

Chairman's video comments October 2022

Hi, I'm Jim Weatherup, chairman of the Oswego County Legislature.

I wanted to provide a quick update on a productive October legislative session and share some important information about ongoing county activities and developments.

By now many of you know Micron Technology, a global leader in chipmaking, announced plans to build a state-of-the-art, world-class manufacturing facility in the town of Clay, just a few miles from the Oswego County border. Micron's decision to invest billions of dollars in our region is a substantial opportunity for our county, and in the coming weeks, months and years we must do all that we can to ensure the economic benefits of this development are felt by our residents and businesses.

Oswego County has ample land and development-ready properties near the Micron site. It is critical that we take action to make our county attractive to firms that support the chipmaking industry and to the thousands of workers who will be seeking quality housing near the site over the next two decades and beyond.

In another exciting development, the county Legislature approved a series of resolutions at our October meeting that will lead the way for a new tenant at the former Miller Brewing site that was most recently home to Attis Ethanol. For decades now, the site has changed hands and not lived up to its full potential, despite many promises to restore its status as an economic engine for the county.

With the actions the county has taken, however, the site will finally be placed in the capable hands of a Fortune 500 company and become a productive property and job creator for the region.

The county has taken possession of the tax delinquent parcels and worked closely with the former owners' creditors to complete a sale to Massachusetts-based Global Partners. Global is a large energy supply company that plans to resume ethanol production at the site. Unlike the previous owner, Global is a well-established, publicly traded company that has been in operations for nearly a century.

In addition to transferring the property to responsible owners, the county is acting today to extinguish a smoldering silo fire on the site that has been a nuisance to nearby residents for months. We're excited to be providing relief to nearby property owners while also taking the first steps in returning this property to productive use.

The Legislature also approved another disbursement from the county's American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, funds that covers eight more projects and initiatives. Included in the most recent slate of projects are water projects in the town of Hannibal and village of Sandy Creek that will improve residents' and business' access to safe drinking water, and proposals to create a childcare bootcamp and an enhanced police academy at Cayuga Community College. Childcare and law enforcement are two professions of extreme need in our communities, and we're pleased to provide funding to help boost training in both areas.

We will continue to approve ARPA funding requests in coming months with a focus on investing in priorities such as water, wastewater, public safety and economic development. For more information, or

to fill out an application for your business or organization, you can visit the County Legislature tab at www.OswegoCounty.com and click on “American Rescue Plan.”

The Legislature also approved an updated contract for our towns to perform snow and ice removal on county roadways this winter. Due to the rising costs of fuel, drivers and equipment, the cost per mile was increased to \$9,000 for the coming winter, and the agreement will be revisited prior to the 2023-2024 snow season. The deal ensures our roadways will remain safe and passable this winter and our towns are sufficiently reimbursed for their efforts.

Lastly, I wanted to address an initiative called Operation Green Light that recognizes our veterans and the struggles many face after their service to our nation. The county will be joining other counties, businesses and residents by displaying green lights on various county buildings throughout the first two weeks of November as a small gesture to our veterans. The county Veterans Services Office is often one of the first points of contact for veterans returning from active service, and if you know a veteran in need of assistance, please direct them to our Veterans Services agency.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and stay informed. The next meeting of the county Legislature is November 10 in Oswego, and we'll be back after that with more updates.