The regular meeting of the Tioga County Commissioners was called to order this day at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present: Shane Nickerson, Sam VanLoon, and Marc Rice. Also present was Janice Chamberlain, Jen Cochran, Casey Zuchowski, Kera Hackett, Lisa Rice, Marti Shabloski, Saira Olson, Sandra Olson, Betsy Craig, Joy Childs, Chris Perry, Rachel Courtney, Kaye Aumick, Josh Zeyn, Sara Rice, Mary Wilson, Cindy Alexander, Malachi Dodge, Troy Freeman, Pip Burrous, Leon Kocher, Bill David, Dan Styborksi, Rob Then, Wayne Gray, Bob Goodrich, and press representative Natalie Kennedy.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment – None

Minutes

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the minutes of September 8, 2026.

Presentation

Robert Then, Central Area Director for PEMA, presented a County Coordinator Professional Certification to Marti Shabloski, Deputy Director Tioga County Emergency Management.

Resignations
T.Rodriguez
O.Betts
M.Underwood
E. Crippen
C.May
N.Bowen

For information, the following resignations were received:
Tammy Rodriguez – Support Services, effective 9/18/26
Olga Betts – DHS, effective 9/21/26
Melissa Underwood - Planning department, effective 10/2/26
Erica Crippen – Tioga County Prison, effective 10/11/26
Carolyn May – DHS, effective 10/14/26
Nicholas Bowen – Tioga County Prison, effective 11/30/26

Transfer
C.Gross

For information, transfer of Chelsea Gross from District Attorney's Office to Judicial Line Staff in the Probation Department, $15.83/hr. effective 10/5/26.

Hire F.Knapp

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Fawn Knapp, Custodian, $14.50/hr. with benefits, effective 9/21/26.

Hire B.Kemp

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Breighanna Kemp, Caseworker 2 Family Services, $19.05/hr. with benefits, effective 10/5/26.

Hire M.Kemp

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Miya Kemp, part-time on-call Corrections Officer, Tioga County Prison, $18.00/hr., no benefits, effective 10/18/26.

Hire
A.Pecynski

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Avrielle Pecynski, part-time Clerk, Public Defender's office, $13.00/hr., no benefits.

Transfer
P.Alexander

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the transfer of Pamela Alexander from Clerical Support, DHS, to Custodial Supervisor, Maintenance, $17.50/hr. with benefits, effective 9/21/26.

2027 Holiday calendars

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the 2027 holiday calendars for county staff and 24-hour operation staff.

Use of Green

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve use of the Green, October 24, 2026 from Noon – 2:00 p.m. for the annual Sheriff's Office trunk or treat.

Use of Green

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve use of the Green for a wedding on May 22, 2027.

Farmland Pres Board reappointments

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the reappointment of Donald Hoffman and Gayle Morrow to the Farmland Preservation Board, for three-year terms each.

Ag Land Pres. 2027 allocation

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a request from the Tioga County Agricultural Land Preservation board for a 2027 allocation of $100,000 for the purchase of conservation easements. Will be paid from the Landfill Escrow account.

County real estate tax refunds

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the following Tioga County real estate tax refunds: Wayne Henderson, Charleston Twp., $153.79; Patrick Gerard & Ann Marie Crowley, Charleston Twp., $88.37; Glenard & Sharon Kaitlyn Wetzel, Lawrenceville Borough, $63.20; Ronald & Lisa Penner, Richmond Twp., $65.98.

SFPP grant agreement

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a State Food Purchase Program Grant Agreement, $83,146.59 for state fiscal year 2026.

Johnson Controls agreement

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a one-year renewal of service agreement with Johnson Controls for the fire alarm system in the courthouse - $2,720.

Renea's Mowing Services agreement

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a five-year agreement with Renea's Mowing Services, for maintenance of the three Tioga County dams - $10,700/year. Will be paid from the Landfill Escrow account.

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to issue the following Proclamation:

Proclamation

Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

WHEREAS, the residents of Tioga County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tioga County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than $52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Tioga County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Tioga County hereby declares this time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Tioga County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 4-11, 2026.

Date: October 13, 2026 /s/ Shane Nickerson /s/ Sam VanLoon /s/ Marc Rice

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to issue the following Proclamation:

Proclamation

Honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Wellsboro Business and Professional Women's Club

WHEREAS, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs was founded over a century ago with a mission to achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information; and

WHEREAS, the Wellsboro Business and Professional Women's Club is one of Pennsylvania's longest-standing Business & Professional Women's organizations, and has proudly served Tioga County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a century, empowering women through leadership, education, advocacy, mentorship, and community service; and

WHEREAS, the Wellsboro BPW continues to elevate the next generation of local leaders through impactful ongoing programs, vital career workshops, and the proud tradition of honoring local students with scholarship awards and youth recognition programs; and

WHEREAS, women constitute a critical portion of our nation's workforce, and women-owned businesses account for a vital share of our economic strength, making the civic and economic contributions of professional women indispensable to the progress of our entire community; and

WHEREAS, this centennial milestone marks not only a rich history of local leadership but also honors the generations of visionary women whose profound commitment shaped the civic landscape we enjoy today.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Tioga County Board of Commissioners to recognize and commend the Wellsboro BPW members—past, present, and future—for a century of dedication to the economic, civic, and cultural advancement of women.

Tioga County Board of Commissioners /s/ Shane Nickerson /s/ Sam VanLoon /s/ Marc Rice

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution R-20-26

Tioga County
RESOLUTION NO. R-20-26

Be it RESOLVED, that the County of Tioga does hereby request a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant in an amount up to $3,000,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to be used for the Tioga County Hazard Mitigation Bridge Project.

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Marc Rice as the official to execute all documents and agreements between the County of Tioga and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Janice Chamberlain, duly qualified Chief Clerk of the County of Tioga, Tioga County, PA, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Tioga County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held October 13, 2026 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the County of Tioga and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of the County of Tioga, this 13th day of October 2026.

/s/ Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution R-21-26

Resolution R-21-26

A Resolution of the Tioga County Board of Commissioners, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program, and further certifying compliance with the requirements of said program.

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the public interest that the County of Tioga, Pennsylvania, receive funds from the commonwealth through the Department of Community and Economic Development in accordance with the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program; and

WHEREAS, the County of Tioga has the legal authority to apply for Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery funds; and

WHREAS, the Tioga County Board of Commissioners have undertaken a considerable community participation process including written invitations to municipalities, informational meetings, and legal notices all of which culminated in the prioritization of projects and development of a Community Needs Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Tioga County Board of Commissioners are familiar with the requirements of the program; and

WHEREAS, the Tioga County Board of Commissioners wishes to apply for said funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tioga County Board of Commissioners that its Chairman is authorized to have prepared the necessary forms and documents to submit an application to the Department of Community and Economic Development for Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds for the purposes aforesaid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if CDBG-DR funds are determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to be expended on ineligible program costs or do not meet a national objective, the County of Tioga agrees to repay the proportion deemed ineligible from non-federal sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the needs assessment development in coordination with low and moderate individuals, interested organizations, non-profits and other interested parties through the citizen participation process and municipal information gathering is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Tioga County Board of Commissioners is empowered to place their signature, on behalf of the governing body, on necessary application forms and affix thereto the official seal of the Unit of Local Government.

Adopted by the Tioga County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting of date October 13, 2026.

Attest: /s/ Shane Nickerson /s/ Sam VanLoon /s/ Marc Rice
Date: 10/13/26

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution R-22-26

Resolution R-22-26

A Resolution of the Tioga County Board of Commissioners, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, as authorized under the Housing and Community Development Act [42 USC 5301 and 24 CFR Part 570], and further certifying compliance with the requirements of said program.

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the public interest that the Tioga County Board of Commissioners, Pennsylvania, receive funds from the Commonwealth through the Department of Community and Economic Development in accordance with the Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Tioga County Board of Commissioners has the legal authority and responsibility under Act 179 to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds; and

WHREAS, the Tioga County Board of Commissioners have undertaken a considerable citizen participation process including written invitations to municipalities, informational meetings, and legal notices all of which culminated in the prioritization of projects and development of a Community Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Tioga County Board of Commissioners are familiar with the requirements of the program as provided for in the Housing and Community Development Act (HCDA) and the Community Development Block Grant regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Tioga County Board of Commissioners wishes to apply for said funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tioga County Board of Commissioners that the County of Tioga is authorized to have prepared the necessary forms and documents to submit an application to the Department of Community and Economic Development for Community Development Block Grant funds for the purposes aforesaid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if CDBG funds are determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to be expended on ineligible program costs or do not meet a national objective, the Tioga County Board of Commissioners agrees to repay the proportion deemed ineligible from non-federal sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Community Development Plan was developed in coordination with low and moderate individuals, interested organizations, non-profits and other interested parties through the citizen participation process and municipal information gathering is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Tioga of the Tioga County Board of Commissioners is empowered to place his/her signature, on behalf of the governing body, on necessary application forms and affix thereto the official seal of the Tioga County Board of Commissioners.

Adopted by the Tioga County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting of date October 13, 2026.

Attest: /s/ Shane Nickerson /s/ Sam VanLoon /s/ Marc Rice
Date: 10/13/26

DHS – 10 agreements

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve ten agreements for Department of Human Services. A listing is attached.

A/P, Payroll Sept 2026

For information:
September 2026 Payroll & Benefits: $ 1,648,104.32
September 2026 Accounts Payable: $ 2,741,094.28

County Fairgrounds plan

Commissioner News – A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to agree to partner with the Tioga County Fair Association to come up with a master plan for the Tioga County Fairgrounds, that will address the needs of the fair as well as goals for growth.

Public Comment –
Joy Childs – the 2025 county audit is available
Leon Kocher – LERTA law Section 5, #2, re: limit on new construction; geothermal regulations; nuclear energy option for data center power

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

_____
Shane Nickerson

Attest: _____
Janice Chamberlain

_____
Sam VanLoon

_____
Marc Rice

Tioga County Commissioners' Office, Wellsboro, PA

October 13, 2026
SALARY BOARD

The regular meeting of the Tioga County Salary Board was called to order this day at 10:35 a.m. with the following members present: Shane Nickerson, Sam VanLoon, Marc Rice, and Kera Hackett. Also present was Janice Chamberlain, Jen Cochran, Casey Zuchowski, Kera Hackett, Lisa Rice, Marti Shabloski, Saira Olson, Sandra Olson, Betsy Craig, Joy Childs, Chris Perry, Rachel Courtney, Kaye Aumick, Josh Zeyn, Sara Rice, Mary Wilson, Cindy Alexander, Malachi Dodge, Troy Freeman, Pip Burrous, Leon Kocher, Bill David, Dan Styborksi, Rob Then, Wayne Gray, Bob Goodrich, and press representative Natalie Kennedy.

Public Comment - none

Minutes

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Kera Hackett and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to approve the minutes of September 8, 2026.

Rate increase M.Hughes

A motion was made by Kera Hackett, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to increase rate of pay by $1.00/hour for Maureen Hughes, Domestic Relations Office, for completion of training, effective 10/5/26.

Rate increase M.Boyce

A motion was made by Kera Hackett, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to increase rate of pay by $0.50/hour for Marena Boyce, for promotion to Probation Officer Aide, effective 9/21/26, with an additional $1.00/hour increase once fully qualified.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

_____
Shane Nickerson

Attest: _____
Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk

_____
Sam VanLoon

_____
Marc Rice

_____
Kera Hackett