

TIOGA COUNTY ED&P/TOURISM/CCE/SOIL & WATER

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

February 3, 2026

1:00 PM

- MINUTES
 - Approval of minutes of January 6, 2026
- FINANCIAL
 - Economic Development
 - Planning
 - Sustainability Management
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Reports
 - Grants
 - Economic/Community Development
 - Land Bank
 - Workforce Development
 - Planning
 - Sustainability Management
 - IDA
 - Misc.
- NEW BUSINESS
 - Reports
 - Grants
 - Economic/Community Development
 - Land Bank
 - Workforce Development
 - Planning
 - Sustainability Management
 - IDA
 - Misc.
- PERSONNEL
- RESOLUTIONS
 - B04-Set Public Hearing for 2026 Annual Agricultural District Inclusions
 - B28-Request for Reimbursement for Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling State Assistance Program
 - B30-Filing of an Application for State Assistance HHW for 2025

B39-Recognize Elaine Jardine's 30 Years of Dedicated Service to Tioga County

B40-Authorize Appointment (Zubalsky-Peer) to Tioga Co Planning Director

B41-Re-Appoint Member (J Harris) to the TCLDC Board

B42-Re-Appoint Member (J Case) to the TCLDC Board

- PROCLAMATIONS - N/A
- ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING January 6, 2026

ATTENDEES:

Legislators: Ron Ciotoli, Keith Flesher, Andrew Aronstam, Jake Brown, Tracy Monell, Jo Ellen Rose, David Cantella

Staff: Brittany Woodburn, Marley Norton, Cathy Haskell, Jackson Bailey

Guests: Wendy Walsh, Manager, Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District

Committee Chair, Ron Ciotoli, called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (ED&P): Agenda and attachments previously emailed.

I. MINUTES

- A. Approval of minutes from December 2, 2025 – Committee Chair Ron Ciotoli asked for approval of the minutes from the December 2, 2025, meeting. Legislator Flesher made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 2, 2025, meeting, seconded by Legislator Aronstam. All were in favor.

Ms. Woodburn reported the following:

II. FINANCIAL

- A. 2026 Budget
 1. Economic Development
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.
 2. Planning
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.
 3. Sustainability Management
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.

III. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

A. Reports

1. Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District – Monthly report previously emailed and is in the committee packet. Ms. Walsh, Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District manager, was in attendance and distributed informative packets. Ms. Walsh reviewed her report, highlighting the Agricultural Programs of Tioga County Soil Health Program, Cover Crops, AEM Strategic Plan and Agricultural Workshops. The

workshops are in conjunction with Economic Development & Planning. Sessions in Owego were more populated than in Berkshire, however 25-30 participants have attended the workshops

2. Cornell Cooperative Extension – Monthly report previously emailed and is in committee packet
3. Tioga County Tourism – Monthly report previously emailed and is in committee packet

B. Grants

1. Active Grants – See attached EDP Grant Tracking spreadsheet. Ms. Woodburn highlighted the following:
 - a. EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant
 - This application was not selected last year
 - EPA suggested changes and Ms. Woodburn reports that ED&P plans on applying for this grant again with the changes
 - Grant funds available to do a county-wide assessment to look into abandoned gas stations, reclaimed mining pits, vacant/abandoned buildings, etc.
 - This assessment opens opportunity for additional funds to evaluate and remediate sites to bring them back into productive use
 - Resolution included in this packet to apply for \$500,000 in grant funds to hire a consultant to complete the assessment with no match requirement, and program delivery included
 - Resolution also authorizes the County Planning Director as the Authorized Organizational Representative to sign/submit the application
 - b. NY SWIMS Round II – V. Owego public pool
 - Village of Owego was awarded \$271,771 for pool improvements
 - The village will replace the pool deck, install new fencing, and upgrade pump house doors to improve safety and extend the life of the municipal pool
 - Ms. Yelverton and Ms. Norton provided technical assistance on the grant submission
 - c. OPRHP EPF – Northern Tioga Rail-with-Trail Pre-Engineering
 - The TCIDA was awarded \$450,000 through the ORPHP EPF program to develop a Northern Tioga Rail-with-Trail Pre-Engineering plan to develop a recreational trail alongside OHRY railway in northern Tioga County
 - The Rail-With-Trail initiative aims to enhance local recreation by planning a new multi-use trail
 - The TCIDA will likely be applying for USDA RBDG to fund the \$150,000 project gap
 - d. NYS DOS Community Smart Growth Program – T. Nichols
 - Town of Nichols applied for NYS DOS Community Smart Growth Program to update their comprehensive plan
 - The application was not awarded as it is a very competitive program, and the grant will be removed from the spreadsheet

- ED&P will continue to work with the Town of Nichols to look for sources to fund their plan
- Nichols was awarded \$154,000 in grant funds from OPRHP for improvements to Cady Library
- e. CDBG Microenterprise – Ms. Yelverton continues to work on this project
 - Ocular Prosthetics has received their second reimbursement
 - Country Fit has received their first disbursement
 - Labrador Lumber’s project is completed
 - Owego Brewing Company has received their first disbursement
 - The Five has begun their project and their first reimbursement has been submitted to the state
- f. CDBG Public Facilities – Catholic Charities – Ms. Norton continues to work on this project
 - The mobile food truck is almost complete and has been sent to vinyl wrapping
 - The truck is expected to be delivered in the next few weeks
 - Catholic Charities may be requesting budget modifications due to the need for certain supplies and staffing costs
 - Resolution will be submitted if changes are needed
- g. George Smith Park Master Plan – Ms. Woodburn informed that the draft Master Plan has been created, and the final Master Plan should be submitted soon
- h. Upcoming Grant Opportunities – Ms. Woodburn advised of the following opportunities
 - i. County Infrastructure Grant Program
 - ii. Tioga Arts Council – NYSCA Grants (Technical Assistance)
 - iii. Child Care Capital Construction Funding Program
 - iv. ESD Power Up – Electric infrastructure upgrades at key industrial sites

C. Economic/Community Development

1. Family Enrichment Network – Ms. Woodburn asked that the conversation be tabled for discussion at a later time
2. DRI – Owego – Ms. Woodburn advised that HCR has approved the reallocation of unused DRI funds from 48-50 Lake Street to Historic Owego Marketplace. ESD/HCR are also working on awarding two other projects with reallocated funds.
3. NY Forward – Village of Waverly
 - a. Small Projects Fund – Applications for the Small Projects Fund are due next week, and the committee will be updated on the selected projects.
 - b. Public Projects – Ms. Norton is on the steering committee, and the kickoff meeting for the Village’s Public Projects was today. The Public Projects include the Broad Street Streetscape and East Waverly Park.

D. Land Bank

1. 247 Main Street, Owego – Ms. Woodburn reports that the design work is underway, before photos have been taken and there has been drone imagery of the roof

2. 121 Providence Street, Waverly – Construction has begun, and the building permit has been obtained. Ms. Woodburn should have more of an update at next committee meeting.
3. Vacant Rental Improvement Program – Ms. Patton is working on submitting an application for the Vacant Rental Improvement Program. This programs funds can support repairs and rehabilitation of vacant rental units and other vacant spaces to increase the supply of critically needed apartments. The program helps owners of rental properties bring vacant units and spaces in small-scale properties back into productive use to create safe, quality and affordable long-term rental units. Small scale properties are defined as 1-5 units, with no more than 20 units in a property owner's portfolio. \$50,000-\$75,000 is available. The Land Bank will apply for the funds, and subgrant to eligible property owners.
4. Community Foundation of South Central NY Women's Fund – The Land Bank received \$8,000 from the Community Foundation of South Central NY's Women's Fund for a home repair course for women. The Land Bank is the grant applicant, recipient, and administrator of the funds. The Landbank is coordinating the collaboration between a local WBE construction management firm, Sheila Neville, and Owego Apalachin Central School District to teach and host the course, respectively. The goal was to provide up to 10 women from Tioga County with basic self-sufficiency skills, including basic construction skills, hands on experience, education to make better informed decisions and allow for questions and answers. Ms. Woodburn reports that the TEAM Tioga social media page posted the course, and over 75 women signed up. The discussion will be had with OACSD and BOCES about a potential to take over/run the program on a more regular basis at their satellite campus, since there is a clear need.
5. By-laws and Board of Directors updates – The Land Bank is working on updating their by-laws and changing the structure of their Board of Directors. The Land Bank has recommended that their Board change from 9 to 7 members, including 3 public officers, a Tioga County Legislator, 2 at-large members and 1 non-profit sector member (or at-large). A resolution is included in the committee packet. There is also a resolution to reappoint Hannah Murray to an At-Large position instead of her original appointment as a Board of Education Member for the Candor Central School District.

E. Workforce Development

1. OACSD/BT BOCES Satellite Campus – Owego Apalachin Central School District has hired Sara Hayes as grant management consultant of their Congressional Direct Spending and ARC Grants. Ms. Norton will continue to check in on the progress of this project.
2. Southern Tier SouthWorks ACHIEVE award – The Southern Tier was selected as one of four awardees for the inaugural \$150 million Advancing Collaboration for High-Impact Initiatives for Economic Visions & Expansion competition (ACHIEVE), which empowers the REDCs to advance catalytic regional economic development projects. The Southern Tier SouthWorks ACHIEVE proposal was awarded \$38 million to support the development of SouthWorks, which is a mixed-use reuse project in

Ithaca that will repurpose the blighted former Morse Chain Factory. SouthWorks will offer housing, an innovation hub for start-ups in manufacturing, biotech and ag-tech, a living laboratory for trades-focused workforce development with childcare and wraparound services, and an integrated neighborhood with local amenities for recreation, livability and arts. There has been discussion regarding training spokes across the Southern Tier, and ED&P has submitted the OACSD/BT Satellite Facility as a possibility for this.

F. Planning

1. 239 Reviews –
 - a. 2025-025: Town of Nichols, Solar Energy Systems Local Law Amendment, Town Board – Nichols Town Board wishes to amend this law to include many more site requirements and restrict commercial solar energy systems to industrial and business zoning districts. Staff advised County Planning Board to recommend approval and the County Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval.
 - b. 2025-026: Village of Owego, Special Use Permit, ValuAuto – Applicant plans to add a vehicle dismantling operation to their junkyard and towing business located on Southside Drive. Staff advised the County Planning Board to recommend approval of the special use permit with conditions that the applicant comply with NYS DOT Region 9 Site Plan Review Committee's comments and requirements, that the dismantled vehicle parts are stored within a building as is required in the Village of Owego zoning code, and that the applicant comes back through the entire local approvals process before constructing the dismantled parts storage building. The County Planning Board voted to recommend approval with the conditions noted.
2. NYS American Farmland Trust – Farmer workshops, previously discussed in this meeting.

G. Sustainability Management

1. Debris Management Plan – Dr. Pratt is working on an RFP for a consulting firm to assist with getting the plan through FEMA approvals.
2. 2025 YTD –
 - a. Paid to Broome County

	2025	2024
i. HHW	\$11,239.55	\$9,266.55
ii. E-Waste	\$ 1,006.25	\$1,994.65
 - b. Towns/County(E-waste) \$ 1,167.25 \$2,261.20
3. There was brief discussion regarding E-Waste cost going down, Ms. Woodburn will look into how and why it went down in 2025.

H. IDA

1. Lockheed Martin PILOT application approval – TCIDA Board approved the PILOT application and the attorney will be working on closing on the PILOT in the next few months. Discussion regarding TEAM Tioga tracking the job creation and employment was had. The committee emphasized the

- importance of transparency with the public as the jobs are created and what is being done with the project, reporting updates on social media.
2. Board of Directors updates – Annual meeting is tomorrow and the Board is working on updates to the by-laws and policies. A resolution will follow for approval in the next few months.
 3. Southern Tier IDA/EDO partnership discussion – Southern Tier IDA's and Economic Development Organizations are working with Susan Payne to develop a roadmap to implement Southern Tier Cleantech Strategy that was put together by Newmark (a consultant group). The group has met twice and the focus of the roadmap has shifted, no longer solely focused on cleantech development, but all advanced manufacturing. The forming of an organization to market Southern Tier sites cohesively is in discussion. Ms. Woodburn will provide an update at a later date.
 4. USDA RBDG application – TCIDA will likely be applying to USDA RBDG to fund the \$150,000 project gap for the Northern Tioga Rail-With-Trail Pre-Engineering plan.

IV. PERSONNEL

- A. Administrative Coordinator – Resolution in packet to appoint Lisa Williams to the Administrative Coordinator for TCIDA/Land Bank position.

V. RESOLUTIONS

- A09-Authorize Agreement with Deluge Media
- A24-Recommend Members to the Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission
- A25-Appoint Administrative Coordinator (LWilliams)
- A26-Approval of EPA Brownfield Grant Application
- A33-TCPDC Bylaws Amendment January 2026
- A35-Appoint HMurray At-Large TCPDC Board Member

After reviewing the above resolutions, Ms. Woodburn asked this committee for support to move the resolutions forward. The vote to support the above resolution follows:

- Legislator Ciotoli – yes
- Legislator Flesher – yes
- Legislator Brown – yes
- Legislator Aronstam – yes

VI. PROCLAMATIONS - N/A

- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Legislators Ciotoli, Flesher, Aronstam, Rose and Brown were in attendance along with Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Administrator Bailey, Brittany Woodburn and Marley Norton. Motion by Legislator Ciotoli, seconded by Legislator Flesher, to move into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations at 1:40pm. Motion carried. Motion by Legislator Ciotoli, Seconded by Legislator Aronstam to adjourn executive session at 1:55pm.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marley Norton
Community Development Specialist, Economic Development & Planning

DRAFT



TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 01

ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
A General Fund							
A6422 Economic Development							
A6422 411132 Tax On Hotel/Motel	-35,000	0	-35,000	.00	.00	-35,000.00	.0%
A6422 419890 Contribution To Ec	-50,000	0	-50,000	-12,500.00	.00	-37,500.00	25.0%
A6422 421891 Other Home & Commu	-50,000	0	-50,000	.00	.00	-50,000.00	.0%
A6422 510010 Full Time	426,153	0	426,153	23,900.88	.00	402,252.12	5.6%
A6422 540010 Advertising	3,000	0	3,000	.00	.00	3,000.00	.0%
A6422 540040 Books	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
A6422 540070 Car Maintenance	2,000	0	2,000	.00	.00	2,000.00	.0%
A6422 540140 Contracting Servic	0	3,000	3,000	2,968.18	.00	31.82	98.9%
A6422 540180 Dues	1,000	0	1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
A6422 540220 Automobile Fuel	150	0	150	.00	.00	150.00	.0%
A6422 540320 Leased/Service Equ	1,000	0	1,000	48.46	.00	951.54	4.8%
A6422 540360 Meals/Food	750	0	750	.00	.00	750.00	.0%
A6422 540390 Mileage Expense	50	0	50	.00	.00	50.00	.0%
A6422 540420 Office Supplies	1,280	0	1,280	-1,341.36	.00	2,621.36	-104.8%
A6422 540480 Postage	380	0	380	.00	.00	380.00	.0%
A6422 540485 Printing/Paper	1,850	0	1,850	.00	.00	1,850.00	.0%
A6422 540590 Services Rendered	19,190	-3,000	16,190	.00	.00	16,190.00	.0%
A6422 540620 Software Expense	100	0	100	.00	.00	100.00	.0%
A6422 540660 Telephone	1,000	0	1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
A6422 540733 Training/All Other	4,820	0	4,820	600.00	.00	4,220.00	12.4%
A6422 581088 State Retirement F	60,970	0	60,970	2,363.62	.00	58,606.38	3.9%
A6422 583088 Social Security Fr	32,738	0	32,738	2,072.91	.00	30,665.09	6.3%
A6422 584088 workers Compensati	7,721	0	7,721	521.28	.00	7,199.72	6.8%
A6422 585588 Disability Insuran	369	0	369	24.42	.00	344.58	6.6%
A6422 586088 Health Insurance F	122,080	0	122,080	5,854.78	.00	116,225.22	4.8%
A6422 588988 Eap Fringe	99	0	99	6.48	.00	92.52	6.5%
TOTAL Economic Development	552,200	0	552,200	24,519.65	.00	527,680.35	4.4%
TOTAL General Fund	552,200	0	552,200	24,519.65	.00	527,680.35	4.4%
TOTAL REVENUES	-135,000	0	-135,000	-12,500.00	.00	-122,500.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	687,200	0	687,200	37,019.65	.00	650,180.35	



TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 01

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
GRAND TOTAL	552,200	0	552,200	24,519.65	.00	527,680.35	4.4%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Sampson, Linda **



TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 01

ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
A General Fund							
A8020 Planning							
A8020 510010 Full Time	192,155	0	192,155	12,351.55	.00	179,803.45	6.4%
A8020 540010 Advertising	200	0	200	.00	.00	200.00	.0%
A8020 540040 Books	600	0	600	.00	.00	600.00	.0%
A8020 540140 Contracting Servic	32,000	0	32,000	1,679.55	.00	30,320.45	5.2%
A8020 540180 Dues	800	0	800	.00	.00	800.00	.0%
A8020 540220 Automobile Fuel	200	0	200	.00	.00	200.00	.0%
A8020 540320 Leased/Service Equ	1,200	0	1,200	.00	.00	1,200.00	.0%
A8020 540360 Meals/Food	190	0	190	.00	.00	190.00	.0%
A8020 540390 Mileage Expense	600	0	600	.00	.00	600.00	.0%
A8020 540420 Office Supplies	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
A8020 540480 Postage	900	0	900	.00	.00	900.00	.0%
A8020 540485 Printing/Paper	1,000	0	1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
A8020 540590 Services Rendered	4,875	0	4,875	.00	.00	4,875.00	.0%
A8020 540660 Telephone	600	0	600	.00	.00	600.00	.0%
A8020 540733 Training/All other	1,200	0	1,200	.00	.00	1,200.00	.0%
A8020 581088 State Retirement F	27,492	0	27,492	1,661.54	.00	25,830.46	6.0%
A8020 583088 Social Security Fr	14,762	0	14,762	1,041.50	.00	13,720.50	7.1%
A8020 584088 Workers Compensati	3,481	0	3,481	236.96	.00	3,244.04	6.8%
A8020 585588 Disability Insuran	167	0	167	11.10	.00	155.90	6.6%
A8020 586088 Health Insurance F	55,047	0	55,047	5,227.66	.00	49,819.34	9.5%
A8020 588988 Eap Fringe	45	0	45	2.96	.00	42.04	6.6%
TOTAL Planning	338,014	0	338,014	22,212.82	.00	315,801.18	6.6%
TOTAL General Fund	338,014	0	338,014	22,212.82	.00	315,801.18	6.6%
TOTAL EXPENSES	338,014	0	338,014	22,212.82	.00	315,801.18	



TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 01

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
GRAND TOTAL	338,014	0	338,014	22,212.82	.00	315,801.18	6.6%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Sampson, Linda **



TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 02

ACCOUNTS FOR: A General Fund	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
A8160 Refuse & Garbage							
A8160 421890 Other Home & Comm	-1,980	0	-1,980	.00	.00	-1,980.00	.0%
A8160 425900 Waste Hauler Permi	-400	0	-400	.00	.00	-400.00	.0%
A8160 439892 Solid Waste State	-30,000	0	-30,000	.00	.00	-30,000.00	.0%
A8160 510010 Fulltime	74,754	0	74,754	1,991.60	.00	72,762.40	2.7%
A8160 540010 Advertising	7,500	0	7,500	.00	4,500.00	3,000.00	60.0%
A8160 540180 Dues	175	0	175	.00	.00	175.00	.0%
A8160 540320 Leased/Service Equ	1,500	0	1,500	24.23	24.23	1,451.54	3.2%
A8160 540390 Mileage Expense	167	0	167	.00	.00	166.75	.0%
A8160 540420 Office Supplies	2,000	0	2,000	.00	.00	2,000.00	.0%
A8160 540444 Permits, Fees, Ins	100	0	100	.00	.00	100.00	.0%
A8160 540480 Postage	200	0	200	.00	.00	200.00	.0%
A8160 542140 Contracting Servic	98,000	0	98,000	.00	6,560.91	91,439.09	6.7%
A8160 542261 Household Hazardou	75,000	0	75,000	.00	50,000.00	25,000.00	66.7%
A8160 542485 Printing/Paper	2,000	0	2,000	.00	.00	2,000.00	.0%
A8160 542640 Supplies (Not Offi	11,000	0	11,000	.00	.00	11,000.00	.0%
A8160 542680 Tires	3,900	0	3,900	.00	.00	3,900.00	.0%
A8160 581088 State Retirement F	10,695	0	10,695	432.27	.00	10,262.73	4.0%
A8160 583088 Social Security Fr	5,743	0	5,743	209.73	.00	5,533.27	3.7%
A8160 584088 Workers Compensati	1,354	0	1,354	47.39	.00	1,306.61	3.5%
A8160 585588 Disability Insuran	65	0	65	2.22	.00	62.78	3.4%
A8160 586088 Health Insurance F	21,415	0	21,415	498.61	.00	20,916.39	2.3%
A8160 588988 EAP Fringe	17	0	17	.59	.00	16.41	3.5%
TOTAL Refuse & Garbage	283,205	0	283,205	3,206.64	61,085.14	218,912.97	22.7%
TOTAL General Fund	283,205	0	283,205	3,206.64	61,085.14	218,912.97	22.7%
TOTAL REVENUES	-32,380	0	-32,380	.00	.00	-32,380.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	315,585	0	315,585	3,206.64	61,085.14	251,292.97	



TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 02

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
GRAND TOTAL	283,205	0	283,205	3,206.64	61,085.14	218,912.97	22.7%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Pratt, Ellen **



Tioga County Tourism January 2026

MultiView Campaign:

The MultiView digital Advertising Campaign Launched in September of 2025. As of 1.12.26, the data shows over 500,000 impressions and an average of 20 unique visits per day, with top pages being the Tioga Antiques Trail page and the Events Calendar.

America 250

2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Municipalities, organizations, businesses and more around the country are organizing events and programs to celebrate. Regionally, the Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council (which includes Tioga County) is creating a historical map of all 14 counties in the Finger Lakes to promote heritage tourism during this significant anniversary. Experience Tioga submitted four



Eat Local Restaurant Week

TCT is partnering with Eat Local New York to engage Tioga restaurants in a statewide restaurant week promotion. The goal is to get around 12 participating restaurants in Tioga County and capitalizing on the statewide marketing to reach a large audience with a Tioga-specific message.



Finger Lakes Farm Country

Finger Lakes Farm Country created a promotional video that was screened at the Palace Theater in Corning. It will launch the 2026 campaign aimed at family tourism.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Tioga County

CCE Tioga Hilltop Farm
343 Cass Hill Road
Candor, NY 13743
t. 607-659-5694
e. tioga@cornell.edu
tioga.cce.cornell.edu

January 2026 – CCE Tioga Highlights

Prepared for the Tioga County Legislature Update (EDP, Agriculture & Tourism)

Organizational Updates: 2026 CCE Tioga Organizational meeting held Jan 20th, welcoming new Board member Doug Barton. Monthly Board meetings scheduled for 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm (no meetings in June/July), RSVP requested to Tioga@cornell.edu or call (607) 659-5694.

Phone System: Automated phone system allows callers to be transferred directly to administrators or educators whether working remotely, in the Candor or Owego offices, or in the field/programming.

Staff Update: We are happy to announce that **Caitlin Tucker** has accepted the Community Energy Adviser position, shifting from temporary to a permanent employment with CCE Tioga.

Agricultural Resource Group (ARG) – Kristi (Executive Director), Kelly (Ag Specialist) & Robyn (4-H Youth Educator) actively participate in the Tioga County ARG monthly meetings, connecting with local farmers and other agencies to hear needs/concerns and support local agriculture.

Campus Connection to Cornell:

- **Livestock PWT**(IPM for Dairy & Beef) and **Cornell Winter Fruit Webinar series** attended by Kelly
- **CCE Program Advisory Committees** – Kristi, Kelly and Robyn participating in Cornell led series of sessions for guidance on building stronger Program Advisory Committees for CCE Tioga
- **Seeking New Partnerships with Cornell** - Reaching out to plant breeding faculty and staff for potential partnerships helping to teach advanced gardeners basic crop genetics, isolation techniques, specific crop requirements, selection criteria, and seed saving.

Community Connections:

Tioga County Landowner Workshops – Tioga County EDP, SWCD and CCE Tioga with American Farmland Trust Topic: Farmland Succession – 3 Sessions facilitated successfully across the Ag districts. Resources continue to be available in conjunction with 1:1 Regional Navigator services from Kelly Jackson.

Community Education: Jean Koski working with Spencer Van Etten Ag team fostering partnership with Spencer area MGV's and participating in a community connection network.

Agriculture Outreach Programs - Kelly Jackson (Agriculture Development Specialist)

- **Local Ag Meetings:** Tioga Co. Farm Bureau (board service and meeting attendance), ARG
- **Weekly Ag Newsletter** – “All Things Agriculture” sent out weekly to 300+ farmers and Ag Service providers in and around Tioga County by Ag Educator Kelly Jackson + sign-ups continue to grow! Communicating Grant opportunities, Events and webinars.
- **Ag Technical Support** - Daily/Weekly interactions with farmers via email, phone or Farm visits as requested. Open office hours (Tues 1-4p) for Technical Assistance. Dairy & Farm Accounting Books available for purchase (Owego & Candor offices)
- **Regional Navigator** – Farmland Protection Tools and Resources
- **Regional Dairy & Field Crops Ag Team (CCE Tioga Membership)**
<https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/events.php>

Horticulture Outreach, Collaboration & Research – Jean Koski (Horticulturist)

- **Community Garden Guidance/ Grow Line Hot Topics:** answering questions (phone, email or social media) from the public centered around gardens, soils/testing, and related horticultural issues.
- **CCE Tioga Hilltop Farm** –Winter Grow setup starting seeds/plant cuttings from donors for Spring events
- “Gardening from Seed to Seed” season long educational initiative beginning with Pennysaver article, social media campaign to guide people on a growing journey from start to finish

- **Tioga County Gardening Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tiogacountygardeners>
 >>Join the group to see seasonal horticulture interest topics – Winter Seed Sowing Time is Here!

Master Gardeners - Jean Koski (Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator)

- **Master Gardener Volunteer Program Development:** Monthly meetings resumed, covering topics: updated format of Seed Share Events, scheduling hands on workshops, fostering partnership with 4-H youth and MGV’s, continuing education interests, seed saving educational initiatives, articles, new requests and volunteer opportunities.
- Regional MGV Training continues with Jean facilitating weekly Saturday online meetings and monthly in-person events at CCE offices & Cornell.
- **Master Gardener/Horticulture E-news & Program Development:** sharing updates, articles of interest, planning for 2026 activities, including continuing regular article contributions to the Owego Pennysaver

4-H Youth Development - Robyn Estrella (4-H Youth Development Resource Educator) & Donna Vergason-Gibson (Program Coordinator – PT)



- January focus: re-building our 4-H foundation and expanding our outreach
- **12** youth attended our SPARK meetings where we introduced public speaking. Each youth finished the night with an impromptu speech
- **52** youth attended 4-H club meetings where they focused on making plans and setting goals for the upcoming 4-H year.
- **35** youth and families traveled to the PA Farm Show to see Agricultural programs and shows
- Staff participated in a professional development opportunity focused on developing Virtual Reality STEM program and learning how to introduce this topic to our own county’s youth.
- **18** Adult volunteers met in their monthly planning meeting. In this meeting focus was on the re-building of the foundation in re-writing project record books, animal project record dates, clinics, youth engagement and more.
- Connected with all elementary schools in Tioga County to confirm participation in the Ag. Literacy Week program.

Family Resource Center (FRC/Family Development Programs) - Joan Shultz & Donna Vergason-Gibson, FRC Program Coordinators/Family Development Educators

Workshops attended: “Foundations of social -emotional development in a post-pandemic Digital World” by Brian Peurling; “Embracing Cold, Snow and Rain Outdoors with Young Children” by Kirsten Haugen, M.A.
FRC Partnered with Local Agencies: Tioga County Libraries (Waverly, Candor, Spencer, Nichols, Berkshire), Inspire Community Center in Spencer, WAVR Radio & The Morning Times Newspaper, Owego Pennysaver, Waverly School District, Owego-Apalachin School District, Tioga County Boys and Girls Club. Tioga County Health Dept.

FRC Events

Outreach/Playgroup Location	# of Playgroups	# of Families	# of kids	Total # of Attendees (unduplicated)	Total # Attending
Spencer (Inspire)	4	7	10	17	40
Spencer (Library)	3	7	10	20	35
Nichols (Library)	4	4	4	8	24
Waverly (Library)	3	5	6	11	25
Berkshire (Library)	3	2	2	4	4
Candor (Library)	3	25	30	55	74
Owego (TC B&GC)	3	1	1	2	2
Total	23	51	63	117	204

FRC/ Family Development Program Success Stories:

- A grandparent suggested a schedule change for Nichols Story Time on Thursdays, noting that the 11:30 am time was difficult to attend. She requested that the program be moved one hour earlier. The adjustment has been made, and she expressed her appreciation for the accommodation.
- A parent with 3-year-old and 6-month-old baby still attends a playgroup with a baby while the 3-year-old attends preschool. She stated she needs to attend a playgroup for her socialization, mental health, and outings for the baby. She is happy that the playgroup stayed consistent with dates and times. Several other parents opted out of preschool on Tuesday's so they could still attend playgroup at Candor Library.

Smart Energy Choices: Caitlin Tucker (Tioga Co. CEA) & Eileen Hanrahan (Regional SEC Team Mgr)

- Advised **20** residents assisting with access to the Empower+ program, Temporary Assistance, Weatherization Assistance Program, Comfort Home, Action for Older Persons, Cornell IPM Appliance Upgrade Program, NYS Clean Heat, Energy Affordability Guarantee, NYS Solar Credit, and Subscription Solar
 - **4** of these advisees are no-heat situations
- Reached **40** residents at Rabies Vaccination Clinic at Candor Fire Department 1/14
- Attending NYSWDA training and
- January Hubbub attendance (organized by Eileen) with Southern Tier Regional CEA's
- Prepared 2025 look-back and 2026 plan to be presented at 1/29 Hubbub
- Eileen Onboarding and providing training for 4 new CEA hires in Tioga (Caitlin), Chemung, Broome, & Tompkins

WIOA Youth Employment Program/Workforce – Lisa Weston-Bialy (Resource Educator), Mary Hill

- Assisted in planning a Broome-Tioga Summit with ACCES VR and Department of Labor for Support staff and practitioners working with individuals with disabilities.
- Lisa served as a Speaker at ACCES VR Summit on January 5th
- Assisted **2** students to enroll in college starting in the Spring semester
- Assisting **2** youth to enroll in occupational training: HVAC and Veterinary Assistant class.
- **Work Based learning:** Met with Spencer Van Etten High School Guidance Officer and 2 students to begin Work Based Learning program intended to build work skills, keep youth in school and create a mentor for student on campus

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristi K. Snyder, Ph.D.

Executive Director, CCE Tioga

CCE Tioga Hilltop Farm - Candor
Agriculture Development & Outreach
Extension of Extension - Owego
Youth, Families & Smart Energy Programs



Cornell Cooperative Extension
South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Program



WIOA
Workforce
Development



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Smart Energy Choices



Tioga.cce.cornell.edu | 607.659.5694 | Tioga@cornell.edu

EDP Grant Tracking Spreadsheet - Tioga County								
Feb-26								
	Applicant	Grant Source	Purpose	Status	Requested	Resource	Technical Assistance	Resolution
1	Tioga County	ESD Restore NY Round VI – River House	Rehabilitation of 178-180 Front Street, Owego	Awarded - in process	\$ 1,800,000.00	NA	NA	Yes
2	Tioga County	ESD Restore NY Round VII – Tioga Trails	Rehabilitation of 48-50 Lake Street, Owego	Awarded - in process	\$ 1,000,000.00	NA	NA	Yes
3	Tioga County	ESD Restore NY Round VIII – 81 North Ave	Rehabilitation of 81 North Ave, Owego	Closeout - in process	\$ 165,000.00	NA	NA	Yes
4	Tioga County	NYS Snowmobile	Snowmobile grant program for 5 clubs in Tioga County	Phase II completed	TBD	NA	NA	annual
5	Tioga County	Household Hazardous Waste Program	Funds for proper disposal of household hazardous waste.	Awarded - in process	\$ 7,767.22	NA	NA	Yes
6	Tioga County	Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling	Funds for Sustainability Manager to expand and implement waste reduction strategies in Tioga County	Awarded - in process	\$ 56,350.00	NA	NA	Yes
7	Tioga County	CDBG Microenterprise program	Provides funding for small businesses with < 5 employees.	Awarded - in process	\$ 212,500.00	NA	NA	Yes
8	Tioga County	CDBG Microenterprise program - Renewal	Provides funding for small businesses with < 5 employees.	Application submitted	\$ 218,750.00	NA	NA	Yes
9	Tioga County	CDBG Public Facilities – Catholic Charities	Mobile food truck to establish life skills café, community kitchen, and food rescue programs.	Awarded - in process	\$ 243,533.00	NA	NA	Yes
10	Tioga County	CDBG Imminent Threat – TCPDC	Demolition funding for abandoned/blighted properties.	Pre-application submitted	TBD	NA	NA	Yes
11	Tioga County	NY SWIMS - V. Owego public pool	Funding to reimburse life guard expenses	Closeout - in process	\$ 21,270.00	NA	NA	Yes
12	Tioga County	EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant	Funding for brownfield inventory, planning, environmental assessments and community outreach	Application submitted	\$ 500,000.00	NA	NA	Yes

EDP Grant Tracking Spreadsheet - Outside Agencies								
Feb-26								
	Applicant	Grant Source	Purpose	Status	Requested	Resource	Technical Assistance	Resolution
1	V. Newark Valley	ESD Restore NY Round VIII	Rehabilitation of 10 and 14-16 Whig Street, NV	Project bidding in process.	\$ 732,420.00		X	Yes
2	OACSD/BT BOCES	Congressionally Directed Spending	Build out of Regional Career and Technical Education Center	Contract in process.	\$ 811,000.00	X		No
3	OACSD/BT BOCES	ARC Infrastructure Area Development	Build out of Regional Career and Technical Education Center	Contract in process.	\$ 1,000,000.00		X	Yes
4	T. Berkshire	ARC READY Local Government Program	Master park plan for George W. Smith park	Closeout - in process	\$ 50,000.00		X	Yes
5	Tioga Hardwoods	ESD Small Manufacturers Grant	Equipment purchases/upgrades	Incentive proposal issued	\$ 112,240.00	X		No
6	V. Owego	OPRHP (EPF) grant - Owego Police Station	Exterior façade improvements - 90 Temple Street, Owego	Project rebidding in process.			X	Yes
7	V. Owego	NY SWIMS II - V. Owego public pool	Funding to support capital improvements to public pool	Application awarded.	\$ 271,771.00		X	Yes
8	TCIDA	USDA RBDG	Lounsberry Engineering Plan	Closeout - in process	\$ 90,000.00		X	NA
9	TCIDA	USDA RBDG	Equipment Lease Program	Awarded - in process	\$ 99,000.00		X	NA
10	TCIDA	OPRHP EPF	Northern Tioga Rail-with-Trail Pre-Engineering project	Application awarded.	\$ 450,000.00		X	NA
11	TCIDA	FAST NY Track B - Lounsberry area sites	Pre-engineering studies for potential industrial sites.	Application - in process	TBD		X	NA
12	TCPDC	NY Main Street	62-64 North Avenue, Owego rehabilitation	Project bidding in process.	\$ 438,316.00		X	NA
13	TCPDC	Land Bank Initiative (LBI) Phase 1, Year 3	Operational costs	Year 4 awarded.	\$ 200,000.00		X	NA
14	TCPDC	Land Bank Initiative (LBI) Open Round	Demolition and rehabilitation projects	Awarded - in process	\$ 1,823,100.00		X	NA
15	TCPDC	Land Bank Initiative (LBI) Property Services	Rehabilitation projects	Application submitted.	\$ 2,000,000.00		X	NA
16	TCPDC	Vacant Rental Program	Repairs and rehabilitation of vacant rental units	Application submitted.	\$ 750,000.00		X	NA

**TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK
 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT
 2026 Annual Inclusion
 DATA COLLECTION FORM**

Land Owner: Eric Johnson
 Address: 737 Waits Rd. Owego NY 13827 Municipality: Town of Owego
 Contact Info: Phone (home) _____ (cell) 607-343-4612 (email) jijohnson@johnsonspools.com

Please provide the following information for land (each property) you *own* and want to include in the Agricultural District:

PARCEL DATA

ID # <small>(office use only)</small>	Tax Map Number	Acreage
	140.00-1-52.1	50
	151.00-1-34.1	12.1
	151.00-1-22	27.3
	151.00-1-36	171.7
	151.00-1-21	2
	TBD (split from Owego Golf Club)	7.5
TOTALS property(ies)		270.60

Farm Description-Type (You must check one or more types to be eligible for the annual inclusion):

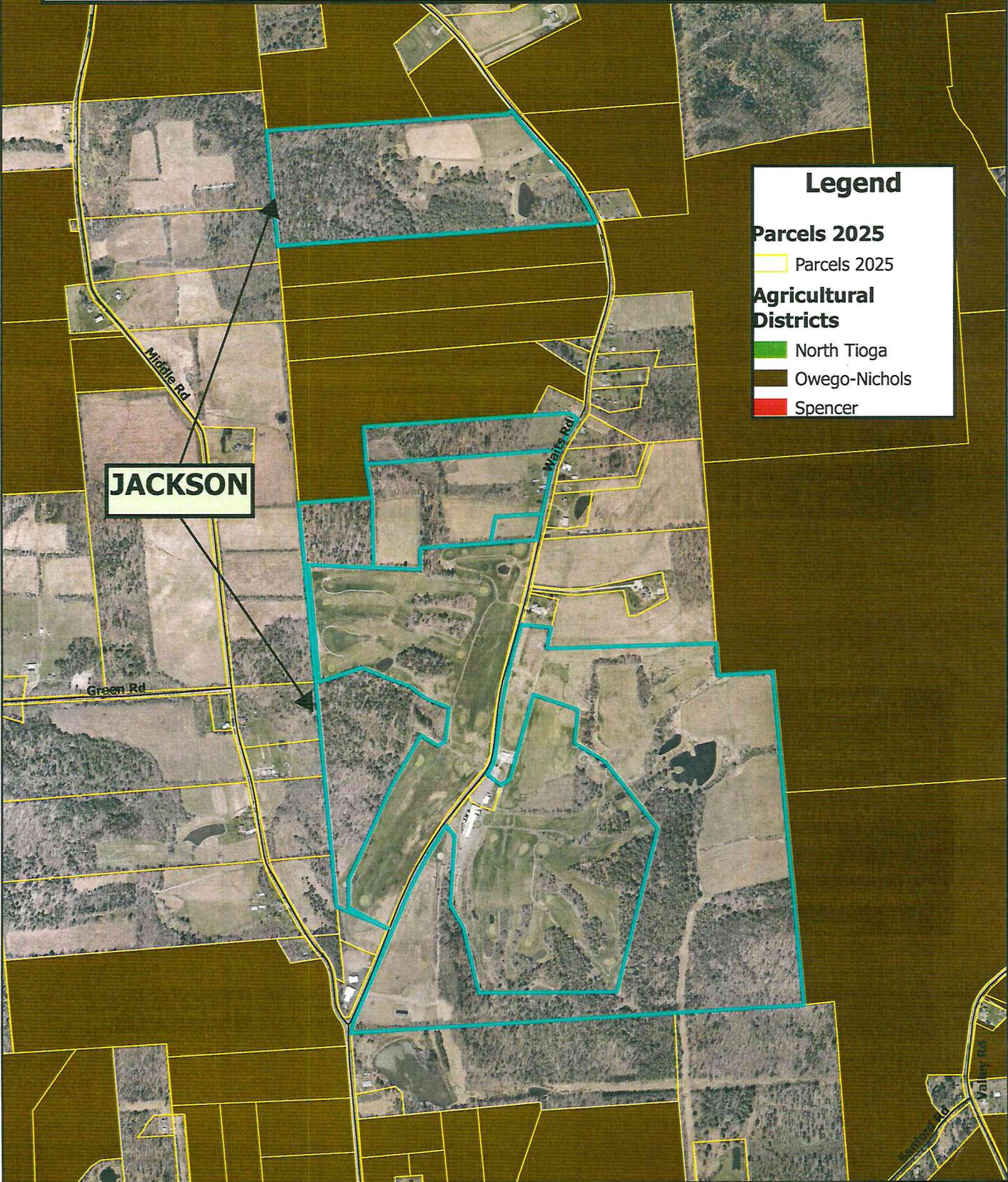
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dairy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cash Crop (Grain)	<u>rye, wheat, corn</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash Crop (Vegetable)	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hay	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fruit/Orchard	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegetables	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Livestock (other than dairy)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poultry	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Horticultural Specialties	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maple	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Honey	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Silviculture	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Specify: _____

If you have any questions please contact Elaine Jardine at 607-687-8257 or by e-mail at jardinee@tiogacountyny.gov. Please submit completed form to the EDP office in person, via my e-mail address or return to me by mail to 56 Main Street, Owego NY 13827 no later than January 31st.

TIOGA COUNTY

2026 Annual Agricultural District Inclusion

Owego/Nichols Agricultural District #2



REFERRED TO:

ED&P COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. -26

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2026
ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
INCLUSIONS

WHEREAS: The Tioga County Legislature, as per Resolution No. 296-03 designated January 2nd through January 31st as the official annual enrollment period for inclusion of viable agricultural properties in agricultural districts as required by §303-B of the NYS Agricultural and Markets Law 25-AA; and

WHEREAS: Tioga County Planning has received requests for inclusion of land in agricultural districts during the 2026 enrollment period and said law requires that the Tioga County Legislature hold a public hearing before making a decision on inclusion of lands; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature will hold a public hearing on requests for inclusion of viable agricultural land in agricultural districts received within the 2026 designated time period on February 19, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. in the Legislative Conference Room of the Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building, 56 Main Street, Owego, NY. All interested parties will be heard by the Tioga County Legislature at this hearing.

REFERRED TO:

ED&P COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. -26

REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR
MUNICIPAL WASTE REDUCTION AND
RECYCLING STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The State of New York announced a grant from the DEC Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling (MWRR) program to assist counties and local governments with their waste reduction and recycling program expenses; and

WHEREAS: Resolution 350-24 authorized the Sustainability Manager to apply and administer said grant for 2025 expenses; and

WHEREAS: Sustainability Manager applied for this grant in October 2024; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature authorizes the Sustainability Manager to complete a request for reimbursement for said grant.

REFERRED TO:

ED&P COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. -26

FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The State of New York announced a grant from the DEC Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program to assist counties and local governments with their household hazardous waste program expenses; and

WHEREAS: Through this grant Solid Waste would be partially reimbursed for the eligible costs of the 2025 HHW program; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature authorizes the Sustainability Manager to apply and administer said grant via NYS SFS Vendor Portal; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature authorizes and directs the Chair or their designee to sign the application via NYS SSF Vendor Portal for grant upon approval by the County Attorney.

REFERRED TO: ED&P COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. -26 RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ELAINE JARDINE'S 30 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO TIOGA COUNTY

WHEREAS: Elaine Jardine began her career as County Planning Director on April 3, 1995, in the Tioga County Department of Economic Development and Planning, and will have served in that position until her retirement; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Jardine has been extremely dedicated and loyal in her performance of her duties and responsibilities during the past 30 years, and has earned the respect of her colleagues in other county agencies and those citizens she professionally interacted with throughout Tioga County; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Jardine was very instrumental as the County Planning Director in performing state-mandated planning duties, coordinating NYS agricultural district reviews, conducting state and federal environmental reviews for county projects, and leading the development of numerous countywide plans such as the County's first Comprehensive Plan, 2010 and 2020 Strategic Plans, Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plans, and Hazard Mitigation Plans; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Jardine exhibited steady commitment and careful oversight in leading the Tioga County Planning Board in reviewing municipal land use and zoning, proposals for potential county-wide impacts, in addition to serving on many vital boards representing Tioga County such as the Tioga County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, Southern Tier East Regional Planning Board, and Tioga County REAP Board, to name a few, as well as serving on many committees, such as the NYS Association of County Planning Directors' Executive Committee, coalitions and associations, too numerous to name over 30 years of service; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Jardine during her long tenure with Tioga County provided instrumental planning support and guidance to municipalities, property owners, and businesses, and was essential in advancing and advocating for many impactful economic, transportation, and community development projects such as NY 17/Interstate 86 conversion, construction of Best Buy Distribution Warehouse, and Crown, Cork and Seal facility in Lounsberry, Village of Owego Downtown Revitalization Initiative, Village of Waverly NY Forward, Tioga County Start Up

Incubator in partnership with the Tioga County Chamber of Commerce, and designation and development of Two Rivers State Park and Waverly Glen Park; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Jardine was responsible for starting geographic information systems mapping in Tioga County, provided training and technical assistance to all Tioga County municipalities, assisted in writing, securing and administering state and federal grants for projects too numerous to list, and gave an unwavering amount of support within the Economic Development and Planning Department; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Jardine will be retiring on February 28, 2026; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature, on its own behalf, as well as on behalf of the citizens of Tioga County, expresses sincere gratitude to Elaine Jardine for her 30 years of dedicated and loyal service to the residents of 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 this outstanding employee, Elaine Jardine.

REFERRED TO:

ED&P COMMITTEE
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
FINANCE/LEGAL COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. -26

AUTHORIZE APPOINTMENT TO
COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR POSITION

WHEREAS: Legislative approval is required for any appointment to a Management/Confidential position within Tioga County; and

WHEREAS: The County Planning Director position will become vacant due to retirement on February 28, 2026; and

WHEREAS: The Director of Economic Development and Planning has identified the current County Planning Director Trainee, Sara Zubalsky-Peer, to be a qualified candidate for the County Planning Director position; and

WHEREAS: Per Resolution No. 227-25 Ms. Zubalsky-Peer has served as the County Planning Director Trainee since August 9, 2025, and has exhibited the experience and ability to be appointed to the County Planning Director position; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Director of Economic Development and Planning is authorized to promote Sara Zubalsky-Peer to the title of County Planning Director, due to a successful training period, at an annual Management/Confidential salary of \$75,278, effective March 7, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the vacant County Planning Director Trainee position will become unfunded effective March 7, 2026.

REFERRED TO:

ED&P COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. - 26

RE-APPOINT MEMBER TO THE
TIOGA COUNTY LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

WHEREAS: The term of Tioga County Local Development Corporation member, Jason Harris, will expire as of March 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS: Jason Harris has expressed a desire for re-appointment to serve another term; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature hereby re-appoints Jason Harris for another three-year term of 4/1/26 – 3/31/29.

REFERRED TO:

ED&P COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. -26

RE-APPOINT MEMBER TO THE
TIOGA COUNTY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

WHEREAS: The term of Tioga County Local Development Corporation member, Joan Case, will expire as of March 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS: Joan Case has expressed a desire for re-appointment to serve another term; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature hereby re-appoints Joan Case for another three-year term of 4/1/26 – 3/31/29.