

## **ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**Friday, January 2, 2026**

**2:00 PM**

The annual organizational meeting of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors was held in the Supervisor's Chamber, Government Center, 143 North Main Street, Warsaw, NY with all members present. Also present were County Administrator Scott Schrader, County Attorney Wilkinson, Board Clerk C. Ketchum and Deputy Board Clerk G. Koerner.

Clerk to the Board, Cheryl Ketchum, called the 185<sup>th</sup> session of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors to order at 2:00 pm.

The first order of business was to seat the newly elected Supervisors.

From the Town of Bennington, Mark Prior –

- *Supervisor Prior was escorted by Supervisors Kehl from the Town of Attica and Klein from the Town of Castile.*

From the Town of Warsaw, Steve Perkins –

- *Supervisor Perkins was escorted by Supervisors Becker from the Town of Sheldon and Merrill from the Town of Wethersfield.*

The Veteran leading the Pledge of Allegiance for the January 2, 2026 Organization Meeting is:

### **Air Force Senior Airman Alfred H. Rex, Jr.**

Senior Airman Rex was born and raised in the old Polish neighborhood of the East Side of Buffalo as one of three children and graduated from Emerson Vocational High School in the city. Upon graduating, Sr. Airman Rex went into the working world; eventually, he decided to enlist in the military. When he told his father, his father told him, "Just don't join the Army." Sr. Airman Rex would learn much later in life that his father said that because he was a Green Beret in Vietnam who did not want his son to endure what he had to endure.

In April, 1992 he left for boot camp and trained as a 374 Security Police, aka policeman and would eventually complete his Military Customs Inspector Training Course. He was shipped to Newark Air Force Base in Ohio before being assigned, for three years, to Yokota Air Base in Japan. In 1993, he married the love of his life, Reiko so she could go to Japan with him. They spent three years there, and it was an extremely impactful three years as he loved talking about his experience there along with stories of all of the fun he had. As a customs qualified airman, he was able to spend some time in Hong Kong and Thailand among other wild locales. He loved telling the story about how, as an E-3, he had domain over whatever plane he was assigned to, to inspect the flight and every military personnel on it. One time, a full bird Colonel was giving him a hard time, throwing his rank around. Sr. Airman Rex did not like when that was done. So, he did his part to order the kind of thorough inspection that took three hours longer than the customary inspection. He was honorably discharged in 1996 before joining the Air Force Reserves for two years out of Niagara Falls Air Base, being honorably discharged from in 1998.

For his valor and courageous service to his country, Sr. Airman Rex was awarded the:

**Air Force Achievement Medal**  
**Air Force Longevity Service Award**  
**Air Force Training Ribbon**  
**National Defense Service Medal**  
**Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with 1 device**  
**Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 1 device**  
**Air Force Organizational Excellence Award**  
**Air Force Good Conduct Medal**  
**Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon**

Mr. Rex graduated from ECC with an Associate's Degree before attending Medaille College to earn his Bachelor's and he was then hired by the Veterans Benefits Administration. Mr. Rex was a hard worker who always tried to do the best for our veterans and those he worked with which he did by being the Union President for ten years along with knowing the rules and regulations inside and out. He would help his fellow veterans on the outside navigate the VA albatross as if he was a Veterans Service Officer, so dedicated he was to helping. Even before Covid, by knowing the rules and regulations so well, he was able to receive permission to work from home. Unlike many others, this made Mr. Rex even more productive as he was able to focus on his job and not have the constant pulling in different directions because of what he knew. He was looking forward to retiring in 2026.

Mr. Rex and his wife owned a duplex on Linden Avenue in the city before selling that and moving to gorgeous East Arcade in 2005. Here, he was able to get away from the madness that can be city living. He was a great neighbor and friend who would help any way he could, whether that was mowing his neighbor's lawn when his lawn mower started on fire, clearing the driveway when his neighbor's tractor imploded or taking it upon himself to fix up his neighbor's dilapidated utility trailer, Mr. Rex was a great man. He tragically passed on Thanksgiving from injuries sustained in an auto accident.

Mr. Rex loved his wife, travelling, going to concerts, spending time with his family and friends, playing floor hockey, spending time with his dog, Emma, and hunting. One of his favorite things to complain about was his fantasy football team, to the point where he always said, "I'm done after this year." That line was heard year after year after year. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans and the Arcade American Legion. He will be greatly missed by all those that loved him.

*The pledge was said by all.*

*Supervisor Berwanger joined Clerk Ketchum at the podium. Clerk Ketchum thanked Mrs. Rex for her husband's service and presented the customary Certificate of Appreciation. At that time, Clerk Ketchum turned the floor over to Mrs. Rex to offer a few words.*

*Mrs. Rex thanked the board for this recognition and shared that Director Solina had been asking Mr. Rex to do this for years.*

*The Reverend Mack Bixby offered an opening prayer.*

*Clerk Ketchum welcomed Wyoming County Court Judge, K. Kibler to the proceedings and*

*invited him to administer the oath of office to the entire 2026 Board of Supervisors.*

Clerk Ketchum then called for nominations for **Temporary Chairman** for the year 2026.

Supervisor McCormick, T/Java nominated **Supervisor Becker, T/Sheldon**, seconded by Supervisor Leuer T/Middlebury.

Clerk Ketchum called for further nominations three (3) times.

Hearing no further nominations, Supervisor Brick, T/Perry moved that the nominations be closed and was seconded by Supervisor May, T/Orangeville.

Nominations were declared closed and a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

**Ayes:** (201)                      **Noes:** (0)                      **Absent:** (0)                      **Abstain:** (0)

***Supervisor Becker was declared Temporary Chairman.***

*Judge Kibler administered the Oath of Office to Temporary Chairman Becker.*

Temporary Chairman Becker thanked his fellow Supervisors for the honor of presiding over today's proceedings as Temporary Chair and then called for nominations for **Chairman of the Board** for the year 2026.

Supervisor Klein, T/Castile nominated **Supervisor Brick, T/Perry**, and shared how Supervisor Brick has been a lifelong resident of Wyoming County and the many hours of volunteer service he has given. The nomination was seconded by Supervisor Roberts, T/Genesee Falls.

Temporary Chairman Becker called for further nominations.

Supervisor McCormick, T/Java nominated **Supervisor Kehl, T/Attica**, and shared how Supervisor Kehl has also been a lifelong resident of Wyoming County and has served as the Finance committee chair for several years. The nomination was seconded by Supervisor Perkins, T/Warsaw.

Temporary Chairman Becker called for further nominations three (3) times.

Hearing no further nominations, Supervisor Leuer, T/Middlebury moved that the nominations be closed and was seconded by Supervisor May, T/Orangeville.

Nominations were declared closed and a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

<b>Brick:</b> (22) Arcade	<b>Kehl:</b> (20) Attica	<b>No:</b> (0)	<b>Abstain:</b> (0)
(15) Castile	(17) Bennington		
( 7) Covington	(11) Java		
( 6) Eagle	(13) Sheldon		
(11) Gainesville	(27) Warsaw		
( 2) Genesee Falls	<b>TOTAL (88)</b>		
( 7) Middlebury			

( 7) Orangeville  
(26) Perry  
( 6) Pike  
( 4) Wethersfield  
**TOTAL (113)**

***Temporary Chairman Becker declared Supervisor Brick, T/Perry as Chairman of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors for the year 2026.***

*Judge Kibler administered the Oath of Office to Chairman Brick.*

Chairman Brick thanked everyone for their support and welcomed all to the annual organizational meeting. He then called for called for nominations for ***Vice-Chair of the Board*** for the year 2026.

Supervisor Leuer, T/Middlebury nominated ***Supervisor May, T/Orangeville***, seconded by Supervisor Merrill, T/Wethersfield.

Chairman Brick called for further nominations three (3) times.

Hearing no further nominations, Supervisor Klein, T/Castile moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Roberts, T/Genesee Falls.

Nominations were declared closed and a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

**Ayes:** (201)                      **Noes:** (0)                      **Absent:** (0)                      **Abstain:** (0)

***Supervisor May, T/Orangeville was declared Vice-Chairman of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors for the year 2026.***

*Judge Kibler administered the Oath of Office to Vice Chairman May*

Chairman Brick called for nominations for ***Clerk to the Board*** for the year 2026.

Supervisor May, T/Orangeville nominated ***Cheryl J. Ketchum***. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Klein, T/Castile.

Chairman Brick called for further nominations three (3) times.

Hearing no further nominations, Supervisor Klein, T/Castile moved that the nominations be closed and the motion was seconded by Supervisor Merrill, T/Wethersfield.

Nominations were declared closed and a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

**Ayes:** (201)                      **Noes:** (0)                      **Absent:** (0)                      **Abstain:** (0)

***Cheryl J. Ketchum was declared Clerk to the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors for the year 2026.***

*Judge Kibler administered the Oath of Office to Board Clerk, Cheryl Ketchum.*

Chairman Brick asked **Wyoming County Clerk, Gina Skidmore**, to please join Judge Kibler at the podium to be sworn in.

*Judge Kibler administered the Oath of Office to County Clerk, Gina Skidmore.*

Chairman Brick asked **Wyoming County Coroners, William Lampke and Mike Smith** to please join Judge Kibler at the podium to be sworn in.

*Oath of office administered to Coroners Lampke and Smith by Judge Kibler.*

**2026 Committee assignments for the Supervisors were announced ~**

**#1**

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-001  
(January 02, 2026)**

By Supervisor Kehl, Chairman of the Finance Committee:

**JANIS COOK REAPPOINTED WYOMING COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That **Janis Cook**, [REDACTED], Warsaw NY 14569 be hereby reappointed as the **Wyoming County Budget Officer** for a term of one (1) year; effective January 01, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

**Carried: XXX      Ayes: 201      Noes: 0      Absent: 0      Abstain: 0**

**#2**

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-002  
(January 02, 2026)**

By Supervisor Roche, Chairman of the Human Resource Committee:

**JENNIFER M. WILKINSON, ESQ. REAPPOINTED COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That **Jennifer M. Wilkinson**, 11 Exchange Street, Attica NY 14011 be hereby reappointed County Attorney for the County of Wyoming for a term of one (1) year; effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

**Carried: XXX      Ayes: 201      Noes: 0      Absent: 0      Abstain: 0**

Chairman Brick asked for approval pursuant to Rule 25F to appoint Anthony Solina to the position of Veteran Services Director for one year. Supervisor Berwanger, T/Arcade made a motion to approve the appointment. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Rudgers, T/Covington.

**Carried: XXX      Ayes: 201      Noes: 0      Absent: 0      Abstain: 0**

# *2026 Chairman's State of the County Address*

*January 02, 2026*

Welcome, fellow Supervisors; Department Heads and Guests; Elected Officials; Sheriff Linder, newly elected County Clerk Gina Skidmore, Treasurer Robin LaWall, Judge Kibler; and Judge O'Geen.

Each year brings new faces to the County and departure of many valued longtime employees. Best wishes to retiring Chairwoman Becky Ryan and Supervisor Ellen Grant -- may retirement be all you hoped for. IDA director Jim Pierce, County Clerk Rhonda Pierce, Social Services Director Kim Barber and OFA Director Andrea Aldinger have also decided to retire. We thank them for their long service to Wyoming County.

2025 also brought new faces to Wyoming County. We welcome Jeff Perry as CEO of the Wyoming County Community Health System. He will continue to administer the Critical Access program at the hospital. We also welcome Real Property Director Tori Blancato, our new Planning Director Matt Verrelli and the new Social Services Director Ben Dennis. We also honor current employees moving up including Gina Skidmore to County Clerk and Tess Phillips to Director of Office for the Aging and Youth Bureau.

As we strive to keep taxes at a minimum, we rely on grants we receive to offset costs to county residents. These grants don't just happen, someone has to spend many hours preparing the applications. We credit the many County employees who have worked tirelessly preparing the grant applications that were awarded in 2025.

Entering 2026, we have multiple capital improvement projects to address. The renovation of 450 North Main St., a broad band project and an addition to the jail. The 450 North Main project will retro fit the building to house Mental Health services and the County Attorney. The jail expansion will add space to the jail to meet State regulations. This project will take more some time to complete. Broadband throughout the County has been discussed for many years. Now it appears to be a reality. Additionally, the hospital has been awarded funding to upgrade outdated operating rooms to accommodate more surgeries.

Our Building and Grounds Department, under Director Mike Adamczak and his team, consistently work on maintaining our 15 county buildings. The Fire Training Center that was just completed was a collaboration of Buildings and Grounds, the County Administrator, and Emergency Services. The wall along Oatka Creek at the Ag and Business Center was completed with cooperation of the Highway Department. They also managed the paving of the parking lot there. We have upgraded the elevator in the Government Center and made state required improvements to the Animal control building.

The Highway Department continues to keep the 240 miles of county roads in excellent condition. The roads were upgraded with support from our Better Pavement program. Now we continue to use surface treatments on the roads and replace aging bridges and culverts.

The Emergency Services Department was successful in securing a grant to improve the County ambulance. The renovation of the County Fire Training Center will enable them to continue to train our wonderful county volunteers.

Our Budget Department led by Budget Officer Cook, continues to do an exceptional job as we approved the 2026 budget without having to override the tax cap.

Wyoming County continues to be a leader in Green Energy. The proposed upgrades to the Eagle and Wethersfield wind turbines and Orangeville's battery storage facility bring revenue to the local municipalities. The proposed solar field projects continue to be a subject of discussion at the local town level throughout the County. With agriculture as the largest industry in Wyoming County, solar placement on prime farmland is a huge question that will continue to be discussed. Supporting agriculture, the dairy industry appears to be growing in the county with addition of milking cows driven by the demand from milk processors like Great Lakes Cheese in Franklinville and Fairlife in Penfield.

As the nation celebrates 250 years in 2026, Wyoming County will continue to move forward. I am proud to serve with a Board of Supervisors that are committed to serving the residents of Wyoming County.

*There being no further business to come before this Board, Senior Supervisor Berwanger, T/Arcade, adjourned the meeting at 2:49 PM with a rap on his desk.*

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Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl J. Ketchum, <sup>CMC</sup>  
Clerk to the Board

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