
**AGENDA OF THE SCHUYLER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
SPECIAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

Meetings of this Legislature are open and public but, unless otherwise published, are not Public Hearings permitting public participation. Members of the public are requested to respect this rule, affording others an opportunity to hear and observe legislative deliberations and decisions. "a time for public comment will be allowed after the opening of the official session for up to a thirty-minute period of time and at the completion of the agenda, for up to a fifteen-minute period of time." (per Resolution No. 39-1983). With regard to questions, to avoid faulty information, any questions deemed to be unanswerable shall be submitted in writing and answered as soon as possible. Remember, this is supposed to be a discussion time for the public to give their views of what is happening in county government.

"To make this meeting more comfortable to you, the Schuyler County Legislature should be aware of your physical, visual or hearing problems before the meeting."

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Blowers at 9:00 A.M.
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Gray.
3. Moment of Silence.
4. Roll Call.
5. Announcement of Emergency Resolutions.
6. Public Participation (30 minutes).

Intro. No.	Res. No. 333	RATIFICATION OF SPECIAL MEETING
Motion by	Second by	Vote:
		Noes:

Intro. No. 1	Res. No.	OPPOSE GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL'S ABRUPT, SECRETIVE AND UNSAFE PRISON CLOSURES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS
Motion by	Second by	Vote:
		Noes:

7. Public Participation (15 minutes).
8. Meeting adjourned at A.M.

Stacy B. Husted, Clerk

Resolution No. 333
SCHUYLER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Special Meeting
November 15, 2021

Intro. No. _____
Approved by Committee _____
Approved by Co. Atty. SJG

Motion by _____
Seconded by _____
Vote: ___ Ayes to ___ Noes
Name of Noes _____

RE: RATIFICATION OF SPECIAL MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Special Meeting, pursuant to the call of the Clerk of the Legislature upon the direction of the Chairman, be and hereby is, ratified and approved for discussion and action upon the following items of business:

1. OPPOSE GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL'S ABRUPT, SECRETIVE AND UNSAFE PRISON CLOSURES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS

Resolution No.
SCHUYLER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Special Meeting
November 15, 2021

Intro. No. 1
Approved by Committee PCB-Individually
Approved by Co. Atty. SJG

Motion by _____
Seconded by _____
Vote: ___ Ayes to ___ Noes
Name of Noes _____

RE: OPPOSE GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL'S ABRUPT, SECRETIVE AND UNSAFE PRISON CLOSURES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul has abruptly announced that six prisons across the state will close by March of next year, consisting of: Ogdensburg Correctional Facility; Moriah Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility; Willard Drug Treatment Campus; Southport Correctional Facility; Downstate Correctional Facility and Rochester Correctional Facility, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul's announcement arrived with no advance warning and no meaningful local input or outreach to corrections unions or local officials, and

WHEREAS, local officials at the state and county levels have stated that they only learned of these closures from media reports, and

WHEREAS, such secrecy goes against the promises of transparency and collaboration made by the governor upon taking office, and

WHEREAS, this announcement appears to disregard a 2005 state law that requires 12-months' notice for a prison closure, and

WHEREAS, recent reforms that release violent offenders to the streets and close correctional facilities do nothing to protect our state from violent crime, and

WHEREAS, despite fewer inmates, dangerous violence and assaults inside our correctional facilities continue to rise, attacks on corrections officers have doubled over the past ten years in the wake of more than 20 facility closures in that same timeframe, and inmate-on-inmate violence has increased with the closure of these prisons, and

WHEREAS, placing more inmates into fewer facilities lead to a rise in assaults, a decrease in social distancing and elevated health dangers to staff and inmates caused by COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, the closing of these facilities will negatively affect over 1,300 correctional officers who are projected to be displaced, in addition to the negative impact these closures will have on local communities, and

WHEREAS, two of these facilities, Southport Correctional Facility and Willard Drug Treatment Campus are located in counties adjoining Schuyler County, respectively, Chemung County and Seneca County, and

WHEREAS, each facility provides employment opportunities to residents of Schuyler County, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul's decision impacts hundreds of area correctional officers and prison staff, and means uprooting hundreds of area families and a devastating toll on already hard-hit local economies, and

WHEREAS, the closure of Willard Drug Treatment Campus in southern Seneca County threatens area infrastructure and related costs to that community, further, such closure threatens to prevent or delay necessary upgrades to the wastewater treatment facilities for Seneca County Sewer District No. 1, which serves Willard Drug Treatment Campus as well as Sampson State Park, commercial and residential properties in the hamlet of Willard, the villages of Ovid and Lodi, and users along the east shore of Seneca Lake, thereby potentially endangering the Seneca Lake watershed, and

WHEREAS, the state has recently invested \$20 million into operations at the Southport Facility implementing a step-down program to work with the most violent inmates in the state's prison system to get them ready for reintegration into the general prison population.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Schuyler County Legislature hereby opposes and condemns the Governor's abrupt, secretive and unsafe plan to close these six prisons, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Schuyler County Legislature stands with our brave New York State Corrections Officers, as well as with corrections support staff and their families, whose lives will be devastated by this decision, and other area residents along Seneca Lake and otherwise, and calls for this decision to be reconsidered and reversed immediately, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature immediately transmit a true copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Anthony J. Annucci, New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York State Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, New York State Senator Thomas F. O'Mara, New York State Assembly Member Philip Palmesano, Inter-County Association of Western New York, New York State Association of Counties, the Clerks of the Chemung and Seneca County Legislatures, and such other persons deemed necessary and appropriate.