

# *Tioga County Sheriff's Office*



**From  
Sheriff Gary W. Howard**

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News Release  
Monday, January 26, 2026**

On 1/21/26, the Tioga County Sheriff's Office arrested Benjamin B. McCluhan, age 34, of Nichols, NY following a Tioga County Grand Jury indictment for the following charges:

- Arson in the First Degree, a class "A1" felony
- Conspiracy in the Second Degree, a class "B" felony
- Four counts of Arson in the Third Degree, class "C" felonies
- Two counts Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree, class "D" felonies
- Two counts Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, class "D" felonies
- Two counts Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree, class "E" felonies
- Four counts Criminal Solicitation in the Fourth Degree, class "A" misdemeanors
- Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree, a class "A" misdemeanor
- Five counts Endangering the Welfare of a Child, class "A" misdemeanors
- Two counts Making a Punishable False Written Statement, class "A" misdemeanors

These charges resulted from a 12-month investigation conducted by the Tioga County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division, Tioga County Fire Investigation Team, New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control and the New York State Police following several suspicious structure fires that occurred in November and December of 2024 in the Town of Berkshire, NY. McCluhan was taken into custody by the Chambers County Sheriff's Office in the State of Alabama on 12/1/25 as a fugitive from justice and later transported to New York State by the US Marshals Service. On 1/22/2026, McCluhan was arraigned on the indictment in Tioga County Court and bail was set in the amount of \$30,000 cash/ \$60,000 bond/ \$100,000 surety bond.

Approved by Captain T. Yaeger  
Posted 1/26/26 2:05 PM by Diane Rockwell