

Greetings,

January 3, 2026

Happy New Year.

I invite each of the board members to come in for a visit prior to the first board meeting on January 7th. I would like to discuss some specific challenges we have coming and will share some thoughts, etc.

As I have stated to each of you privately, I realize I am just the fifth board member, but I am also tasked with chairing our meetings. My goal is to chair the most efficient and professional public meetings we can. As with most public meetings in NYS and the country, we will be following parliamentary procedures utilizing Robert's Rules of Order during our meetings. If you are not fully familiar with it, I encourage you to learn more of it and am providing sample YouTube videos as teaching examples (<https://youtu.be/s5cuYsYjcfw?si=Dift7Qrp9Ahjuajs> **Quick Start Guide To Roberts Rules Of Order For Meetings by Perfect Rules Inc. - Roberts Rules Explained**). Here is another that specifically addresses tabling and moving motions to committee (<https://youtu.be/FfnBGolKmbM?si=1qcGRfde2kvsIUtz> **Parliamentary Procedure Basics by pkcraven**). This 4-H Club example is corny and very strictly run, but the core concepts of seeking the floor, motions and debate before a vote are important and will be adhered to, as well as abiding by the T/Colchester Rules of Conduct passed in Feb, 2020. During the first couple of meetings we will go slowly with plenty of guidance provided as to the procedure(s).

Committees -

In the past, your committees have been disregarded and under-utilized. That practice is ending. One of the biggest changes my administration brings is the giving back of power and responsibility to the members assigned to committees. Again, my job is try to make each board member look as good as possible. We must strive for efficiency so that projects reach completion as quickly as possible.

During the meetings, as it comes up on the Agenda, each committee will be called upon to provide a committee report or speak on projects within that committee. Some of the time, those reports might be 'Nothing to Report'. Other times one of the members of that committee will verbalize the report to the whole board. I foresee most of the incoming work of the board to be funneled through to each appropriate committee for research. Once in committee, after discussing solution(s), the committee will then make their recommendation to the full board for possible action. If there is a topic that has an immediate need, the full board will address it as it comes in.

Review of Reports Prior to Meeting -

Each of you will be provided with electronic copies of the reports, minutes and other paperwork at least 24 hours prior to each meeting, delivered to you via email for review. Gone are the days of members being distracted during the public meeting by reviewing reports. It gives the impression to the audience that board members are distracted and not paying attention to the rest of the meeting. Before we call each meeting to order, I will ask each board member if they have had a chance to review the correspondence sent. If so, I will call the meeting to order. If not, that board member(s) will be given time to review before we start each meeting. We will not start the meeting before your review. I will hold up the meeting while we wait for this review to be completed.

I encourage each of you to come into the office for discussion. I plan on being there all day Monday and Tuesday, and Wednesday morning.

Thank you for what you do,

--Rob

