

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GENESEE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025 AT 4:00 PM
OLD COURT HOUSE, 7 MAIN ST. BATAVIA, NY**

The Genesee County Legislature held a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Legislative Chamber Room in the Old Court House.

Legislator attendance: Stein, Clattenburg, Maha, Torrey, Deleo, Hawley, Yunker and Dibble. Established Quorum. Also, present Legislative Clerk Lisa Casey, County Attorney Mark Boylan, County Manager Matt Landers and Philip Gow, Jr., Western New York Regional Director for Congresswoman Tenney.

Chair Stein called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Clerk took roll call, Chair Stein announced a quorum established.

Approval of the minutes from the March 26, 2025 Committee of the Whole, no changes, stand approved by Chair Stein.

The meeting began with Legislature introductions followed by the Clerk of the Legislature, County Manager and County Attorney.

Chair Stein stated there was a tour of the water plant prior to the meeting and thanked Philip Gow, Jr. for taking time to walk through and understand our needs in terms of water capacity and the greater need for high quality water for our residents, the goal is to be able to end the water limitations that are voluntarily placed on our community every summer. Gaining funding for the water project is a top priority to keep the protecting moving forward.

Philip Gow, Jr. introduced himself as the new Western New York Regional Director for Congresswoman Tenney. He discussed his previous work experience as a field director working with grant applications for New York State administrators and he had some grant ideas based on this previous work experience that Genesee County may be able to obtain.

Chair Stein started with acknowledging the LeRoy community received a five thousand dollar grant that could be used for professional grant writers. Mr. Gow was familiar with the grant process and is able to see different opportunities for the County as a whole and as individual communities. Chair Stein opened the floor to the Legislators for comments.

Legislator Maha inquired about the Federal cuts to grants and how that would impact New York State? Mr. Gow explained the affected area of the cuts would be towards FEMA funding, affecting fire departments, police departments, DOT and some other highway aspects funding opportunities. Legislator Maha inquired about funding for museums and the arts, Mr. Gow stated there are funding opportunities that would still be able to help.

Legislator Clattenburg inquired about Medicaid cuts and how New York State will be addressing

those cuts? Mr. Gow explained currently New York is actively monitoring the situation waiting for the final verdict and will then decide on a plan.

Legislator Deleo mentioned the second amendment and wondered if there would be any affects to it? Mr. Gow explained he is not aware of any impacts to it, however, there are individual offices and key committees drafting legislation for the second amendment guarantee act along with a letter.

Legislator Torrey commented on statements he heard and the effects to New York State? Mr. Gow welcomes phone calls to answer questions and concerns. He also commented that New York State is allocated a limited amount of funds.

Legislator Hawley commented that water issues are holding our communities back and inquired if there were any new opportunities with grants? Legislator Hawley also asked what else he would be able to provide to help besides grants. Mr. Gow explained the two types of funding that he looks at and explained compliance issues and how they become road blocks with funding, however he is available to help navigate through those issues.

Legislator Dibble commented that it seemed there is less control over what happens in our county as the State and Federal government have failed to provide funding that the county relies on to support our communities and the county funding projects such as the new jail, the broadband project and the water project. Legislator Dibble noted that he appreciated Mr. Gow coming out and seeing first-hand the issues the County is having. Mr. Gow confidently mentioned the State has plenty of grant opportunities available that would be useful, however they are disbursed slowly.

Legislator Yunker inquired about agricultural party lines and immigration by asking how Congresswoman Tenney will be handling both topics? Mr. Gow stated that immigration visas have been paused by the Executive Branch and the State Department is working to create a system to meet the agricultural work demands while maintaining a balance of other visas. They will monitor the situation and there have been discussions on releasing the pause so farms can keep their workers.

Legislator Klotzbach discussed tourism at the Chamber and Darien Lake concerts for this summer asking Mr. Gow how the tariffs would impact tourism in Genesee County? Mr. Gow stated the tariffs are a strategic approach to handle trade policies that are made in favor of American businesses, he stated questions based on specific businesses would be where Congresswoman Tenney's office could help. Lastly he stated they are doing what they can to help businesses that do International trade.

Chair Stein stated that when New York State was taken out of the distribution of ARPA Dollars, the block grant was then funneled directly to local governments allowing them to receive funds quicker. Chair Stein anticipating further discussions on moving the block grants out and being more county centered.

County Manager Matt Landers discussed that as money for the Broadband Access project stopped

at the State, Genesee County was not able to wait and had to utilize ARPA funds that came directly to the County. He explained that this situation is a good example on how the access to these funds provided were more useful than going through layers of additional bureaucracy checks. Mr. Landers provided a breakdown of how the Broadband project was funded using Federal, taxpayer and shared services funding. He asks to consider direct funding to counties in the future.

Mr. Gow stated that he will take the requests to Congresswoman Tenney's office.

Chair Stein thanked Mr. Gow for coming to meet with the Legislature and listening to our concerns.

Chair Stein adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.