

ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Town of Wawarsing Town Hall
108 Canal St
Ellenville, NY 12428

VIA EMAIL

February 6, 2025

Dear Supervisor Houck and Town Board Members,

As some of you may be aware, Ulster County has initiated efforts in the past few years to establish a warming center in the Village of Ellenville as a result of advocacy from local residents and community leaders. I write to you today to propose a partnership among the County, Town, Village, and Ellenville Regional Hospital to provide warming center services as soon as possible at the Hunt Memorial Building which, as an emergency shelter, is already equipped with the necessary beds, showers, and kitchen. The County would enter into a contract with Ellenville Regional Hospital to operate the warming center, and I am inviting the Town of Wawarsing to partner in this effort. The County will contribute \$39,999, and I am requesting that the Town contribute \$10,000 toward this essential service for the community.

Under the proposal, Ellenville Regional Hospital would operate the warming center seven days a week, from 11 pm to 7 am, staffed by a community health worker and security, and would provide a sandwich in the evening and breakfast in the morning. I want to thank and commend Ellenville Regional Hospital President & CEO Steven Kelley and his staff for quickly pulling together a team and plan to provide this important service.

I am pleased to share that the Ellenville Village Board unanimously approved the proposal at their board meeting last night.

To move this forward, the Wawarsing Town Board would need to approve the contribution of \$10,000 to Ellenville Regional Hospital (\$5,000 of which will be remitted to the Village for facility costs) for Warming Center operations. Please feel free to contact me at (845) 340-3800 if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Jen Metzger
Ulster County Executive