The steady expansion of Dutchess County's population from the late eighteenth century fueled changes in the board of supervisors. As new towns sprang up across the county, additional supervisors joined the annual meetings in Poughkeepsie. The board began meeting multiple times per year by the 1790s, including two meetings chaired by judges from the Court of Common Pleas to review county loans. By 1803, the supervisors were choosing a chairman to lead their meetings. The supervisors elected Ebenezer Carey to serve as chairman that year. The board's workload grew in concert with the increasing strains on county infrastructure. First roads, then train lines, and finally public services of all kinds occupied the supervisors' time. Meetings featured increasing amounts of committee work to manage the county's needs alongside hearings to resolve a variety of disputes. The need for a dedicated county-level legislative body became apparent as the twentieth century progressed.