

Letter to County Supervisor Who Voted in Favor of Local Law No. B-2026 - Outline:

Introduction – 2 -4 sentences that:

- 1) State your dissatisfaction/ disappointment / dismay, etc. with the February 11, 2026, passage of Local Law No. B-2026 Authorizing the Lease or Sale of County Real Property Without Public Advertisement or Competitive Bidding.
- 2) Indicate your reason(s) for being upset about the passage of this law. Pick as many bullets as you feel appropriate:
 - Lack of transparency in the County Supervisors decision making process.
 - Perceived or real lack of the Supervisors' due diligence in contracting to sell or lease public property in a manner that is in the best interest of the public.
 - Removal of the public from the legislative process results in the loss of trust in the County Supervisors.

1st Paragraph:

Use the points below regarding a “Lack of Transparency” to explain why Local Law No. B-2026 indicates that the County Board of Supervisors appears to be an attempt to **avoid** being transparent:

- County Administrator Shannon Hillier is quoted in the February 13, 2026 edition of the Livingston County News as saying, “It will still be public, it’s just a different process.”
 - The law is titled “LOCAL LAW NO. B-2026 AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OR SALE OF COUNTY REAL PROPERTY **WITHOUT PUBLIC ADVERTISING** OR COMPETITIVE BIDDING”. How can we believe that the process will be public when the name of the law explicitly states otherwise?
- Without public notice, how will the public know that the Board of Supervisors conducted “A Determination of Need” that states the reasoning used to conclude that a property “is no longer necessary for public use.” – Quoting NYS County Law 215 (5)
- Without public notice or advertisement, each Supervisors’ opinion regarding the sale or lease of public property will not be known prior to a vote being held.
- Advertising the sale/lease of the property and allowing competitive bidding “to prevent potential corruption or favoritism.” – quoting Paul Wolf from the New Coalition for Open Government.
 - Without competitive bidding, it is difficult to gauge the market value of the property, potentially resulting in the loss of public revenue. Competitive bidding increases the likelihood that tax payers receive the best possible price for the sale or lease of public property.

This lack of transparency, whether real or perceived, causes the public to lose trust in the Board of Supervisors ability to act in the best interest of the people.

2nd Paragraph:

Use the points below to explain how it appears that the Supervisors ***appear to be trying to avoid*** their obligation to perform “due diligence”.

- Without any public notice or advertisement, how does the public know that the Supervisors exhausted all possible public uses and benefits for the property being sold or leased?
 - How will the public know if a sale or lease of property will restrict or prohibit public access to areas previously available for recreation, such as hunting or fishing?
 - How will the public know that due diligence will be done to ensure that there are no potential zoning and/or environmental issues regarding the proposed use of the property by the new owner or tenant?

The lack of public notice regarding due diligence erodes the public’s trust in actions of the Board of Supervisors.

Conclusion:

Each Supervisor was elected to represent the residents of their town or village in the local legislative process. When the public is not given notice of the proposed sale of public property, nor sufficient opportunity to comment on such a sale or lease, they are excluded from the legislative process. Democracy is a process and that process should be transparent. Local Law No.B-2026 purposefully excludes the public from the democratic process and leaves the residents of Livingston County to wonder if the County Board of Supervisors can be trusted to act in the best interest of all county residents.