

## **Chairman's video update: June 9, 2022**

**In this month's video, Chairman Weatherup reports on resolutions passed during the Legislature's June meeting. They include the adoption of Local Law #5 of 2022 to establish fees and guidelines for tow services dispatched by Oswego County and the allocation of ARPA funding. He recognized former Sheriff Reuel "Mo" Todd, made staffing announcements and reminded residents that Oswego County is open for summer fun with this month's "Tourism Tip."**

Hello. I'm Jim Weatherup, chairman of the Oswego County Legislature. We tackled another full agenda this month and I'm happy to give you this update.

The session began with a public hearing for a proposed local law to establish fees and guidelines for tow services dispatched by Oswego County. County Sheriff Don Hilton and E-911 Director Kevin Pooley led this joint effort with other emergency responders to develop a better system for dispatching tow truck operators to traffic hazards.

As a result, Local Law #5 of 2022 was proposed and adopted. It sets a reasonable price schedule, clarifies definitions of response times and locations, and assures accountability across the board. This will help protect drivers on our streets and highways along with the emergency responders who are there to help them.

In addition, more than two dozen other resolutions were discussed during the course our June meeting.

One of which was a resolution to allocate funding through the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA. As I said last month, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to strengthen our communities for generations to come. With this in mind, we are thoroughly reviewing the many proposals submitted for this funding.

This is a significant moment for us to enrich our economic future. As such, we are striving to maintain balance and equity throughout the process. We pulled together a diverse group of community partners to help us. They represent the worlds of business, education, non-profit and local municipal government.

Together, we are working to identify the best projects to receive these worthy investments. It is a long road we'll travel to get there, and I will continue to keep you updated as we go along.

In other County news, I'm pleased to announce that the County's Public Safety Center on Churchill Road will be dedicated to former Sheriff Reuel "Mo" Todd. A life-long county resident, Mo was employed by the Sheriff's Office for nearly 45 years – starting as deputy and working his way up the ranks to Sheriff – before retiring in 2018. Mo's selfless devotion – his commitment to serving and protecting others – made Oswego County a safer place for all residents and I'm honored to share this news.

I'm also happy to announce that we appointed a new director of the County's Veterans' Services Office. We welcome Eric Boozer, a decorated veteran who brings 20 years of military service to the position. He spent the first eight years in the U.S. Army, followed by 12 years in the U.S. Air Force. In recent years, Eric has served Oswego County residents through the County's Department of Social Services and Emergency Management Office. Thank you for your service, Eric, and welcome!

Unfortunately, as we say hello to one department director, we are saying good-bye to another. Oswego County Public Health Director Jiancheng Huang is retiring at the end of this month. For the last decade, Jiancheng has been at the helm of our Health Department; most recently, helping guide us through the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the last two tumultuous years, he remained a steadfast champion of public health and – together with his team – remained committed to protecting and safe-guarding our residents. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Jiancheng, and best wishes on your next adventure!

Speaking of public health, I'm happy to say that Oswego County's COVID-19 community level remains 'low' for the second week in a row, according to the CDC. In the last week, the number of new cases has come down to 145 and the number of hospitalizations has been reduced to seven. This is all very good news and I want to thank you all for doing your part to help bring these numbers down.

As we continue to move forward out of this pandemic, we find "normal" activities resuming all around us. From arts and craft shows, concerts in the park, car and bike nights – to 5Ks, fun runs and festivals – to free fishing weekends and farmers' markets opening for the season – Oswego County is open for summer fun!

Our County Tourism Office reminds us that its events calendar is filling up fast. If you're looking for fun activities to do with your friends or families, take this month's "Tourism Tip" and get out into your community to explore some of these great events! Go to [www.visitoswegocounty.com](http://www.visitoswegocounty.com) and click on the "Calendar of Events" for details.

As always, stay safe and healthy; and thank you for doing your part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you haven't been vaccinated, and wish to do so, call the COVID-19 Hotline at 315-349-3330 – or call your medical provider – for more information. Look for our next video update in July.