

BUDGET, FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
OF THE
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 5:40 p.m.

Committee Chair Lawler called the committee to order at 5:40 p.m.

PRESENT: 11 ATKINS, BRENDLI, CASWELL, DARROW, LAWLER, METZGER,
MUNN, POLASEK, REDL, RHODES, VALDÉS SMITH

ABSENT: 1 JOHNSON

PRESENT/LATE: 0

QUORUM PRESENT

Presentations and Reports

None

Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items

None

Resolutions

2026070 Approval of Application to Correct Tax Roll and to Order the Local Tax Collector to Issue a Corrected Tax Bill (Applicant: M-M2 RE Holdings 23 LLC)

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: None.

The Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislator Johnson absent.

2026071 Approval of Application to Correct Tax Bill and to Order the Local Tax Collector to Issue a Corrected Tax Bill (Applicant: Klever G. Merchan and Zoila Bermeo)

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: None.

The Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislator Johnson absent.

2026072 Authorizing Salary for an Operations and Communications Director in the Fourth Quartile of the Confidential Salary Schedule as it Relates to the Comptroller's Office

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Minority Leader Polasek asked for the justification for the increase in salary.

Comptroller Aymar-Blair explained that the duties of positions in the office have evolved and led to the creation of a new position, but technical classification requires an adjustment in salary.

Leader Polasek noted the adjustment is cost-neutral and asked about any new job responsibilities and why the position was not moved to a higher classification grade.

Comptroller Aymar-Blair replied that the classification of the job is a question for HR but that the job description has been completely rewritten.

Leader Polasek asked Human Resources Commissioner Kashimer about the job classification.

Commissioner Kashimer explained the departmental methodology behind the classification.

The Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislator Johnson absent.

2026074 Mortgage Tax Apportionment Period October 1, 2025 Through March 31, 2026

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Leader Munn asked if Clerk Kendall could speak about changes to the Mortgage Tax figures.

Clerk Kendall explained differences between the County and the State data entry systems resulting in an error which was then corrected.

Acting Finance Commissioner Decker explained the process from the Finance standpoint.

Legislator Kaul said she had noted the discrepancy.

Legislator Shah noted the amounts by which various municipalities would have been incorrectly disbursed mortgage tax distributions.

Leader Munn acknowledged Legislators Kaul and Redl for spotting the error so it could be corrected before it was enacted and require remedial action.

The Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislator Johnson absent.

2026075 Rescission of Resolution Nos. 2024216 and 2025159

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: None.

The Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislator Johnson absent.

2026076 A Resolution Authorizing Design Costs for the Campus Transformation Project for the Dutchess Community College, in and for the County of Dutchess, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$8,707,356, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,353,678 Bonds of Said County to Pay a Portion of the Cost Thereof (Discussion Only)

Discussion: Legislator Caswell spoke in favor of the campus transformation process.

Legislature Chair Valdes Smith spoke in favor of the campus transformation process.

2026077 A Resolution Authorizing Construction Management Services for the Dutchess Community College Campus Transformation Project, in and for the County of Dutchess, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$4,731,679, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,365,840 Bonds of Said County to Pay a Portion of the Cost Thereof (Discussion Only)

Discussion: None.

2026078 Ratifying the 2025-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Dutchess County and the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Dutchess County (CSEA) and Amending the 2026 Adopted County Budget to Effectuate the Salary Adjustments for the CSEA Members and for Management and Confidential Employees as Well as the Board of Elections Commissioners

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Legislature Chair Valdes Smith spoke in favor of the Resolution.

Legislator Rhodes asked for confirmation that the \$12 million coming from County Fund Balance was planned throughout the process.

Budget Director White confirmed that it was planned.

Committee Chair Lawler spoke in favor of the Resolution.

The Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislator Johnson absent.

2026073 Confirming the Appointment of Shannon Decker as Commissioner of Finance

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Leader Munn asked if anyone from the County wished to speak about the appointment.

Budget Director White described Acting Commissioner Decker's employment history and spoke highly of her job performance for many years.

Legislator Shah thanked Acting Commissioner Decker for her longstanding service to the County. She expressed that she had directed questions to the County Executive regarding the appointment which were not answered and asked about the selection process.

Assistant County Executive Pulver explained the process.

Legislator Shah asked about experience with certain functions of the position.

Assistant County Executive Pulver said the candidate met those qualifications.

Legislator Shah asked about the candidate's experience in personnel management.

Assistant County Executive Pulver said the candidate had management experience and was respected within the department.

Legislator Shah asked about the hiring committee.

Assistant County Executive Pulver said the committee consisted of County Executive Serino, himself, and other staff members.

Majority Leader Atkins requested a 10-minute caucus, which was granted at 6:18pm.

The Committee reconvened at 6:28pm.

Leader Atkins spoke about the process, clarifying the questions being asked are not to call into question the qualifications or merits of the candidate, but rather the process by which information is conveyed from the County Executive's office to the Legislature.

Leader Munn agreed with Leader Atkins and encouraged the Committee to advance the Resolution, noting that he hoped the questions would be answered before the Legislature meeting on Monday.

Legislator Caswell asked if the Legislators had any further unanswered questions which could be answered tonight.

Budget Director White offered to answer any further questions.

Leader Munn said any questions would be sent directly and not handled on the floor.

Leader Polasek asked if the Minority could receive the answers, to which Leader Munn agreed.

The Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislator Johnson absent.

There being no further business, Committee Chair Lawler adjourned the Committee meeting at 6:33 p.m.