

*Fourth Special Meeting
March 21, 2019*

The Fourth Special Meeting of 2019 was called to order by the Chair at 10:00 A.M. Eight Legislative members were present, Legislator Standinger being absent.

Chair Sauerbrey asked Legislator Balliet to have a moment of prayer. "Let us pray. Thank you Lord for watching over us and keeping us healthy as we come here today. We ask that you will put some spring in our lives, spring in our steps, and help us to spring to action with the Legislative efforts we have to pursue, and be with us as we spring forward in our lives."

Legislator Balliet led all Legislators and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 5 people in attendance.

John Holton, Veterans' Service Agency Director spoke. "Good morning. First of all thank you, I have had the honor of working on this project for over a year now and first of all what it means to be designated as a Purple Heart County in my mind and in my heart is that we are acknowledging the blood that has been let for our freedoms. It is no more complicated than that and it is a daily demonstration by posting signs, which will be posted in 11 different locations around the County and I have a list of the locations that have been selected by Gary Hammond in conjunction with the New York State DOT.

"It is not more complicated than that. No obligations and simply an enduring, durable expression of our appreciation because these people walk among us, in some cases they are no longer with us as a result of their sacrifice. The reason for the secrecy, I will give you a little background, I started to process this as I said about a year ago and on two different occasions well meaning people in the public decided that they could do it better, faster, more efficiently than the process we are all engaged in on a day to day basis and their efforts actually slowed down the process. Also, once there was communication with the prison system who created these signs, one time all the machinery in the prison shop broke down for no reason. Two weeks later the main computer cable serving all the equipment mysteriously got cut and so that is why we are here later in the season than I had hoped, but I did not make any announcements knowing the potential for that and I am sorry for the inconvenience for you folks, but the timing just was not allowing us to be all that graceful."

Chair Sauerbrey spoke. "I have had a sign in my office for months, but we wanted to save it because there is a process and a procedure, and we will unveil

the Purple Heart sign at the upcoming Veterans event, which is the second annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. You are all invited to attend, certainly the Veterans will be encouraged to attend and participate. I thank John for going through this and be able to produce this by prison workers."

John Holton, Veterans' Service Agency Director spoke. "It was actually delivered to our doorstep by a work release prisoner. Cost of the project, I had to make a decision yesterday. The State is approaching the budget deadline and I was contacted by my contact in the prison system in the billing system yesterday where she had a total urgency and so I went ahead and actually satisfied the bill so that Tioga County would not have a bad reputation with these people who have really served well for us, but beyond that there is an anonymous individual who has agreed to pay for the cost of the signs. The fee is \$357.78. Temporarily it has come out of my budget, but I will talk to Jim McFadden and see how we can accept that offset. It is 0 cost. Every one of the locations where the signs are going to be installed is on a two-lane State highway. Gary Hammond is to be commended for his working with the State DOT to look at all the rules and regulations and I will be releasing the rest of the signs following the official announcement for installation."

Legislator Sullivan spoke. "You have a list of the 11 locations and can you mail a copy to me?"

John Holton, Veterans' Service Agency Director spoke. "I have a copy right here and I will provide you with it."

Legislator Sullivan spoke. "Question number two, did anything fishy go on that we should know about?"

Chair Sauerbrey spoke. "No, it is our story to tell and that is why we kept it under wraps."

John Holton, Veterans' Service Agency Director spoke. "There were well meaning individuals in our community who tried to go on point about it. Nothing fishy, just inconvenient."

Legislator Weston spoke. "They are only going to go on State highways? Is there a way that if a person purchased one sign that it could be put on a Town road or a Village road? For example, if I bought one in honor of my nephew could that be put down near the Casino because there are a huge number of veterans that go back and forth there?"

John Holton, Veterans' Service Agency Director spoke. "Especially coming in from Sayre, the back road from Sayre. Let me check with Gary Hammond and then I will communicate directly with you."

Legislator Sullivan spoke. "I would imagine you would probably have to get the approval of the Town or Village."

John Holton, Veterans' Service Agency Director spoke. "That is a very good idea and I will get that information in case other ideas come up for placement. At the March 29th Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Ceremony I have been assured that there will be four members of leadership from the Military Order of Purple Heart who will be coming from Westchester County to lay a wreath in our memorial park at the Court House. Thank you very much."

Legislator Sullivan moved for the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Legislator Weston.

REFERRED TO: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 113-19 *DESIGNATING TIOGA COUNTY AS A PURPLE HEART COUNTY*

WHEREAS: The Tioga County Veterans Service Agency, Tioga County Legislature, and the residents of Tioga County have great admiration and respect and gratitude for all of our veterans who have served this country in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS: The Purple Heart, original created by George Washington in 1782 as the "Badge of Military Merit", is the oldest military decoration still in use; and

WHEREAS: The Purple Heart is awarded to any member of the United States Armed Forces wounded or killed in combat against a declared enemy of the United States; and

WHEREAS: There have been 167 residents of Tioga County who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country from World War I through our current conflicts and there are numerous combat-wounded veterans currently residing within Tioga County; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature hereby designates Tioga County as a Purple Heart County, honoring the service and sacrifice of our men and women who were wounded or killed by the enemy while serving in uniform to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes – Legislators Balliet, Hollenbeck, Monell, Mullen, Sauerbrey, Roberts, Sullivan and Weston.

No – None.

Absent – Legislator Standinger.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Legislator Sullivan moved for the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Legislator Monell.

REFERRED TO: LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 114-19 *AUTHORIZE CREATE & FILL POSITION
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE*

WHEREAS: Legislative approval is required for creation of any position; and

WHEREAS: The District Attorney has realized a need for an Investigator in his office to handle confidential investigations as well as assist with other programs; and

WHEREAS: The County Legislature is supportive of the creation of this position; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That one hourly, Non-Union position (up to 29 hours per week) of District Attorney Investigator is created with approval to fill effective April 1, 2019 at an hourly rate of \$34.00 per hour; and be it further

RESOLVED: That due to the hourly status, the incumbent shall not qualify for Non-Union Benefits; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the appointment shall be provisional pending jurisdictional clarification; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the District Attorney's headcount shall be adjusted to four (4) full-time and three (3) part-time.

Legislator Mullen spoke. "I just wanted to say thank you to Bethany because I had a conversation with Kirk and he talked to me about this and he said that Bethany had been absolutely tremendous through this effort. It did not go unnoticed. Thank you very much."

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes – Legislators Balliet, Hollenbeck, Monell, Mullen, Sauerbrey, Roberts, Sullivan and Weston

No – None.

Absent – Legislator Standinger.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 A.M.