

BUDGET, FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 5:35 p.m.

Committee Chair Lawler called the committee to order at 5:43 p.m.

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

ABSENT: 1           CASWELL

PRESENT/LATE: 0

QUORUM PRESENT

**Presentations and Reports**

None

**Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items**

None

**Resolutions considered out of numerical order will be placed in numerical order for fluidity**

**2026011 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO CORRECTING ERRORS ON  
TAX ROLLS**

Motion by Majority Leader Atkins, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Legislator Redl asked about the frequency of errors on tax rolls which require correction. Heidi Seelbach, Commissioner of the Dutchess County Department of Finance, explained that such errors are few, but the delegation of authority reduces the frequency with which errors must come before the County Legislature for rectification.

The foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee, with Legislator Caswell absent.

**2026012 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY  
TAX REFUNDS**

Motion by Majority Leader Atkins, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

The foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee, with Legislator Caswell absent.

**2026013 GRANTS SICK LEAVE AT HALF PAY TO AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DUTCHESS  
COUNTY JUSTICE AND TRANSITION CENTER**

Motion by Majority Leader Atkins, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Legislator Shah asked about the process of determining the extension of sick leave to 60 days. Rachel M. Kashimer, Commissioner of the Dutchess County Department of Human Resources, explained the sick leave policy and procedure for bringing extensions of sick leave before the County Legislature for approval.

The foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee, with Legislator Caswell absent.

**2026015 APPOINTMENT TO THE DUTCHESS COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

Motion by Majority Leader Atkins, duly seconded by Legislator Brendli.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn was granted permission by the Chair to recuse himself, and removed himself from the chambers for the duration of the discussion of the question for Resolutions 2026015 and 2026016.

Assistant Minority Leader Metzger asked a procedural question about the timing of the Resolution being added to the agenda and supported the appointment. Chairperson Valdés Smith responded to those concerns, explaining the matter was extremely time-sensitive and asked Legislative Counsel Treybich to render a legal opinion. Legislative Counsel Treybich cited relevant law empowering the Chair of the Legislature to waive the 72-hour notification provision. Minority Leader Polasek was granted permission by the Chair for a five-minute Caucus.

Upon return from Caucus, Minority Leader Polasek concluded his comments, asking if in the future, the Minority Caucus leadership could receive communication from the Chair of the Legislature when the Chair is waiving the 72-hour notification provision. Chairperson Valdés Smith responded to those comments, assuring that request would be met.

The foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee, with Legislator Caswell absent and Assistant Majority Leader Munn abstaining.

**2026016 APPOINTMENT TO THE DUTCHESS COUNTY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

Motion by Majority Leader Atkins, duly seconded by Legislator Brendli.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn remained out of chambers for the duration of the discussion of the question.

Minority Leader Polasek reiterated comments from the prior Resolution. Chairperson Valdés Smith responded to those comments, assuring that request would be met.

The foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee, with Legislator Caswell absent and Assistant Majority Leader Munn abstaining.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Lawler at 6:05 p.m.