

**ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023
2:00 PM**

The annual organizational meeting of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors was held in the Supervisor's Chamber, Government Center, 143 North Main Street, Warsaw, NY with all members present. Also present were Budget Officer J. Cook, County Attorney Wilkinson, Board Clerk C. Ketchum and Deputy Clerk L. Perez.

Clerk to the Board, Cheryl Ketchum, called the 182nd session of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors to order at 2:02 pm.

The Veteran leading the Pledge of Allegiance for the January 3, 2023 Organization Meeting is:

Sergeant Logan Kefauver (key-fa-ver)

Sgt. Kefauver was born in 1998 in Westerville, just outside of Columbus, Ohio. He graduated from Highland High School in Highland County, about 50-60 miles outside Columbus. This county is much like our own, with similar population, density and an agrarian economy. A couple of weeks after graduation, Sgt. Kefauver shipped out for Marine Corps boot camp in Paris Island, South Carolina.

Once Sgt. Kefauver graduated from Paris Island, he was sent to 29 Palms, California for his MOS training as a 0631 Network Administrator. From there, he was sent to Camp Lejeune for two years. During this time, a temporary duty station took him to northern Norway in the Arctic Circle for about a month so Sgt. Kefauver and fellow Network Administrators could run wires and set up the new command site for the pending move of the Marine Corps forces in Europe from Boblingen, Germany. To this day, the command team has yet to move to Norway.

When his time at Camp Lejeune was finished, Sgt. Kefauver was stationed for a year in Okinawa, Japan. After that year, he went back to Camp Lejeune where he received his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps.

For his valor and courageous service to his Country, Sgt. Kefauver was awarded the:

- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
- Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
- Navy Arctic Service Ribbon
- Expert Rifle Qualification Badge (2)

Sgt. Kefauver lived off base for seven months as he waited for his fiancée, Warsaw native Victoria Kosoki, to also discharge from the Marines. They met during his initial two-year assignment at Camp Lejeune.

After moving back here, he attained an IT job for the University of Rochester Medical Center where he worked for 18 months until he was hired by our county's IT Department this past November. Sgt. Kefauver and his family, currently live in Warsaw and plan to move to a house on 200 acres on Wethersfield Road this year. Together they have a son, Sebastian.

Sgt. Kefauver's hobbies are working out at his home gym, painting, spending time with his family, and soon, to include hunting. We are pleased to have Sgt. Kefauver and his family living in and working for Wyoming County.

The pledge was said by all.

Supervisor Ryan, T/Warsaw joined Clerk Ketchum at the podium. Clerk Ketchum thanked Mr. Kefauver for his service and presented the customary Certificate of Appreciation. At that time, Clerk Ketchum turned the floor over to Mr. Kefauver to offer a few words.

Mr. Kefauver thanked the board for this recognition.

The Reverend Mack Bixby offered an opening prayer.

Clerk Ketchum welcomed Wyoming County Court Judge, M. Mohun to the proceedings and invited him to administer the oath of office to the entire 2023 Board of Supervisors.

Clerk Ketchum then called for nominations for **Temporary Chairman** for the year 2023.

Supervisor Ryan T/Warsaw nominated **Supervisor Brick, T/Perry**, seconded by Supervisor May T/Orangeville.

Hearing no further nominations, Supervisor King, T/Pike moved that the nominations be closed and was seconded by Supervisor Jacoby, T/Wethersfield.

Nominations were declared closed and a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Ayes: (1599) **Noes:** (0) **Absent:** (0) **Abstain:** (0)

Supervisor Brick was declared Temporary Chairman.

Judge Mohun administered the Oath of Office to Temporary Chairman Brick.

Temporary Chairman Brick thanked his fellow Supervisors for the honor of presiding over today's proceedings as Temporary Chair and then called for nominations for **Chairman of the Board** for the year 2023.

Supervisor Becker, T/Sheldon nominated **Supervisor Ryan, T/Warsaw**, seconded by Supervisor Jacoby, T/Wethersfield.

Temporary Chairman Brick called for further nominations three (3) times.

Hearing no further nominations, Supervisor McCormick, T/Java moved that the nominations be closed and was seconded by Supervisor Davis, T/Covington.

Nominations were declared closed and a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Ayes: (1141)	Noes: (172) Arcade (123) Castile (51) Eagle (93) Gainesville (19) Genesee Falls 458 Total	Absent: (0)	Abstain: (0)
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Temporary Chairman Brick declared Supervisor Ryan, T/Warsaw as Chairwoman of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors for the year 2023.

Judge Mohun administered the Oath of Office to Chairwoman Ryan.

Chairwoman Ryan called for nominations for ***Vice-Chair of the Board*** for the year 2023.

Supervisor King, T/Pike nominated ***Supervisor McCormick, T/Java***, seconded by Supervisor Davis, T/Covington.

Chairwoman Ryan called for further nominations three (3) times.

Hearing no further nominations, Chairwoman Ryan, T/Warsaw moved that the nominations be closed and the motion was seconded by Supervisor Kehl, T/Attica.

Nominations were declared closed and a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Ayes: (1548)	Noes: (0)	Absent: (0)	Abstain: (51) Eagle
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Supervisor McCormick, T/Java was declared Vice-Chairman of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors for the year 2023.

Judge Mohun administered the Oath of Office to Vice Chairman McCormick

Chairwoman Ryan called for nominations for ***Clerk to the Board*** for the year 2023.

Supervisor May, T/Orangeville nominated ***Cheryl J. Ketchum***. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Brick, T/Perry.

Chairwoman Ryan called for further nominations three (3) times.

Hearing no further nominations, Supervisor Brick, T/Perry moved that the nominations be closed and the motion was seconded by Supervisor Jacoby, T/Wethersfield.

Nominations were declared closed and a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Ayes: (1599)

Noes: (0)

Absent: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Cheryl J. Ketchum was declared Clerk to the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors for the year 2023.

Judge Mohun administered the Oath of Office to Board Clerk, Cheryl Ketchum.

Chairwoman Ryan asked ***Wyoming County Sheriff, David Linder***, to please join Judge Mohun at the podium to be sworn in.

Oath of office administered to Sheriff David Linder by Judge Mohun

Chairwoman Ryan asked ***Wyoming County Undersheriff, Colin Reagan***, to please join Judge Mohun at the podium to be sworn in.

Oath of office administered to Undersheriff Reagan by Judge Mohun

Chairwoman Ryan asked ***Wyoming County Treasurer, Robin LaWall***, to please join Judge Mohun at the podium to be sworn in.

Oath of office administered to Treasurer LaWall by Judge Mohun

And lastly, Chairwoman Ryan asked ***Wyoming County Public Defender, Leah Nowotarski***, to please join Judge Mohun at the podium to be sworn in.

Oath of office administered to Public Defender Nowotarski by Judge Mohun

2023 Committees assignments for the Supervisors were announced ~

2023 Chairwoman's State of the County Address

January 03, 2023

Thank you Supervisor Becker for your nomination; Supervisor Jacoby for your kind second to that nomination.

Thank you to my husband, Pat, and our family for your patience and understanding; without your constant support this could not be possible.

Thank you Supervisor Davis for your service to the county as Vice-Chair and before that Chairman. And, once again, thank you Supervisor Berwanger for the years you served as Chairman in the past. Congratulations and welcome, Vice-Chair McCormick. I look forward to working with you in this New Year.

Thank you, Clerk Ketchum and Deputy Clerk Perez for all you do for all the supervisors, keeping us organized, informed and on point. We can be our best because of you.

Thank you, Budget Officer Cook and the Budget Office for getting us through a very difficult budget process this past year.

We saw many accomplishments in 2022, but must remember the losses we experienced as well. We lost Dave Tallman, former supervisor of Gainesville who will be greatly missed. Unfortunately, 2022 took Joe McTernan, CEO of Wyoming County Community Health System from us and his young family, much too soon. Our Highway Department did not remain unscathed in 2022, it experienced the loss of one of their best men, Richard Lepkowski.

Some long-standing elected officials retired this past year leaving behind their valued contributions to the county; Sherriff Rudolf and Treasurer Cheryl Mayer. Our prestigious Public Defender, Norm Effman has chosen to retire after serving Wyoming County for many, many years. However, we will still be seeing him in a slightly different capacity in 2023. I know we will all miss his wonderful dissertations in committee meetings. We welcome Public Defender Leah Nowotarski! I am sure you will lead the Public Defenders' Office well!

We are now the proud owners of the Agriculture and Business Center property which is now also the new home to Buildings and Grounds and Veterans Services. Veterans Services has also completed the new grant funded pavilion for our veterans' events during the warmer months. Thank you Director Tony Solina and Deputy Director Robin Kruppa for spearheading this great project.

Yes, we now have completed 99% of the transition to the Munis system! A great reason for a 2023 toast!

I believe we have survived the garbage "tote transition" with Waste Management. Many thanks and much appreciation for the fortitude, patience and tenacious efforts of Senior Planner, James Bragg. We are forever in your debt!

Bennington has a new historically renovated covered bridge, with the old one becoming a new fixture at the fairgrounds. What a great tribute to preserving our history for future generations! Thank you Supervisor Grant, our highway department, former Highway Superintendent, Todd Gadd, current Highway Superintendent Devin Blue and all who played an important role in this project.

We completed the new entryway to the county building adding security and efficiency for our visitors. Thank you, Mike Adamczak and the Building and Grounds Department who made this a reality. And, thank you former Chairman Davis for making this a priority project.

The renovations have been completed at Public Health, many thanks to Administrator Laura Paolucci, the Public Health Department and once again to Mike Adamczak and the Buildings and Grounds Department. This project was completed in record time especially given the new timeframes to receive materials and supplies.

In 2022 the Covid Pandemic State of Emergency ended. We look forward to getting life back to pre-pandemic times, but always keeping lessons learned in mind. There is much to do 2023 and beyond to deal with the lingering effects of the virus and the mandated lock-downs. We have seen an increase in mental issues exacerbated by the isolation that occurred in that dark time. We have also lost many small businesses, but look forward to new ones taking their place soon.

The hospital was most impacted by Covid through the loss of revenue, huge increase in expenses due to supply and labor costs. Covid took its toll on our most experienced and dedicated healthcare workers causing many to retire or seek other careers. To those who have left, you are greatly missed, to those who remain, we are deeply grateful. Here, in Wyoming County, we have one of only two county-owned hospitals in New York State and thus our own unique challenges. 2023 will be a challenge for all healthcare facilities in the state and nation, one that we must face and will overcome. I am very proud of our hospital and healthcare workers; I know, for a fact, without them, lives would be lost, one in particular just recently.

2022 did not go away quietly. We had the snow storms/blizzards just before Thanksgiving and then again Christmas. We in Wyoming County are accustomed to extreme winter weather, but let's hope 2023 will not give us a repeat performance. I would like to thank Brian Myers, Director of Fire and Emergency Management, Bill Streicher, County Fire Coordinator, our local volunteer Fire Departments, newly elected Sheriff Dave Linder and the Sheriff's Department, our town and village highway departments and local police departments for their extraordinary efforts to keep us safe during the "once in a generation weather event".

Looking forward to 2023, we are facing many challenges; inflation, supply and labor shortages, and new regulations and mandates coming from Albany. But, I have come to know over the years that with every new challenge come new opportunities. I believe that with the 16 supervisors here in this room, together with our talented, dedicated department leaders and hard-working employees we can capitalize on those opportunities. By working collaboratively we can make Wyoming County the best place to live, work and raise a family; that is our duty.

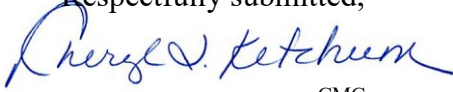
Life is precious, and can sometimes be taken unexpectedly; we need to make the best of the tasks and time we are given to make the future better for those who go after us.

Once again, I am excited and look forward to working toward that goal in 2023 with all my fellow supervisors, county department leaders and employees.

Thank you and Happy New Year and please keep Buffalo Bills Safety, Damar Hamlin and his family in your prayers.

There being no further business to come before this Board, Senior Supervisor Berwanger, T/Arcade, adjourned the meeting at 2:42 PM with a rap on his desk.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl J. Ketchum, ^{CMC}
Clerk to the Board

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Board of Supervisors

Meetings

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Veterans Services

Organizational Meeting Veteran

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