



MEMORANDUM COUNTY OF ERIE CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

TO: Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive and Chair of the Capital Projects Committee

FROM: Aislyn McQueen

DATE: July 6, 2026

RE: 2027 Capital Projects Committee Meeting #4

Attendance: County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera, Budget Director Mark Cornell, Commissioner Troy Schinzel, Commissioner Daniel Castle, Legislature Chair Tim Meyers, Minority Leader John Mills, Comptroller Kevin Hardwick, Chief of Staff James Blackwell, Chief of Staff Bryan Fiume, Chief of Staff Erich Weyant, Commissioner Michael Breeden, Deputy Commissioner Tray Cichocki, Deputy Commissioner James McDonald, COO BECPL Angela Marinucci, Tim German, Joe Nowicki, and Aislyn McQueen. Virtual Attendee: Jessica Schuster.

1. Call to Order & Minutes

- County Executive Poloncarz called the meeting to order and conducted roll call.
- Chairman Meyers motioned to approve the previous meeting's minutes; seconded by Budget Director Cornell; approved unanimously.

2. Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Presentation

Presenters: COO Angela Marinucci; DPW (Buildings & Grounds) Deputy Commissioner Tracy Cichocki; Library Facilities Head Andrew W.

- **Air Handler Replacement:** 11 units from 1964; approx. \$3M each.
- **Escalator Replacement:** To improve movement between first and second floors.
- **Snow Melt System Replacement:** Request for updated system at main entrance.
- County Executive requested a map of snow melt system locations and comparison of project estimates.

3. Information Technology Projects – Commissioner Breeden

1. Countywide data storage refresh (required every five years).
2. Core network updates for the County's data center.
3. Continued funding for virtual desktops (VMware); contract valid through Oct. 2027.
 - Noted rising costs due to software/equipment pricing and tariffs.
 - Alternatives are continuously reviewed but no cost-effective replacements are currently feasible.

4. Parks Department Presentation – Commissioner Schinzel & Deputy Commissioner McDonald

Seven proposals presented:

1. **ADA Accessibility Updates:** Emory, Willowdale, Disc Golf Course, Elma Meadows, Grover Cleveland.
 - Comptroller Hardwick asked about disc golf improvements; explanation provided about erosion and need for footbridges/stairs.
 2. **Shelters, Buildings, Restrooms:** Emory, Wendt Mansion interior, Ellicott Creek shelters/roofs, Lancaster Place, Grover Cleveland restroom, Friendship at Ellicott, Ranger Office.
 - Comptroller Hardwick asked about vandalism; Department reports issues are minimal and coordination with Rangers/Sheriff is ongoing.
 3. **Park Roads & Lots:** Chestnut Ridge ramps (277), Ellicott maintenance parking, Willowdale ADA paths/parking.
 4. **Vehicles & Equipment:** Mowers, stump grinders, chippers, electric carts (to reduce fuel costs).
 5. **Chestnut Ridge Park Culvert Rehab:** Commissioners Cabin Road and main road on Newton side.
 6. **Wayfinding & Signage (Phase 3):**
 - Part of a \$2M system-wide plan popular with visitors.
 - 46 signs completed with current 500K request (finishes exterior, begins remaining interior).
 7. **Amenities:** Picnic tables, grills, benches, fire rings, garbage totes.
 - Minority Leader Mills asked about low request amount; Department already replaced ~80% of items.
- **Additional Parks Discussion**
 - Minority Leader Mills asked about Sheriff's building at Chestnut Ridge. Commissioner Schinzel noted it's mostly used for storage; staffing questions should go to Sheriff's Office/Commissioner Geary.
 - Updates provided on large ongoing projects: Isle View, Wendt Beach, Willowdale, Seneca Bluffs.
 - Sprague Brook Park campground continues to grow in use; County rate is half of NYS rate.
 - New tee-time system at golf courses performing well; pass sales are up.
 - Sugar Shack/Maple Mill: roof replaced; syrup production strong;
- 5. Public Comment**
- No members of the public attended in person or virtually.
- 6. Next Meeting**
- Scheduled for Monday, July 13.
- 7. Adjournment**
- Motion to adjourn by Chairman Meyers; seconded by Commissioner Schinzel.