

TIOGA COUNTY ED&P/TOURISM/CCE/SOIL & WATER  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

**March 3, 2026**

1:00 PM

- MINUTES
  - Approval of minutes of February 3, 2026
- FINANCIAL
  - Economic Development
  - Planning
  - Sustainability Management
- OLD BUSINESS
  - Reports
  - Grants
  - Economic/Community Development
  - Land Bank
  - Workforce Development
  - Planning
  - Sustainability Management
  - IDA
  - Misc.
- NEW BUSINESS
  - Reports
  - Grants
  - Economic/Community Development
  - Land Bank
  - Workforce Development
  - Planning
  - Sustainability Management
  - IDA
  - Misc.
- PERSONNEL
- RESOLUTIONS
  - C10-Ag District Inclusion Owego Nichols District 2
  - C19-Appoint Member (Myers) to the Broome-Tioga Workforce Development Board
  - C28-Appoint Member (Zubalsky-Peer) to STERPDB
- PROCLAMATIONS - N/A
- ADJOURNMENT

# TEAM TIOGA

we work for you

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING | INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY | LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

DRAFT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING February 3, 2026

### ATTENDEES:

**Legislators:** Ron Ciotoli, Keith Flesher, Jake Brown, David Cantella, Tracy Monell, Jo Ellen Rose

**Staff:** Brittany Woodburn, Linda Sampson, Cathy Haskell, Jackson Bailey, Pete DeWind

**Guests:** Becca Maffei, Tioga County Tourism Director

Committee Chair, Ron Ciotoli, called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (ED&P):** Agenda and attachments previously emailed.

### I. MINUTES

- A. Approval of minutes from January 6, 2026 – Committee Chair Ron Ciotoli asked for approval of the minutes from the January 6, 2026, meeting. Legislator Brown made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 6, 2026, meeting, seconded by Legislator Cantella. All were in favor.

Ms. Woodburn reported the following:

### II. FINANCIAL

- A. 2026 Budget
  1. Economic Development
    - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.
  2. Planning
    - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.
  3. Sustainability Management
    - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.

### III. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Reports

1. Tioga County Tourism – Becca Maffei – Monthly report previously emailed and is in the Committee packet. Ms. Maffei, Tioga County Tourism Director, was in attendance and reviewed her monthly report highlighting the Multiview Digital Advertising Campaign, America 250 Campaign, Eat Local Restaurant Week and Finger Lakes Farm Country. Ms. Maffei gave an overview of what the Tourism Office does for the new committee member, Legislator Cantella.

2. Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District – No report this month.
3. Cornell Cooperative Extension – Monthly report previously emailed and is in the committee packet.

B. Grants

1. Active Grants – See attached EDP Grant Tracking spreadsheet. Ms. Woodburn highlighted the following:

- a. EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant

The \$500,000.00 grant application was submitted and will be used to hire a consultant to conduct assessments of brownfields, properties suspect of contamination, abandoned gas stations, reclaimed mining pits, abandoned commercial or industrial properties, such as the old ladder factory site in Newark Valley. This opens up other opportunities for additional federal funds through the Environment Protection Agency to help evaluate and remediate sites and return properties to productive reuse. There is no match requirement for the County. Program delivery fees are included

- b. CDBG Public Facilities – Catholic Charities

This is the mobile food truck project. Ms. Woodburn had pictures on display. The truck was delivered last week. A ribbon cutting event is being held Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:00AM at 932 West River Road, Nichols. The staff is being trained by JP Food Trucks. The truck won't be launched until later this month. The project came in under budget. With the leftover CDBG funds, they may be able to do a budget amendment for working capital, marketing or inventory. ED&P will continue to work with Catholic Charities and Ms. Woodburn will keep the committee informed.

- c. CDBG Microenterprise

This program continues, ED&P just received another disbursement from the State and are getting closer to closing out two more projects. ED&P applied for renewal funding and is waiting on award announcement.

- d. ARC READY – George Smith Park Master Park Plan

Barton & Loguidice, the engineering firm, delivered the draft plan and it was reviewed by the Berkshire Steering Committee. The final plan should be delivered this month. The Town Hall IT services and computer equipment have been updated, and the Town website is in development. ED&P is assisting in looking for resources for development of the park.

- e. NY PLAYS Grant

This is a new grant program from the State; \$67.5M in capital funding to help expand and renovate public playgrounds across New York State. The Village of Waverly intends to apply for East Waverly Park to potentially match NY Forward grant funds. Hunt Engineering will be assisting with this. ED&P may be assisting the Village of Owego for Hyde and Woodlawn Parks and would like to explore using this funding for George Smith Park as well.

- f. CDBG Public Facilities – A potential application

Liz Myers, Department of Social Services, has been inquiring about doing something with the stone house next to the Health and Human Services building that is no longer being used. ED&P toured the building. Ms. Woodburn reported

this could be a good fit for the CDBG Public Facilities grant program. It's possible to get up to \$2M, no match requirement from the County and program delivery fees are included. This would help with renovation work and structural issues. The stone house was built in the 1800's. Gary Hammond believes he has a report on the building and will locate it for use. If the committee agrees, Ms. Woodburn will continue to work with Ms. Myers who has plans for making use of the building once it is renovated. The committee agrees to further investigate to see if this grant is a good fit for this project.

- g. NYSCA Capital Grant – Ms. Norton assisted the Arts Council with a grant application. The grant is a capital improvement program that will help make needed improvements to their building. There is no match requirement. This would help free up their reserves for other operational and programmatic opportunities. Ms. Woodburn reported a technical assistance resolution will be sent after this meeting and will be added to the grant tracking spreadsheet next month.

#### C. Economic/Community Development

1. Community Connections – This is an organization in Newark Valley looking for grant opportunities for building renovations and mountain bike trails. The mountain bike trails would connect into the trout ponds in Newark Valley. Ms. Norton is meeting with and assisting the organization with looking for grant opportunities.
2. Funding panel for non-profits – Ms. Norton is working on this panel in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. Several foundations will present programs and funding priorities for the year.
3. DRI – Owego – Two original projects are still open; one project is close to closing out. ED&P continues to work with the State to reallocate the funds from Applied Technology. This has been a slow process.
4. NY Forward – Village of Waverly
  - a. Small Projects Fund – Only two applications received for the small project fund of \$200,000.00. Thoma Development will conduct another round of marketing.
  - b. Public Projects – There was a kick-off meeting with the Village of Waverly and their steering committee and Hunt Engineering for the East Waverly Park and Broad Street streetscape enhancement projects. There will be several site visits over the next couple of weeks to look at different components of the projects.

#### D. Land Bank

1. 2025 Annual Report – A couple copies of the annual report were on display for anybody to look at.
2. 247 Main Street, Owego – This is the house in Owego across from the Methodist Church. The first schematic design draft was completed. Expecting the full schematic design drawing at the end of this month.
3. 121 Providence Street, Waverly – The construction is underway.
4. Vacant Rental Program – TCPDC – The \$750,000.00 grant application was submitted to help support repairs and rehab of vacant rental units for landlords with smaller portfolios: 5 units and under in one building, or no more than 20 units in their portfolio. The Land Bank will receive the funds and subgrant to eligible property owners.

5. Community Foundation of South-Central NY Women's Fund – The first class was held on January 17<sup>th</sup> and there were 9 women in attendance. They focused on practical everyday home maintenance skills, basic plumbing, electrical safety, trouble shooting simple wall repair techniques, etc. Owego Apalachin Central School District hosted the class and the construction management firm the Land Bank uses instructed the class. It was a success. At the end of the class the participants took home a bucket of tools. Because of the great response, they will conduct 2, maybe 3, more classes.
6. Board of Directors updates – Ralph Kelsey, stepped down as Chair of the TCPDC Board and Hannah Murray, who served as the Vice-Chair, was elected as the new Chair.

E. Workforce Development

1. Twin Tiers Regional Job Fair – Waverly School District is holding the Twin Tiers Regional Job Fair on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Norton is helping with outreach.

F. Planning

1. 239 Reviews –
  - a. 2026-001: Town of Tioga, Site Plan Review, Bullrock Tioga V, LLC – The applicant plans to construct a 5 MWac solar photovoltaic system at 481 Glenmary Drive that will encompass 28 acres on a hillside. This new project will be adjacent to another existing solar system. Staff recommended approval of the site plan review with the conditions that the applicant obtain a US Army Corp jurisdictional permit if wetlands will be impacted, that the applicant provide a decommissioning agreement and plan with adequate financial means, and the applicant meets with the respective fire and EMS services to develop an emergency response plan. The County Planning Board voted to recommend approval of the site plan review with these conditions.
  - b. 2026-002: Village of Owego, Rezoning, Tioga County Agricultural Society – Applicant is petitioning the Village of Owego Board of Trustees to rezone their 6-acre parcel at the Fairgrounds site from Residential 3 (R3) to Business (B) to allow more flexibility with what they can do on the property other than residential uses. Staff advised the County Planning Board to recommend approval of the rezoning request with the condition that the Village of Owego develops a rezoning local law and the Village Board of Trustees adopts it. The County Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the rezoning with the condition noted.
2. NYS American Farmland Trust – All farmer workshops have been held. The group is planning for the American Farmland Trust to submit another NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets grant application to hold more workshops focused on farm succession and transition in the future.
3. 2026 Annual Agricultural Districts inclusion requests – One request was received and is in the committee packet. The request came from landowner Eric Johnson for 270.60 acres to be included in the Owego/Nichols Agricultural District #2 with the farm description of cash crop/grain-rye, wheat and corn. There is a resolution listed below to schedule a public hearing for the 2026 Annual Agricultural District

Inclusion request. Ms. Haskell reported the public hearing will be held at the Worksession on February 19<sup>th</sup>, adding a quorum will be necessary.

G. Sustainability Management

1. Battery Management & Disposal – Dr. Pratt is updating her website with enhanced guidance on battery management and disposal. She is also pushing out a lot of information on social media.
2. Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling State Assistance Program – A resolution is listed below.
3. Household Hazardous Waste State Assistance Program application – A resolution is listed below.

4. 2026 YTD –

a. Paid to Broome County	2026	2025
i. HHW	\$ 0.00	\$11,239.55
ii. E-Waste	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,006.25
b. Towns/County(E-waste)	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,167.25

H. IDA

1. 2025 Annual Report – A couple of copies of the annual report were on display for anybody to look at.
2. OPRHP EPF – Northern Tioga Rail-with-Trail Pre-Engineering- A \$450,000.00 grant awarded to the IDA through the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Environmental Protection Fund (OPRHP EPF) program to conduct a pre-engineering study to assess the feasibility of developing a Northern Tioga Rail-with-Trail alongside the existing Owego & Harford Railway (OHRY) freight railway in the northern part of Tioga County, about 26.5 miles of track that the IDA owns. They have an operating agreement with RJ Corman to use the railway. It's an active freight line.

While this committee raised some concerns, Ms. Woodburn reported the following:

- The IDA applied for and was awarded the \$450,000.00 for this study.
- The proposed study area is 7.5 miles from the Newark Valley Fire Station to George Smith Park in Berkshire.
- It is a preliminary engineering study only and will not result in construction drawings or capital funds to construct the trail.
- Next steps for the IDA with this grant is the execution of a grant agreement once it is issued.
- The IDA will begin working on drafting an RFP for engineering services to hire a firm with specific rail trail engineering experience to conduct the study.
- The IDA will begin working on forming a steering committee to guide the preliminary engineering process consisting of a representative from the Town of Newark Valley, Village of Newark Valley, Town of Berkshire, RJ Corman, Wendy Walsh, an IDA Board Member and the Planning Director.
- The IDA will likely not be ready to hire a firm until mid-summer 2026.
- The engineers will start by doing on-site field visits to assess the viability of the 7.5 miles.
- The IDA will have the ability to revise portions of the scope of work based on this assessment.

- The engineering firm will also conduct robust community engagement including impacted landowner roundtable discussions.
- They will evaluate wetlands, bridges/culverts, environmental concerns and the concerns resulting from landowner/community input, cultural impacts and historic impacts, with the addition of construction estimates, etc.
- A complete survey of the entire trail is something the IDA does not have now.
- They will have a survey done that includes Right of Way and easement mapping.
- The final report will include a set of recommendations for various trail segments and priorities.
- We have received some opposition to the preliminary engineering study. Legislator Ciotoli and Ms. Woodburn visited a farm located along the proposed study area and listened to the property owners' concerns. We will pass those concerns on directly to the engineering firm and make sure the concerned citizen has an opportunity to provide input during the landowner engagement portion of the process.
- Last Friday, a resident of Newark Valley dropped off 52 letters of support for the study from landowners, residents, businesses and local organizations, so all of these will be taken into consideration as the IDA moves forward with the study.
- It's likely this will not be a whole contiguous 7.5-mile trail. There may be segments of the study area that the engineering firm does not recommend.

Other possible segments developed or anything else this study could potentially address:

- Possible segment developed in Downtown Newark Valley from the fire station to the high school.
- There could be an opportunity for them to propose on-road segments in certain areas or DOT Right of Way.
- Rural connectivity: Richford and Berkshire are food deserts, this would help with connection to downtown.
- The lack of safe transportation between high school and elementary/middle school, preventing fatalities.
- Enhance outdoor recreation, community development, economic development for local businesses,
- Possible connections of the Ladder Factory site (EPA grant), Trout Ponds, Skate park, businesses, historical society, Peyper Field campground, high school, etc.
- Comprehensive plans for all impacted municipalities were researched, and all identify outdoor recreation, trail development and bikeable areas as a priority need within their communities.

Ms. Woodburn hopes this answers some questions and offered to speak with anyone inquiring about this project

1. FAST NY application – Looking at a couple sites in Loundsberry for IDA to apply to the FAST NY program to do a pre-engineering study with a possible acquisition down the road after the results of the pre-engineering study. The IDA has to get site control affidavits from the property owners. We received two of the three affidavits. Once the third affidavit is received, we can submit the application.

**IV. PERSONNEL**

- A. Administrative Coordinator – New employee, Lisa Williams, is starting Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.
- B. County Planning Director – incumbent retirement - Ms. Jardine will be retiring February 28<sup>th</sup>. There is a resolution listed below to be read by Legislator Ciotoli at the Legislative meeting recognizing Ms. Jardine's 30 years of service to Tioga County.
- C. County Planning Director – new appointment – Resolution listed below to appoint Ms. Zubalsky-Peer as the new County Planning Director position.
- D. Leadership Tioga – Ms. Patton, Housing Development Specialist, and Ms. Norton, Community Development Specialist, are registered for this year's Leadership Training.
- E. Salary ranges for department positions – Ms. Woodburn has been speaking with Personnel regarding salary ranges. Possibly adjusting salaries of the Community Development Specialist and the Deputy Director. Several positions in the department were part of the salary study a couple of years ago, putting some positions in line with the Deputy Director salary range. Personnel has agreed to look into making adjustments.

Not on the agenda, Ms. Woodburn reported working on the Work from Home Renewal Forms and should have them completed by the end of the week. Ms. Woodburn looked for approval from this committee for her to work from home as needed. The committee approved her work from home status.

**V. RESOLUTIONS**

- B04-Set Public Hearing for 2026 Annual Agricultural District Inclusions
- B28-Request for Reimbursement for Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling State Assistance Program
- B30-Filing of an Application for State Assistance HHW for 2025
- B39-Recognize Elaine Jardine's 30 Years of Dedicated Service to Tioga County
- B40-Authorize Appointment (Zubalsky-Peer) to Tioga Co Planning Director
- B41-Re-Appoint Member (J Harris) to the TCLDC Board
- B42-Re-Appoint Member (J Case) to the TCLDC Board

After reviewing the above resolutions, Ms. Woodburn asked this committee for support to move the resolutions forward. The vote to support the above resolution follows:

- Legislator Ciotoli – yes
- Legislator Flesher – yes
- Legislator Brown – yes
- Legislator Cantella – yes

**VI. PROCLAMATIONS - N/A**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Sampson  
Administrative Assistant, Economic Development & Planning



# TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

## Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 03

ACCOUNTS FOR: A	General Fund	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
<b>A6422 Economic Development</b>								
A6422	411132	Tax On Hotel/Motel		-35,000	.00	.00	-35,000.00	.0%
A6422	419890	Contribution To Ec		-50,000	-12,500.00	.00	-37,500.00	25.0%
A6422	421891	Other Home & Commu		-50,000	.00	.00	-50,000.00	.0%
A6422	510010	Full Time		426,153	37,966.92	.00	388,186.08	8.9%
A6422	540010	Advertising		3,000	1,495.00	.00	1,505.00	49.8%
A6422	540040	Books		500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
A6422	540070	Car Maintenance		2,000	.00	.00	2,000.00	.0%
A6422	540140	Contracting Servic		0	2,968.18	.00	31.82	98.9%
A6422	540180	Dues	3,000	1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
A6422	540220	Automobile Fuel		150	9.20	.00	140.80	6.1%
A6422	540320	Leased/Service Equ		1,000	72.69	.00	927.31	7.3%
A6422	540360	Meals/Food		750	.00	.00	750.00	.0%
A6422	540390	Mileage Expense		50	.00	.00	50.00	.0%
A6422	540420	Office Supplies		1,280	-1,341.36	.00	2,621.36	-104.8%
A6422	540480	Postage		380	.00	.00	380.00	.0%
A6422	540485	Printing/Paper		1,850	153.81	.00	1,696.19	8.3%
A6422	540590	Services Rendered	-3,000	16,190	.00	.00	16,190.00	.0%
A6422	540620	Software Expense		100	.00	.00	100.00	.0%
A6422	540660	Telephone		1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
A6422	540733	Training/All Other		4,820	600.00	.00	4,220.00	12.4%
A6422	581088	State Retirement F		60,970	3,545.43	.00	57,424.57	5.8%
A6422	583088	Social Security Fr		32,738	3,115.08	.00	29,622.92	9.5%
A6422	584088	Workers Compensati		7,721	781.92	.00	6,939.08	10.1%
A6422	585588	Disability Insuran		369	36.63	.00	332.37	9.9%
A6422	586088	Health Insurance F		122,080	8,782.17	.00	113,297.83	7.2%
A6422	588988	Eap Fringe		99	9.72	.00	89.28	9.8%
TOTAL Economic Development		552,200	0	552,200	45,695.39	.00	506,504.61	8.3%
TOTAL General Fund		552,200	0	552,200	45,695.39	.00	506,504.61	8.3%
TOTAL REVENUES		-135,000	0	-135,000	-12,500.00	.00	-122,500.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		687,200	0	687,200	58,195.39	.00	629,004.61	



# TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

## Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 03

ACCOUNTS FOR: A	General Fund	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
<b>A8020 Planning</b>								
A8020	510010 Full Time	192,155	0	192,155	19,617.05	.00	172,537.95	10.2%
A8020	540010 Advertising	200	0	200	.00	.00	200.00	.0%
A8020	540040 Books	600	0	600	.00	.00	600.00	.0%
A8020	540140 Contracting Servic	32,000	0	32,000	1,739.55	.00	30,260.45	5.4%
A8020	540180 Dues	800	0	800	.00	.00	800.00	.0%
A8020	540220 Automobile Fuel	200	0	200	10.57	.00	189.43	5.3%
A8020	540320 Leased/Service Equ	1,200	0	1,200	.00	.00	1,200.00	.0%
A8020	540360 Meals/Food	190	0	190	.00	.00	190.00	.0%
A8020	540390 Mileage Expense	600	0	600	.00	.00	600.00	.0%
A8020	540420 Office Supplies	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
A8020	540480 Postage	900	0	900	.00	.00	900.00	.0%
A8020	540485 Printing/Paper	1,000	0	1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
A8020	540590 Services Rendered	4,875	0	4,875	.00	.00	4,875.00	.0%
A8020	540660 Telephone	600	0	600	.00	.00	600.00	.0%
A8020	540733 Training/All other	1,200	0	1,200	.00	.00	1,200.00	.0%
A8020	581088 State Retirement F	27,492	0	27,492	2,492.31	.00	24,999.69	9.1%
A8020	583088 Social Security Fr	14,762	0	14,762	1,566.64	.00	13,195.36	10.6%
A8020	584088 Workers Compensati	3,481	0	3,481	355.44	.00	3,125.56	10.2%
A8020	585588 Disability Insuran	167	0	167	16.65	.00	150.35	10.0%
A8020	586088 Health Insurance F	55,047	0	55,047	7,841.49	.00	47,205.51	14.2%
A8020	588988 Eap Fringe	45	0	45	4.44	.00	40.56	9.9%
TOTAL Planning		338,014	0	338,014	33,644.14	.00	304,369.86	10.0%
TOTAL General Fund		338,014	0	338,014	33,644.14	.00	304,369.86	10.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES		338,014	0	338,014	33,644.14	.00	304,369.86	



# TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

## Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 03

ACCOUNTS FOR: A General Fund	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
<b>A8160 Refuse &amp; Garbage</b>							
A8160 421890 Other Home & Comm	-1,980	0	-1,980	.00	.00	-1,980.00	.0%
A8160 425900 Waste Hauler Permi	-400	0	-400	.00	.00	-400.00	.0%
A8160 439892 Solid Waste State	-30,000	0	-30,000	.00	.00	-30,000.00	.0%
A8160 510010 Fulltime	74,754	0	74,754	7,681.60	.00	67,072.40	10.3%
A8160 520070 Chairs	0	0	0	-302.11	.00	302.11	100.0%
A8160 540010 Advertising	7,500	0	7,500	3,883.95	2,131.11	1,484.94	80.2%
A8160 540180 Dues	175	0	175	95.00	.00	80.00	54.3%
A8160 540320 Leased/Service Equ	1,500	0	1,500	48.46	.00	1,451.54	3.2%
A8160 540390 Mileage Expense	167	0	167	.00	.00	166.75	.0%
A8160 540420 Office Supplies	2,000	0	2,000	47.07	.00	1,952.93	2.4%
A8160 540444 Permits, Fees, Ins	100	0	100	.00	.00	100.00	.0%
A8160 540480 Postage	200	0	200	.00	.00	200.00	.0%
A8160 542140 Contracting Servic	98,000	0	98,000	6,560.91	.00	91,439.09	6.7%
A8160 542261 Household Hazardou	75,000	0	75,000	.00	50,000.00	25,000.00	66.7%
A8160 542485 Printing/Paper	2,000	0	2,000	.00	.00	2,000.00	.0%
A8160 542640 Supplies (Not offi	11,000	0	11,000	.00	.00	11,000.00	.0%
A8160 542680 Tires	3,900	0	3,900	.00	.00	3,900.00	.0%
A8160 581088 State Retirement F	10,695	0	10,695	1,296.81	.00	9,398.19	12.1%
A8160 583088 Social Security Fr	5,743	0	5,743	631.81	.00	5,111.19	11.0%
A8160 584088 Workers Compensati	1,354	0	1,354	142.17	.00	1,211.83	10.5%
A8160 585588 Disability Insuran	65	0	65	6.66	.00	58.34	10.2%
A8160 586088 Health Insurance F	21,415	0	21,415	1,495.83	.00	19,919.17	7.0%
A8160 588988 EAP Fringe	17	0	17	1.77	.00	15.23	10.4%
TOTAL Refuse & Garbage	283,205	0	283,205	21,589.93	52,131.11	209,483.71	26.0%
TOTAL General Fund	283,205	0	283,205	21,589.93	52,131.11	209,483.71	26.0%
TOTAL REVENUES	-32,380	0	-32,380	.00	.00	-32,380.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	315,585	0	315,585	21,589.93	52,131.11	241,863.71	



# TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

## Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 03							
	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL

GRAND TOTAL	283,205	0	283,205	21,589.93	52,131.11	209,483.71	26.0%
-------------	---------	---	---------	-----------	-----------	------------	-------

\*\* END OF REPORT - Generated by Pratt, Ellen \*\*

# Cornell Cooperative Extension Tioga County

CCE Tioga Hilltop Farm  
343 Cass Hill Road  
Candor, NY 13743  
t. 607-659-5694  
e. [tioga@cornell.edu](mailto:tioga@cornell.edu)  
[tioga.cce.cornell.edu](http://tioga.cce.cornell.edu)

## February 2026 – CCE Tioga Highlights

Prepared for the Tioga County Legislature Update (EDP, Agriculture & Tourism)

### Organizational Updates:

**Agricultural Resource Group (ARG)** – Kristi (Executive Director), Kelly (Ag Specialist) & Robyn (4-H Youth Educator) actively participate in the Tioga County ARG monthly meetings, connecting with local farmers and other agencies to hear needs/concerns and support local agriculture. Planning goals for the upcoming Ag and Farmland Protection Plan Update Process.

### Campus Connection to Cornell:

- **Livestock PWT** (IPM for Dairy & Beef) and **Cornell Winter Fruit Webinar series** attended by Kelly
- **Cornell Small Farms Courses** – Kelly enrolled in BF232: *Sheep Production* & BF103: *Taking Care of Business*. Public can register for these affordable classes too!
- **Boyce Thompson Institute (BTI)** – Ag, MG/Horticulture, and 4-H teams working with BTI to bring unique learning opportunities to Tioga County
- **Master Gardener Training at Cornell** - Southern Tier Regional Master Gardeners Training team held an on-campus hands-on enhancement day with the director of the Soil Health Lab, touring the facility with lab members explaining the process of soil testing. All participants came away with a thorough understanding of the aspects considered for soil health in addition to our standard rotations visiting with Plant Pathologists researchers and viewing the Insect lab collections.

### Community Connections:

***Tioga Co. Ag & Farmland Protection Board:*** Kelly represented CCE Tioga

***Community Education:*** Jean Koski working with Spencer Van Etten Ag team fostering partnership with Spencer area MG/V's and participating in a community connection network. Robyn Estrella is partnering with SVE FFA advisers and invited all FFA chapters to attend the YQCA (Youth Quality Care of Animals) clinic offered to 4-H'ers participating in animal science projects preparing for Tioga County Fair.

+ **Planning an upcoming *Chicken 101* course to be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> in Owego with Farm Bureau**

***Community Food Council Discussion:*** Kristi and Kelly engaging with partners in the preliminary discussions of forming a Food Council in Tioga, connecting agencies across Tioga, intersecting with Broome Food Council.

### Agriculture Outreach Programs - Kelly Jackson (Agriculture Development Specialist)

- ***Local Ag Meetings:*** Tioga Co. Farm Bureau (board service and meeting attendance), ARG
- ***Weekly Ag Newsletter*** – “**All Things Agriculture**” sent out weekly to 300+ farmers and Ag Service providers in and around Tioga County by Ag Educator Kelly Jackson & sign-ups continue to grow! Communicating Grant opportunities, Events and webinars.
- ***Ag Technical Support*** - Daily/Weekly interactions with farmers via email, phone or Farm visits as requested. Open office hours (Tues 1-4p) for Technical Assistance. Dairy & Farm Accounting Books available for purchase (Owego & Candor offices), Meetings with **3 new beginning farmers** assisting with development of farm businesses.
- Presence on the newly created ***Southern Tier Land Conservancy Working Lands Committee***
- ***Regional Navigator*** – Farmland Protection Tools and Resources
- “***Inspired by Annie's - How to Diversify or Scale with Confidence for Profitability***” 3-week long state-wide course with 2 Tioga County women farmers enrolled. Kelly serving as instructor and participating in quarterly facilitators meeting.
- ***Regional Dairy & Field Crops Ag Team (CCE Tioga Membership)***  
<https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/events.php>

**Horticulture Outreach, Collaboration & Research** – Jean Koski (Horticulturist )

- **Community Garden Guidance/ Grow Line Hot Topics:** answering questions (phone, email or social media) from the public centered around gardens, soils/testing, and related horticultural issues.
- **CCE Tioga Hilltop Farm** – Hosting **2 Seed Sowing Hands-On Gatherings** in CCE Tioga’s greenhouse (2/28 + March tbd). Also working with community members and organizations exploring the possibilities of finding additional accessible spaces to offer similar workshops in other locations.
- **“Gardening from Seed to Seed”** season long educational initiative with Pennysaver articles & social media campaign to guide people on a growing journey from start to finish. Recent Article showcased the Raised Berm beds and Hugel at CCE Tioga, projects supported in part by NY Soil Health.
- **Tioga County Gardening Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tiogacountygardeners>  
>>Join the group to see seasonal horticulture interest topics – Winter Seed Sowing Time is Here!

**Master Gardeners** - Jean Koski (Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator)

- **County-Wide Seed Sharing Events:** Obtaining a sizeable donation of seeds from CCE Broome has kickstarted our Spring Seed Sharing events! MGV Coordinator and Volunteers are planning Seed Shares in townships throughout the county, so far with staff for Newark Valley, Owego, Candor, Spencer, Waverly and Apalachin. (Berkshire not yet confirmed) - Dates and locations are being finalized.
- Fostering partnerships to support a local gardening organization in the Waverly/Sayre area and a Spencer Garden Club to enhance the seed share learning opportunities there.
- **Container Gardening** - MGV led workshop to be held at Tioga Opportunities in the planning stage!
- **Master Gardener Volunteer Program Development:** Monthly meetings resumed, covering topics: updated format of Seed Share Events, scheduling hands-on workshops, fostering partnership with 4-H youth and MGV’s, continuing education interests, seed saving educational initiatives, articles, new requests and volunteer opportunities. Guiding new MGV’s to find community-based projects
- **Master Gardener/Horticulture E-news & Program Development:** sharing updates, articles of interest, planning for 2026 activities, including continuing regular article contributions to the Owego Pennysaver

**4-H Youth Development** - Robyn Estrella (4-H Youth Development Resource Educator) & Donna Vergason-Gibson (Program Coordinator – PT)

- **Tractor Safety Training** course initiated – open to all youth in Tioga county ages 14-18.
- **Dog club** has reopened and is preparing to welcome 4-H members to bring their approved canines.
- **Cloverbud** and Traditional ages **Spark clubs** enjoyed learning how to Crochet.
- **Entrepreneur and Leadership Club** starts this month. Led by Jake Brown, this club will offer leadership, civic engagement and many other unique opportunities.
- Planning a two **County Livestock Clinic** inviting 4-H and FFA members for a two-day educational experience that will involve rabbits, poultry, beef, goats, sheep, and swine. Plus, a meal will be served and social gathering held on Friday evening.
- **6** other clubs met and planned for their spring and summer 4-H projects. During each club meeting, **10+** youth meet to hold a business meeting and an educational portion.
- Held **4** focus group meetings plus a volunteer meeting to re-write 4-H yearly project record books, market animal report forms and to plan for the county Fair youth animal shows and to address other areas for improvement in our county wide 4-H program.
- Held in-person **YQCA - Youth Quality Care of Animals** nationally developed curriculum. This focused on animal care, food safety, animal well-being and character development.

**Family Resource Center (FRC/Family Development Programs)** - Joan Shultz & Donna Vergason-Gibson, FRC Program Coordinators/Family Development Educators

**Workshops attended:** “Books, Beats & Bonding: Fostering Connection Through Stories, Songs, and Play”, “Beyond Behavior: Understanding Attention-Seeking in Young Children”, “Building Infant and Toddler Communication Skills to Spark Learning, Foster Calm, and Ease Difficult Moments”; OCFS monthly meeting

Playgroup Location	# of Playgroups	# of Families	# of kids	Total # of Attendees (unduplicated)	Total # Attending
Spencer (Inspire)	4	12	16	30	70
Spencer (Library)	3	7	9	16	38
Nichols (Library)	4	5	5	10	28
Waverly (Library)	3	4	5	10	25
Berkshire (Library)	3	4	5	11	18
Candor (Library)	3	18	21	34	68
Owego (TC B&GC)	3	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>247</b>

**Total number of grandparents served for the month:** 18

**Health Department Programming Participants:** 63 (adults & youth)

**FRC Partnered with Local Agencies:** Tioga County Libraries (Waverly, Candor, Spencer, Nichols, Berkshire), Inspire Community Center in Spencer, Tioga County Boys & Girls Club, TC Health Dept, PACT, Tioga Co. Early Intervention, Kinship Navigator, Tioga Central School District

**FRC Success Stories.**

- Staff gathered feedback from parents and grandparents attending the **Nichols Library** program regarding scheduling preferences. Participants expressed appreciation for being included in the decision-making process. Together, a new time was selected that accommodates everyone’s schedules, and it was agreed that the updated schedule will be implemented on a trial basis to ensure it works well for all. **Participants also shared that they value the socialization opportunities the program provides—not only for the children in their care, but for themselves as well.**
- A sign-in sheet was created at the **Candor Library** to give children the opportunity to practice writing their names. One parent shared that she was pleasantly surprised her child was able to write his name using a pen.
- A parent provided an ice cream-making project for families to enjoy together at the **Candor Library**. She was eager to share a fun, seasonal indoor learning activity with other parents and grandparents.

**Smart Energy Choices:** Caitlin Tucker (Tioga Co. CEA) & Eileen Hanrahan (Regional SEC Team Mgr)

- Learned that **1** advisee completed Empower+ projects, securing \$10,000.00 in NYSEDA funding for Tioga County residents
- Total NYSEDA funding secured for Tioga County Residents to date: **\$66,425.10**
- Advised **34** residents assisting with access to the Empower+ Program, Temporary Assistance, Weatherization Assistance Program, Comfort Home, Appliance Upgrade Program, NYS Clean Heat, Energy Affordability Guarantee, NYS Solar Tax Credit, Subscription Solar, Resilient Retrofits, TCRM, Bishop Sheen Housing, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, and NYSEG Customer Advocate
  - **7** of these advisees are no-heat situations
- Caitlin Appointed by SEC Hub administration to be in charge of all NYS Dept. Of Public Service Energy Affordability Guarantee Pilot Program referrals for the Southern Tier, making her our regional point person for this program.
- Shadowed by new Chemung CEA and new Broome CEA as a part of their onboarding process

- Attended NYSERDA webinar detailing all upcoming program changes to be seen over the next 1.5 years. This includes major changes such as funding increases, program measure changes, income guidelines adjustments, etc.

**WIOA Youth Employment Program/Workforce** – Lisa Weston-Bialy (Resource Educator), Mary Hill

- February New Enrollment: **7**
- Currently working with **32** active participants and **22** participants in follow up status
- *GED*: **1** participant obtained their GED this month, **15** participants are currently enrolled in HSE class
- *Work Based Learning*: **3** participants enrolled and **2** additional in pending status
- *College Bound*: Assisted **9** participants to enroll and continue college, participants attending: SUNY BROOME, TC3, Monroe Community College, Connecticut State: Nursing, for early childhood ed, communications, criminal justice, media and graphic arts, health studies
- *Training*: Participants are enrolled in programs for Welding, Google IT, Automotive Tech, CDL B, Medical Assistant, Veterinary Assistant, Security
- *Training Completed and Employed*: Security, Cosmetology, Phlebotomy, Construction Equipment Operation
- *Employed*: **16** active youth, **+19** Youth in follow-up

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kristi K. Snyder, Ph.D.*

Executive Director, CCE Tioga

**CCE Tioga Hilltop Farm - Candor**  
Agriculture Development & Outreach  
**Extension of Extension - Owego**  
Youth, Families & Smart Energy Programs



**Cornell Cooperative Extension**  
South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Program



**WIOA**  
Workforce  
Development



**Cornell Cooperative Extension**  
Smart Energy Choices



Tioga.cce.cornell.edu | 607.659.5694 | Tioga@cornell.edu



## Tioga County Tourism February 2026

### MultiView Campaign:

The MultiView digital Advertising Campaign Launched in September of 2025. As of 2.16.26, the data shows over 500,000 impressions and an average of 20 unique visits per day, with top pages being the Tioga Antiques Trail page and the Events Calendar.

### America 250

2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Municipalities, organizations, businesses and more around the country are organizing events and programs to celebrate. Regionally, the Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council (which includes Tioga County) is creating a historical map of all 14 counties in the Finger Lakes to promote heritage tourism during this significant anniversary. Experience Tioga submitted four



### Eat Local Restaurant Week

TCT is partnering with Eat Local New York to engage Tioga restaurants in a statewide restaurant week promotion. There are 12 participating restaurants in Tioga County and tourism will be sponsoring the program for additional promotion through Eat Local New York.



EDP Grant Tracking Spreadsheet - Tioga County								
Mar-26								
	Applicant	Grant Source	Purpose	Status	Requested	Resource	Technical Assistance	Resolution
1	Tioga County	ESD Restore NY Round VI – River House	Rehabilitation of 178-180 Front Street, Owego	Awarded - in process	\$ 1,800,000.00	NA	NA	Yes
2	Tioga County	ESD Restore NY Round VII – Tioga Trails	Rehabilitation of 48-50 Lake Street, Owego	Awarded - in process	\$ 1,000,000.00	NA	NA	Yes
3	Tioga County	ESD Restore NY Round VIII – 81 North Ave	Rehabilitation of 81 North Ave, Owego	Closeout - in process	\$ 165,000.00	NA	NA	Yes
4	Tioga County	NYS Snowmobile	Snowmobile grant program for 5 clubs in Tioga County	Phase III due May 31st	TBD	NA	NA	annual
5	Tioga County	2025 Household Hazardous Waste Program (FY 2024)	Funds for proper disposal of household hazardous waste.	Closeout - in process	\$ 7,767.22	NA	NA	Yes
6	Tioga County	2026 Household Hazardous Waste Program (FY 2025)	Funds for proper disposal of household hazardous waste.	Awarded - in process	\$ 5,992.22	NA	NA	Yes
7	Tioga County	2025 Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling	Funds for Sustainability Manager to expand and implement waste reduction strategies in Tioga County	Closeout - in process	\$ 56,350.00	NA	NA	Yes
8	Tioga County	2026 Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling	Funds for Sustainability Manager to expand and implement waste reduction strategies in Tioga County	Awarded - in process	\$ 60,400.00	NA	NA	Yes
9	Tioga County	CDBG Microenterprise program	Provides funding for small businesses with < 5 employees.	Awarded - in process	\$ 212,500.00	NA	NA	Yes
10	Tioga County	CDBG Microenterprise program - Renewal	Provides funding for small businesses with < 5 employees.	Application submitted	\$ 218,750.00	NA	NA	Yes
11	Tioga County	CDBG Public Facilities – Catholic Charities	Mobile food truck to establish life skills café, community kitchen, and food rescue programs.	Awarded - in process	\$ 243,533.00	NA	NA	Yes
12	Tioga County	NY SWIMS - V. Owego public pool	Funding to reimburse life guard expenses	Closeout - in process	\$ 21,270.00	NA	NA	Yes
13	Tioga County	EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant	Funding for brownfield inventory, planning, environmental assessments and community outreach	Application submitted	\$ 500,000.00	NA	NA	Yes

EDP Grant Tracking Spreadsheet - Outside Agencies								
Mar-26								
	Applicant	Grant Source	Purpose	Status	Requested	Resource	Technical Assistance	Resolution
1	V. Newark Valley	ESD Restore NY Round VIII	Rehabilitation of 10 and 14-16 Whig Street, NV	Project bidding in process.	\$ 732,420.00		X	Yes
2	OACSD/BT BOCES	Congressionally Directed Spending	Build out of Regional Career and Technical Education Center	Grant contract in process.	\$ 811,000.00	X		No
3	OACSD/BT BOCES	ARC Infrastructure Area Development	Build out of Regional Career and Technical Education Center	Grant contract in process.	\$ 1,000,000.00		X	Yes
4	T. Berkshire	ARC READY Local Government Program	Master park plan for George W. Smith park	Closeout - in process	\$ 50,000.00		X	Yes
5	Tioga Hardwoods	ESD Small Manufacturers Grant	Equipment purchases/upgrades	Incentive proposal issued	\$ 112,240.00	X		No
6	V. Owego	OPRHP (EPF) grant - Owego Police Station	Exterior façade improvements - 90 Temple Street, Owego	Project rebidding in process.			X	Yes
7	V. Owego	NY SWIMS II - V. Owego public pool	Funding to support capital improvements to public pool	Application awarded.	\$ 271,771.00		X	Yes
8	Tioga Arts Council	NYSICA Capital Grant	Funding to support capital improvements to TAC building	Application submitted.	\$ 28,750.00		X	Yes
9	TCIDA	USDA RBDG	Lounsberry Engineering Plan	Closeout - in process	\$ 90,000.00		X	NA
10	TCIDA	USDA RBDG	Equipment Lease Program	Awarded - in process	\$ 99,000.00		X	NA
11	TCIDA	OPRHP EPF	Northern Tioga Rail-with-Trail Pre-Engineering project	Application awarded.	\$ 450,000.00		X	NA
12	TCIDA	FAST NY Track B - Lounsberry area sites	Pre-engineering studies for potential industrial sites.	Application - in process	TBD		X	NA
13	TCPDC	NY Main Street	62-64 North Avenue, Owego rehabilitation	Project bidding in process.	\$ 438,316.00		X	NA
14	TCPDC	Land Bank Initiative (LBI) Phase 1, Year 3	Operational costs	Year 4 awarded.	\$ 200,000.00		X	NA
15	TCPDC	Land Bank Initiative (LBI) Open Round	Demolition and rehabilitation projects	Awarded - in process	\$ 1,823,100.00		X	NA
16	TCPDC	Land Bank Initiative (LBI) Property Services	Rehabilitation projects	Application submitted.	\$ 2,000,000.00		X	NA
17	TCPDC	Vacant Rental Program	Repairs and rehabilitation of vacant rental units	Application submitted.	\$ 750,000.00		X	NA

REFERRED TO:

ED&P COMMITTEE / AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO -26

AUTHORIZE 2026 REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF  
LANDS IN THE OWEGO NICHOLS  
AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT #2

WHEREAS: In accordance with §303-B of the NYS Agricultural and Markets Law 25-AA, the Tioga County Planning Department has solicited agricultural landowners to request inclusion of lands in agricultural districts during the designated annual period of January 2 – January 31; and

WHEREAS: Tioga County Planning has received a request for inclusion of land consisting of six parcels totaling 270.6 acres in the Town of Owego and, therefore, within the Owego Nichols Agricultural District #2 and prepared the required report for this request; and

WHEREAS: Tioga County Planning has found this modification plan will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts via completion of the New York State Agriculture & Markets SEQR Short Environmental Assessment Form for Agricultural Districts Modifications, which is consistent with the programmatic review of environmental effects of agricultural districting by the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets; and

WHEREAS: The County Legislature declares itself to be Lead Agency for SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) requirements for this purpose; and

WHEREAS: The Tioga County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board has reviewed said report and determined that the land to be included consists of viable agricultural land and its inclusion will serve the public interest by helping to maintain a viable agricultural industry within the District and therefore recommends to the Tioga County Legislature to approve this inclusion of land; and

WHEREAS: The Tioga County Legislature has held the required public hearing and no opposition was heard; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature makes a SEQR Negative Declaration and authorizes the 2026 request for inclusion of land listed in said report into the Owego Nichols Agricultural District #2; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature directs the Tioga County Planning Department to submit said report to the Commissioner of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets for final certification; and be it further

RESOLVED: That it is the intent of this county legislative body, upon approval by the Commissioner of NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, to make this inclusion to the Owego Nichols Agricultural District #2 effective immediately.

REFERRED TO:

ED&P COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. - 26

APPOINT MEMBER TO THE  
BROOME-TIOGA WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

WHEREAS: Shawn Yetter, representing the Public Sector on the Broome-Tioga Workforce Development Board has resigned, effective 12/31/25; and

WHEREAS: Elizabeth Myers has expressed her desire to serve on the Broome-Tioga Workforce Development Board representing the Public Sector for a three-year term; and

WHEREAS: The Broome-Tioga Workforce Development Board is desirous of Elizabeth Myers to fill said vacancy; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature hereby appoint Elizabeth Myers to fill Shawn Yetter's three-year term on the Broome-Tioga Workforce Development Board effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028.

REFERRED TO:

ED&P COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. - 26

APPOINT MEMBER TO THE  
SOUTHERN TIER EAST REGIONAL PLANNING  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

WHEREAS: Elaine Jardine served on the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board (STERPDB) for the term of her employment as Tioga County Planning Director; and

WHEREAS: Elaine Jardine has retired from her position as Tioga County Planning Director leaving a vacancy on STERPDB effective February 28, 2026; and

WHEREAS: STERPDB is desirous of filling this vacancy; and

WHEREAS: Sara Zubalsky-Peer has been hired as the Tioga County Planning Director and has expressed a desire to fill the vacancy on STERPDB; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature appoint Sara Zubalsky-Peer to STERPDB effective March 10, 2026, for the term of her employment as Tioga County Planning Director.