I had someone that I could blame and I probably blamed my wife.

"I appreciate all those comments. I want to say a special thanks to Tioga State Bank, I know they are going to provide some refreshments, I served on the Board a number of years, continue to serve and really do enjoy that, they are a community bank, serve our community well. I understand Darrell Reynolds is going to take care of the coffee for us from Mr. Coffee, I appreciate that.

Maureen and Cathy thank you for all of your help putting this together. Leeann Tinney, Ken Del Bianco, and there is probably others that have put this together and we really appreciate that.

“Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “Life is a journey and not a destination”. If you really stop and think about it, local communities are a lot like that, but they are a journey in needs and opportunities. They are always there. Every community has a need and an opportunity and I am very glad over the past three decades I have been around to be involved in both needs and opportunities here. It is a real blessing. Whether it is the public safety building that was needed, whether it be working with Glenn in terms of restructuring the Economic Development & Planning operation, whether it is the Solid Waste and Recycling, which we take for granted now, but in the late 1980s believe it or not we had garbage on the streets here. We had some real real problems and if you look at that today and you look at the investment. For example, in Apalachin that the Taylor family and Taylor Recycling put into that, it is really 20 years. You look back on it now and the improvement, we have been blessed. Now that is an example of a public/private partnership that has really been beneficial to our County and could not have done it without their consistency and performance.

“If you look at MEGA, just to mention about MEGA because my friend Barbara Blanchard is here. She has driven all the way from Albany and come down, and I appreciate that. The MEGA concept probably started with the discussion before deregulation. We got involved with the high energy prices and in the mid 90s those prices continued to go up, but then the State made the decision to set the structure up the way it is now where you bid on a portion of the energy price, and it was that time we started having some discussions about what happens if you put these together. I want to stay away from synergy because I will get choked. What happens if you put these together and you start building and put them together this way instead of worrying about well silos you cannot control. Again, I will try to stay away from silos, but we have silos in this County. We have some 3000 residents in the western part of this County who up until just recently, it has been raised in Pennsylvania now, but up until recently they paid about 60% of what we pay. It became very simple that once you went to someplace where at least you could influence a little bit of the price of what you purchase electric for, that is the only portion, there is still the portion of distribution and so on, you could get a lower price. It is merely bundling these things together.

“A great lesson from my BOCES experience, my BOCES friends are here tonight, it is a great lesson when you hook things together horizontally, you are going to get an impact and hopefully if it is a positive thing you are going to get a positive impact. I do appreciate again and I am thankful for having the

energy and the health, and the desire to do these things. Those are three components when you get into my age category that you at least have got to have two out of those three. It is very difficult if you do not.

“During this journey I have been blessed with a very large and supportive family, my wonderful wife and partner of 64 years, Brenda who is the real wind beneath my sails. A little known secret and I am going to expose my wife. For 25 years after we moved to the Village, my wife ran a team of her friends, some from Candor, some from Nichols, and they put on dinners monthly for underprivileged people in the Village and it is not a well publicized story, but it is one that needs to be told and thank you.

“I must confess that when I look back over these 25 years and the work that has been involved, and the 41 years in the school business, and 12 years as a County liaison here with the Tompkins Cortland Foundation, which was a little foundation started in the mid 90s and I think we had 3 million dollars and I think the assets now on that are about 36 million dollars. I have not been on the Board. Jim McFadden is here. How much Jim? 16 million that has grown and that was a wonderful experience, but I quickly realized when I look over all of these areas that I have been involved in, that I quickly realized how blurred and diluted my own contribution becomes, and I really mean that when I say that about Bill’s comments, that so many times life runs on two tracks and one has to do with relationships and one has to do with getting the work done. You always have to think about these relationships, one is about relationships and vision, and a few other things, and one is about doing the work. You have to have people to do the work, that they put things together and make them work. I have been blessed in everything that I have done, that did not mean that once in a while I did help with the work, but frankly I have been blessed with being around people that when you put a little vision out there.

“Is Tom Emmett here tonight? No. Tom was our County Attorney at that time and Tom was a great person that could take a one or two word vision or something you looked at and flesh it out to make it into something that would be that second track so you could work at it and get it done. That is important.

“In closing, I would like to again go back to another Emerson quote that I hope will leave you as an inspiration this evening. “To laugh often and much. To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children. To earn the appreciation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of false friends. To appreciate beauty. To find the best in others. To leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a redeemed social condition, and to know that even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to succeed.” Thank you and I appreciate everyone being here this evening.”

Chair Sauerbrey spoke. "Before we close the meeting officially, there is a couple of things I want to mention. We would like to have some special photos taken with the plaque so if you can linger just a moment. Thank you for Drew. He is going to create a CD for you tomorrow and we are going to present it so you can take and share pictures with all your family. The other thing is for those of you who want to gaze your eyes over here on this wall, there are four pictures of Ron when he was serving on the Legislature and you will see some other faces there on the Legislature that will be very familiar. Enjoy those pictures. We are going to have a reception down the hall by Cornell Cooperative Extension, so go and enjoy, take your time, do not be in a hurry because there is a lot of friends here, there is a lot of history to share with one another and so we want you to stay and enjoy if you can. The last thing, this beautiful plaque will hang at the entrance of this building as you come in with the ramp area. Right on the left is a spot that we have reserved for the plaque, which they will probably put up tomorrow. Everyone who enters the building will be able to see the plaque as they enter. Again congratulations."

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 P.M.