

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GENESEE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 AT 5:00 PM
OLD COURT HOUSE, 7 MAIN ST. BATAVIA, NY**

The Genesee County Legislature met for the Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Old Court House, in the Legislative conference room, 7 Main Street, Batavia, New York.

Chair Yunker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Legislator attendance: Clattenburg, Torrey, Deleo, Hawley, Yunker, Dibble, Borrelli, Mancuso and Klotzbach (arrived at 5:06 p.m.). The Legislative Clerk took roll call, Chair Yunker announced a quorum was established. 9 out of 9 Legislature members were in attendance. Also, present Legislative Clerk Lisa Casey, County Manager Matt Landers.

Approval of the minutes from the September 10, 2025 Committee of the Whole, approved by Chair Yunker.

Chair Yunker reviewed the Genesee County Goals of the Legislature for 2026. Chair Yunker discussed Top Priorities with Water infrastructure being a main focus. Continue to push design work and funding opportunities towards our existing and future needs for a resilient water supply into the County. Looking to build 20 million gallon plus capacity to support residents, businesses and future economic development. Cost of \$150 million to \$200 million is too large to be paid by only the water users and taxpayers. Chair Yunker stated it is very important to be engaged with lobbyists and the activities in Albany and Washington D.C. continuing those strong relationships. County Manager Matt Landers stated Laura Wadhams and Justin Gerace from Public Works are leading this effort with legislative assistance, Chair Yunker announced he would be present during calls and discussing opportunities for tours and holding press conferences. Chair Yunker and County Manager Landers plans to travel to D.C. in February to attend NACo Conference with intentions to Lobby. County Manager Landers mentioned Phase 3 is top priority for the next several years, leading to 15 years to be fully implemented. Chair Yunker spoke of the critical need for collaboration with engineers and Monroe County Water Authority. Chair Yunker discussed secure funding via grants, PILOT revenue, bonding, etc. He spoke of the importance to engage with Congresswoman Tenney, U.S. Senator Schumer and Gillibrand, NYS Senator, Borrello, Assemblyman Hawley and Governor Hochul. Legislator Torrey commented the importance of having Legislator's involved and to engaged. County Manager Landers spoke of data centers and the revenue it will generate. The revenue from the data center will make a significant dent in what is needed for water, hoping for a nine-figure estimate.

Chair Yunker stated an important goal is to continue investing in infrastructure with County owned roads, bridges and buildings continue to invest in our road and bridges to maintain safe and reliable transportation infrastructure. Plans to finish Engine House renovation, engineer and renovate Holland Land Museum, construct airport support building, renovate animal shelter, these projects are in the 2026 budget. Chair Yunker discussed work on Human Service Campus study as well as

continued discussion on how to utilize all County owned buildings/facilities. County Manager Landers stated the concept of the study would be to go from four county buildings to one. Leaving 5130 location on East Main Street, which is DSS and Mental Health and leaving the space behind Aldi's where the career center is located and out of 2 Bank Street where Senior Center and Office for the Aging is held and eliminate County Building 2 which houses Health Department and Veterans, Ideally, not fully decided yet but would build behind County Building 2 and new campus to house the departments and 250 employees and tear down County Building 2 for more parking. Would have to acquire the property behind County Building 2. Chair Yunker stated they will continue to excel in our workforce, achieve full staffing with competitive wages resulting in better service to County residents. For example, in our public safety area: add a few Deputy Sheriff positions to help balance overtime costs and turnover. Continue to fill correction officer positions to get to a point of full staffing including females to be able to fully utilize our investment in the new Jail facility. Another position to fill is the Housing Officer, of which County Manager Landers is working to increase and strengthen the housing stock throughout the County that is desperately needed. Another goal is to focus on ratification of 3 union bargaining agreements, SEA (just expired 12/31/25) and CSEA and DSA (set to expire 12/31/26). The Legislature will focus on public relations by engaging a public relation firm and legal representation aggressively to start the year to stay aligned and on top of highly controversial topics of solar development and data center/STAMP development. County Manager Landers encouraged working with Steven Falitico, Public Communications and Web Design Specialist on some of the hot topic issues and getting information out to the public. Chair Yunker stated the more communication the better.

Chair Yunker quickly reviews the Other Goals and Issues. Complete the annual update of the 2050 County Comprehensive Plan. Keep working on stabilizing the Jail workforce, systems and processes to open 4th POD to increase outside revenue to offset ongoing operating expenses, continue working with the Sheriff. Utilize County Management and new Housing Officer to continue to explore joint Land bank, which is a long-term goal. Continue to engage with Fire Advisory Board to look for opportunities for consolidated efforts of fire and emergency services. Look for ways to support these efforts and potentially lead discussions. Continue to support ambulance and rescue service. Continue to look for opportunities to support City, Towns and Villages in lieu of sales tax such as grant writing, code enforcement, assessment services, chargebacks, etc. Smart Growth Evolution set up Committee to review options, processes and possible flexibility. Chair Yunker stated continuing to share the spirit of the plan but also need to be practical. Encourage municipalities and schools to be creative with shared services. Support Genesee County's new branding and tourism initiative which will be implemented by the Chamber of Commerce. Continue to engage and understand the needs of the homeless and mental health crisis in our community. Understand the impacts on housing needs and the financial burden on taxpayers. Continued investment into Information Technology. Lastly, continue to utilize the County's website and increase social media to spread important information out to our community.

Chair Yunker adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 5:25 p.m.