

**ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019  
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. Clerk to the Board, Cheryl Ketchum, called the 178<sup>th</sup> session of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors to order at 2:00 pm.

The Veteran leading the Pledge of Allegiance for the January 2, 2019 Organizational Board Meeting is:

**John R. Harzynski, II**

Clerk Ketchum stated that she has the very distinct honor of introducing Mr. Harzynski, the good Samaritan who came to the assistance of Wyoming County Sheriff, Gregory Rudolph on the morning of December 11, 2018. In the words of Sheriff Rudolph, "...***Their quick actions without regard to their safety undoubtedly altered the outcome and were nothing short of heroic.***"

*The pledge was said by all.*

*Clerk Ketchum thanked Mr. Harzynski for his service in the United States Air Force and presented the customary Certificate of Appreciation. At that time, Clerk Ketchum turned the floor over to Senator Patrick Gallivan for the presentation of the New York State Senate Liberty Medal to Mr. Harzynski.*

*Senator Gallivan asked Sheriff Rudolph and District Attorney O'Geen join him at the podium for the presentation.*

*Senator Gallivan wished everyone a Happy New Year and assured all those gathered that he will continue to stand up for all the citizens of Wyoming County. However, the purpose for being here today is to award the one of the highest civilian honors that a New York State citizen can receive....the Liberty Medal. Very few people have been awarded this medal as it has very strict criteria. It is presented to individuals who have merited special accommodations for exceptional heroic or humanitarian acts and achievements on behalf of their community and New York State.*

*Senator Gallivan read the following...*

**In Recognition of  
John R. Harzynski II  
Recipient of a Liberty Medal  
The highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate**

**WHEREAS,** It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Representative Body to recognize the caring concern and heroic acts of exemplary citizens who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, and in doing so, help others to avert life-threatening danger; and

**WHEREAS,** The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by Resolution and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

**WHEREAS,** This Representative Body is justly proud to honor John "Jack" Harzynski II upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the New York State Senate; and

**WHEREAS,** On the morning of Tuesday, December 11, 2018, John was delivering The Buffalo News on a dark country road between Attica and Warsaw, when he came upon something that stopped him ---- an unmarked police car with lights flashing. To the side of the road, there were two men wrestling in a snow bank; and

**WHEREAS,** As John climbed out of his car, he heard the desperate pleas of Wyoming County Sheriff Greg Rudolph. Rudolph was on the ground with a knife to his neck; and

**WHEREAS,** John sprang into action by grabbing the suspect by the coat and hurled him into a snowbank. Both men fell. However, the suspect regained his footing, knife still in hand; and

**WHEREAS,** Subsequently, Sheriff Rudolph was able to tackle the suspect to the ground and immediately secure handcuffs; and

**WHEREAS,** According to Sheriff Rudolph, John's "quick action, without regard to his safety, undoubtedly altered the outcome and was nothing short of heroic", and

**WHEREAS,** Praised for his swift actions, John Harzynski demonstrated his true character and genuine compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of his actions, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of the State of New York who voluntarily respond when others are in need; and

**WHEREAS,** Justly recognized as a hero, John richly merits the admiration of this Representative Body and his community for his consummate courage and heroic actions; now, therefore, be it

**PROCLAIMED,** That this Representative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the John Harzynski upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the New York State Senate.

*Mr. Harzynski received a standing ovation! He was then provided an opportunity to address the board.*

*He thanked everyone for being here and said he was overwhelmed by this recognition. Mr. Harzynski then recounted the events of that morning including the “football tackle” the Sheriff made on his assailant after he pulled the man off him. It was with that in mind that Mr. Harzynski presented Sheriff Rudolph with a football signed by him that said:*

*“Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - to Wyoming County Sheriff Gregory Rudolph from your unexpected friend, John Harzynski. God bless you.”*

*Sheriff Rudolph said that Jack is his hero and thanked Senator Gallivan for recognizing Mr. Harzynski so appropriately.*

*After attending press exited the meeting, Father Joe Gullo of St. Mary’s Church in East Arcade provided the invocation.*

*Clerk Ketchum then welcomed Judge Griffith who will be administering the Oaths of Offices today.*

Clerk Ketchum then called for nominations for Temporary Chairman over today’s proceedings. Supervisor Ryan, T/Warsaw nominated Supervisor Brick, T/Perry. Seconded by Supervisor May, T/Orangeville. As there were no other nominations Supervisor Tallman, T/Gainesville moved that the nominations be closed, the motion was seconded by Supervisor Vasile, T/Genesee Falls. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

Supervisor Brick was declared Temporary Chairman over today’s proceedings.

*Judge M. Griffith 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. He then called for nominations for Chairman of the Board for the year 2019. Supervisor May, T/Orangeville nominated Supervisor Berwanger, T/Arcade; seconded by Supervisor Tallman, T/Gainesville.

Temporary Chairman Brick called for any further nominations. Supervisor Kehl, T/Attica nominated Supervisor Brick, T/Perry for the Chairman of the Board; seconded by Supervisor Becker, T/Sheldon. Temporary Chairman Brick called for any further nominations. As there were none, Supervisor Ryan, T/Warsaw moved that the nominations be closed; the motion was seconded by Supervisor Copeland, T/Wethersfield.

Temporary Chairman Brick the recognized Supervisor Brunner, T/Java. Supervisor Brunner offered her thanks to the entire Board of Supervisors. As the only Democrat on the Board, she appreciates the nonpartisan efforts and commends Chairman Berwanger for keeping her involved and up to date.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

**Berwanger: (1126); Brick: (473)**

Temporary Chairman Brick declared Supervisor Berwanger, T/Arcade as Chairman of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors for the year 2019.

*Judge M. Griffith administered the Oath of Office to Chairman Berwanger.*

The Chairman called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board. Supervisor May, T/Orangeville nominated Supervisor Ryan, T/Warsaw; seconded by Supervisor Brick, T/Perry. As there were no further nominations Supervisor Vasile, T/Genesee Falls moved that the nominations be closed; the motion was seconded by Supervisor Copeland, T/Wethersfield. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

Supervisor Ryan, T/Warsaw was declared Vice-Chairman of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors for the year 2019.

*Judge M. Griffith administered the Oath of Office to Vice Chairman Ryan.*

Chairman Berwanger called for nominations for Clerk to the Board for 2019. Supervisor Tallman, T/Gainesville nominated Cheryl J. Ketchum. Seconded by Supervisor Ryan, T/Warsaw. As there were no further nominations, Supervisor Leuer, T/Middlebury moved that nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Supervisor King, T/Pike. 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 2019.

*Judge M. Griffith administered the Oath of Office to Board Clerk, Cheryl Ketchum.*

Chairman Berwanger invited re-elected District Attorney Donald O'Geen to come forward and take his Oath of office. He was joined by his father and two daughters.

*Judge M. Griffith administered the Oath of Office to District Attorney, Donald O'Geen.*

District Attorney O'Geen addressed the board by thanking the Board of Supervisors and said there is no place to work like Wyoming County.

**2019 Committees Announced ~**

*2/3 Majority  
#1*

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-001  
(January 2, 2019)**

By Mr. Brick, Chairman of the Finance Committee:

**RULES OF PROCEDURE ADOPTED**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That this Board of Supervisors hereby adopts, as its temporary Rules of Procedure, the Rules of this Board as adopted June 09, 2009, as amended.

**Carried: XXX      Ayes: 1471      Noes:      Absent:      Abstain:**

**#2**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-002  
(January 2, 2019)**

By Mr. Brick, Chairman of the Finance Committee:

**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS DESIGNATED**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That, pursuant to Section 214 (2) of the county law of this state, the Arcade Herald, Arcade, New York; Country Courier, Warsaw, New York; The Daily News, Batavia, New York; and the Perry Herald, Perry, New York are hereby designated for the publication of local laws and all other notices and matters required by law to be published, for which no other specific designation has heretofore been made.

**Carried: XXX      Ayes: 1599      Noes:      Absent:      Abstain:**

**REPUBLICAN DESIGNATION TO PUBLISH**

We, the undersigned Republican members of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Wyoming, State of New York, do hereby designate as follows for the year 2019:

Designation	Publication	Village of
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Election Notice	Daily News	Batavia, New York
Sheriff's Proclamation	Daily News	Batavia, New York
Local laws, notices and other matters required by law to be published and for which NO OTHER specific designations has been made.	Daily News	Batavia, New York
Official Canvass	Country Courier	Warsaw, New York
Constitutional amendments and concurrent resolutions (including tax sales and redemptions).	Country Courier	Warsaw, New York

*Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2019:*

s/ A.D. Berwanger  
s/ Bryan Kehl  
s/ Ellen Grant  
s/ Keith Granger  
s/ Jerry Davis  
s/ Brett Hastings  
s/ David Tallman  
s/ Michael Vasile

s/ Daniel Leuer  
s/ Susan May  
s/ James Brick  
s/ Sandra King  
s/ Brian Becker  
s/ Rebecca Ryan  
s/ John Copeland

**DEMOCRATIC DESIGNATION TO PUBLISH**

We, the undersigned Democratic members of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Wyoming, State of New York, do hereby designate as follows for the year 2019:

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Publication</b>	<b>Village of</b>
Election Notices	Perry Herald	Perry, New York
Sheriff's Proclamations	Perry Herald	Perry, New York
Local laws, notices and other matters required by law to be published and for which NO OTHER specific designation has been made.	Perry Herald	Perry, New York
Official Canvass	Arcade Herald	Arcade, New York
Constitutional amendments and concurrent resolutions (including tax sales and redemptions).	Arcade Herald	Arcade, New York

*Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2019:*

s/ Angela Brunner

**Carried: XXX      Ayes: 1599      Noes:      Absent:      Abstain:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-003  
(January 2, 2019)**

By Mr. Brick, Chairman of the Finance Committee:

**THREE (3) COPIES OF ANNUAL REPORTS REQUESTED**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Public Officials of this County present at least three (3) hard copies, in writing, and one (1) electronic copy of their annual report to the Clerk of this Board not later than March 31, 2019, said annual reports to contain a financial summary of the department; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That any supervisor may request any official to present an oral report in addition to a written report.

**Carried: XXX      Ayes: 1599      Noes:      Absent:      Abstain:**

*2019 Chairman's  
State of the County Address  
January 2, 2019*

Fellow Supervisors, Senator Gallivan, Judge Griffith, District Attorney O'Geen, Sheriff Rudolph, Treasurer Mayer, County Clerk Pierce, Father Joe Gullo, Department Heads, family and friends, welcome to the annual organizational meeting of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors!!

Over the past 10 years, the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors have focused their energy on 5 specific areas which affect the lives of nearly every resident of Wyoming County, they are highway, Wyoming County Community Hospital, agriculture, law enforcement and budget. Going back over 20 years the Board made a commitment to rebuild every county road through the Better Pavement Program. 2018 realized the culmination of that effort! With the completion of the reconstruction of Simmons Road in the Town of Perry, the Better Pavement Program was complete. Some of the roads, starting with the first two rebuilds were Wethersfield and Curriers roads. Followed by Middle Reservation, Telegraph, East Arcade, Bixby Hill, Broughton Road, Dewitt, Lamont, Perry Road and Hermitage. The total cost for all of this construction was paid for through careful bonding by the Board of Supervisors. Millions of dollars invested in our road system was committed to. What is the benefit to better roads? Property values are better when located on a good road. The taxpayers receive a benefit for their property tax payment by having good roads to travel on and good roads should stimulate commerce and business within the county by travel ease.

The next area of focus by the Board of Supervisors is the Hospital and Skilled Nursing Facility.

Wyoming County Community Health System is the largest county department and has been operating recently “in the black” for possibly the first time in its history! Much of the success is due to the superb and astute leadership of CEO, Don Eichenauer. Because of Don’s vision and dedication to the hospital, new specialists have been recruited to practice at WCCHS. New primary care physicians will be starting to practice in the spring at clinics in Arcade, Castile and Attica! The specialists include an orthopedic practice of Dr. Paul Mason, Nephrology, operating under the practice of WCCH Medical Director, Dr. Mandip Panesar and a Neurology practice Dr. Lauren Loss. Other specialists include cardiac, OB and general surgery with Drs. Weissenberg and Cohen.

Also new at the hospital this year was the installation of the new MRI Unit and the Gamma and Radiology Units. Both units enhance diagnostic opportunities for our patients.

Representatives from the Board of Managers and the Board of Supervisors under the advisement of Don Eichenauer continue to work with the Erie County Medical Center to develop an even stronger and cooperative arrangement between both health systems so that they can continue to grow and prosper.

A great deal of the credit for the remarkable financial turnaround at WCCHS not only goes to Don Eichenauer, CFO, Jack Ormond and Financial Analyst, Amy Chase but to all of the doctors, nurses, senior management, aides and the staff in billing and collections, who by working together have been able to enhance the reputation of WCCHS as a place for great medical treatment and a caring and compassionate organization where the patients come first. That reputation will continue to lift the hospital to a successful future as a destination for health care serving Wyoming County and beyond.

Another point to note, Don Eichenauer has indicated that he is thinking about stepping away from the CEO position and taking on the responsibility of developing other clinics in the area which could serve as feeders for services at WCCHS for outpatient treatment, as well as, inpatient treatment. Don has agreed to continue on at least for another year to help groom his successor and work on setting up new clinics and addressing other projects. There are so many good things happening at Wyoming County Community Hospital.

The third area of focus by the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors is Agriculture. This Board made a commitment over 10 years ago to support agriculture as the primary industry in Wyoming County. We are still the #1 Dairy producing county and lead the state in overall agriculture production. The Board of Supervisors continues to fund Cornell Cooperative Extension, Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as, Quality Milk Production Services, a Cornell University program.

The Wyoming County Ag. & Business Center continues to meet all expectations as a one-stop destination for not only Agriculture but Commerce and Business, as well. The central location of the Ag. Center, here in Warsaw, the county seat, and the spacious meeting rooms and learning labs make this building a perfect location for all kinds of regional meetings and forums, in turn, bringing more visitors from outside Wyoming County to downtown Warsaw and other parts of the county.

Several years ago the Board of Supervisors approved membership to the New York State Agriculture Society, a Cornell University College of Ag and Life Sciences organization. Every year, four members of the Board of Supervisors, key representatives from the Wyoming County Industrial Development Agency, the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce and of course, representatives from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County travel to Syracuse in early January to join in the meeting with 700 other agriculture friends from across New York State to attend the always informational meeting and workshops, along with the opportunity to set up a display featuring all of the great opportunities and products Wyoming County agriculture has to offer...

Wyoming County is the only county in the state to participate in this wonderful opportunity to network and display our county. The meeting concludes with the delivery of the state of Agriculture address by Ag & Markets Commissioner, Richard Ball. Also, this year the Pioneer Central School FFA will be honored at the Ag. Society meeting as FFA Chapter of the year!! Many of the members of the FFA are Wyoming County residents. So congratulations to them on winning such a prestigious award!

The following day the Empire State Council of Agriculture Organizations holds their meeting in the same location. Membership was approved to this organization during the same timeframe as the New York State Ag. Society. Representatives from Wyoming County also attend this meeting where addresses by Dr. Kathryn J. Boor; Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Cornell University and Commissioner of Ag. & Markets, Richard Ball along with the Chairmen of the New York State Assembly and Senate Agriculture Committees all address the group. After which, resolutions pertaining to all aspects of Agriculture from New York State are forwarded to the state legislature for consideration. This discussion is very important as Wyoming County has representation on the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, which meets in late January where these resolutions will also be reviewed and supported. NYSAC acts as a lobbyist for New York State counties. These workshops and meetings are important as Wyoming County's participation demonstrates our commitment to maintaining a strong Agricultural future here in Wyoming County.

The next area of focus is the commitment to law enforcement. Early in 2017 and 2018, after a series of meetings with the Sheriff, Village Police Departments, Mayors and School Superintendents and the Public Safety Committee a decision was made to ensure that there would be a School Resource Officer in every school in Wyoming County. By September of 2018, through funding secured by New York State Senator Patrick Gallivan, participating Towns, Villages and School budgets, there was an SRO in every participating school in the county. The message was clear. We needed to act and we did in an effort to protect our most valuable resource, our youth. So, thank you to all who helped make that a reality and thank you to Sheriff Rudolph and Undersheriff Linder for helping to coordinate the staffing and funding and to the Public Safety Committee for acting quickly and decisively. It was the responsible thing to do.

The final area of focus is budget. The tax payers' message to the members of the Board of Supervisors is, "...don't raise my taxes," and we all take that message very seriously. When one

considers the entire county operations, \$150 million budget, 1,000 employees, all of the insurance costs, energy costs and all of the other expenses that comprise the county budget, it is virtually impossible to not see an annual increase in expenses.

The goal of this Board is to stay under the tax cap, which is determined by the Governor and the state legislature. This Board has been able to meet that mandate for the past 2 years, 2018 & 2019. Speaking of mandates, it is important to remember that 110% of the tax levy collected in the county goes to pay for 10 mandated state programs. This Board strives to be accountable to the taxpayers to make wise decisions in spending and making sure we get the biggest bang for our buck!

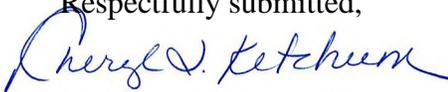
In closing, I want to say I am beginning my 20<sup>th</sup> year as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. I want to thank the Supervisors who supported me today and I respect the ones who did not. We have accomplished a great deal and have much to be proud of! It is time to move on and do the best job we can for the residents of Wyoming County. Senator Gallivan, thank you for joining us today and given the situation our Sheriff experienced a few weeks ago, we are very thankful he is back to work and doing well... Thank you all for listening and attending today's meeting.

God bless Wyoming County...

*There being no further business to come before this Board, Senior Supervisor Davis, T/Covington, adjourned the meeting at 2:46 PM with a rap on his desk.*

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Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl J. Ketchum, <sup>CMC</sup>  
Clerk to the Board

**B**

**Board of Supervisors**

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