



Inclusion Through Diversity

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TWO PAGES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Highlights of the **December 19, 2017** meeting of the Tompkins County Legislature

Legislature Approves Appointment of Jason Molino as County Administrator

The Legislature, by unanimous vote, confirmed the appointment of Jason Molino, currently City Manager of the City of Batavia, NY, as Tompkins County Administrator, effective January 29, 2018. In a second unanimous vote, the Legislature approved an annual salary for the position of \$130,000 for 2018, which falls above the position's current salary range. The action also indicates that the County Administrator will be eligible to receive the same fringe benefits and annual salary adjustments as those provided other management staff as negotiated and upon ratification of the County's CSEA White Collar union.

A credentialed local government management professional by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) with diversified experience in public administration, Mr. Molino has served as the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Fiscal Officer of the City of Batavia since 2006 and for two years before that as Assistant to the Village Manager for the Village of Port Chester, New York.

Legislature Chair Michael Lane congratulated Mr. Molino on behalf of the Legislature, and said that, among the things that had impressed the Legislature was that, after applying, he had taken the time to attend some of the meetings of the Legislature and its committees. "This is a feather in his cap," Lane said.

"Thank you for the warm welcome," the new Administrator said. "It's an honor to be selected." Molino added that he has watched Tompkins County government from afar over the years, and that "it's a pleasure to be part of this team."

Budget, Capital, and Personnel Committee Chair Jim Dennis, who chaired the search committee, remarked, "I'm pleased with the work of the committee and the people involved in it—another good process that the County has had to pick people for very important jobs."

Other Administration changes:

Chair Lane announced that long-time Deputy County Administrator Paula Younger, who has served as Interim County Administrator since mid-November, has received an opportunity for another important role and will be leaving county government in early January. "I think it will be wonderful for our government and Tompkins County, as well," he said, telling Younger, "We certainly appreciate what you have been doing for us every day." County Attorney Jonathan Wood will assume Interim Administrator responsibilities from the time of Ms. Younger's departure until Administrator Molino comes on board.

Contact: Michael Lane, Chair of the Legislature, 274-5434 or 844-8440; James Dennis, Chair, Budget, Capital and Personnel Committee, 592-3206; Jason Molino, 585-356-3442.

Legislature Bids Farewell to Departing Legislators

The Legislature said good-bye to four long-time Legislators at their final meeting before the current Legislature term ends at year's end. Leaving legislative service are Legislators Dooley Kiefer (District 10/Villages of Lansing and Cayuga Heights), Jim Dennis (District 5/Ulysses and Enfield), Carol Chock (District 3/City/Town of Ithaca), and Will Burbank (District 12/Town of Ithaca). Many Legislators thanked their departing colleagues

for their years of dedicated service and commitment to the people of Tompkins County. Calling it bittersweet, Legislator Martha Robertson calculated that, along with former colleague Peter Stein, who resigned last fall, the departing Legislators collectively have 64 years of service on the Legislature. Those leaving the Legislature also reflected fondly on their time of service, and the shared value for their legislative colleagues. “Not only are we a team trying to do the best for our constituents and community, we are also a family,” Legislature Chair Michael Lane said, and he observed that it felt like when family members were leaving Everyone’s unique contributions are deeply valued and will be missed, he said.

Contact: Michael Lane, Chair of the Legislature, 274-5434 or 844-8440; Legislator Dooley Kiefer, 257-7453; Legislator James Dennis, 592-3206; Legislator Carol Chock, 273-9007; Legislator Will Burbank, 272-7555.

Legislature Authorizes Tompkins Center for History and Culture Memorandum of Understanding

The Legislature, by unanimous vote, authorized the County Administrator to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with participants in the Tompkins Center for History and Culture. The County has committed funds to purchase the Tompkins Trust Company Building, at 110 North Tioga Street on the Ithaca Commons—the intent to use the building as home for the Tompkins Center for History and Culture, a coalition involving the History Center and other not-for-profit groups with the common purpose of documenting, supporting, and celebrating our common history and culture. The MOU describes the rental and governance commitments for those groups participating in the Center.

Legislator Rich John, who has worked to help make the project happen, said negotiations with Tompkins Trust could conclude this week. He called the Memorandum of Understanding a guidance document for “a very complicated project with a lot of working parts.” Mr. John said the project’s private capital campaign is going well, and it has been awarded nearly \$1.4 million in grants as part of the latest New York State Consolidated Funding grant process.

Contact: Legislator Rich John, 256-9794; Dan Klein, Chair, Government Operations Committee, 272-7582

Community Housing Development Funds Authorized for West End Heights Project

The Legislature, without dissent (Legislators Carol Chock and Mike Sigler abstained due to potential conflicts), authorized expenditure of \$100,000 from its share of Community Housing Development funding to support Lakeview Health Services’ West End Heights housing project at 709 W. Court Street in Ithaca, which will provide 60 rental units of supportive and affordable housing. The Program Oversight Committee of the Community Housing Development Fund accepted the project for \$250,000 total funding—\$100,000 from Tompkins County and \$150,000 from the City of Ithaca.

Legislator Martha Robertson, chair of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, called it “a really exciting project that is badly needed,” to serve, in part, people with mental health-related disabilities. She noted that this allocation uses all of this year’s County contribution to the Community Housing Development Fund. County contribution to the Housing Fund comes from loan repayments of past Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awards, not from property tax dollars.

Contact: Martha Robertson, Chair, Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, 592-3119; Associate Planner Megan McDonald, Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability, 274-5560.

Among other business, the Legislature

- Appropriated \$28,250 from the Contingent Fund to support an annual rent and vacancy survey of rental units in Tompkins County, as directed in the Tompkins County Housing Strategy. The 2017 Budget included \$30,000 in contingent funding to support targeted Department of Planning and Sustainability projects to support the Housing Strategy.
- On behalf of the Tompkins County Public Library, accepted a \$300,000 State grant award, from the Dormitory Authority’s State and Municipal Facilities grant program, to help support the \$1.4 million renovation of the Library building.

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