

***Pursuant to the State of Emergency Executive Order 202.1 Article 7, Suspension of Law
Allowing the Attendance of Meetings Telephonically or Other Similar Service***

Chair Lightfoot called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES: Mr. Sheridan moved to suspend the Rule of Procedure to allow the attendance of Legislators telephonically, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

ROLL CALL: All Legislators were present. Mr. Arquiett, Mr. Burke, Ms. Fiacco, Ms. Haggard, and Ms. Terminelli attended telephonically.

Mr. Denesha said a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

LONGEVITY CEREMONY – The Chair recognized the following employees:

Thirty Year Employees: Community Services – *Lori Barr*; County Attorney – *Hattie Bice*; Highway – *David Fuller*; Human Resources – *Cathy Race*; Office for the Aging – *Valerie Sochia*; Public Health – *Bonnie Hayden*; Sheriff’s Office – *Matthew Brown*; and Social Services – *Lawrence Fetchie, Christine Lazone, and Christine Tupper*

Thirty-Five Year Employees: Highway – *Harry Dedrick and John Waite*; and Social Services – *Darcy Lacombe*

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. Forsythe moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Curran moved to approve the October 5th Full Board and October 19th Special Board minute meetings, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Deputy Clerk read the following correspondence:

1. An email was received from Felicia Dumas, Executive Director of St. Lawrence County Community Development Program regarding the 2019-2020 CDP Impact Report. The email was read in its entirety and copies of this report have been provided for each Legislator.
2. An email was received from Toni Kennedy, Councilwoman of the Town of Potsdam, regarding comments made by several members of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators regarding Coronavirus. She said many Legislators are not taking the pandemic serious. She publically called on Legislators Curran and Smithers to apologize to the Jewish residents of the County. The email was read in its entirety.
3. An email was received from David Duff, Macomb, in opposition to the resolution opposing unfounded mandate of enforcement of executive orders related to COVID-19 pandemic. The email was read in its entirety.

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CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Anna Sommer, Canton, said leadership matters and she urges Legislators to follow Governor Cuomo’s Executive Orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic and to vote no to the resolution opposing the enforcement of the executive order.

Ginger Storey-Welch, Pierrepont, said she is here to speak about a comment made at a previous meeting regarding the Governor and Nazism. She has a friend who is a Holocaust survivor and when trivial things are equated to Nazism, it implies Nazism is inconsequential. She said she respectfully urges her Legislator to vote no to the resolution opposing the enforcement of the executive order related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Operations Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 290-2020

**ADOPTING NEW YORK STATE LOCAL RETIREMENT LEGISLATION
CHAPTER 542, LAWS OF 2015, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREDITING OF SERVICE
PERFORMED BY A DEPUTY SHERIFF ENROLLED IN ARTICLE 14-B OF THE
RETIREMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY LAWS**

By Mr. Denesha, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the Sheriff’s Office currently certifies Deputy Sheriffs enrolled in Article 14-B of the Retirement and Social Security Law on an annual basis, and

WHEREAS, the New York State and Local Retirement System’s Retirement Legislation Chapter 542, Laws of 2015, provide for the crediting of service performed by a Deputy Sheriff enrolled in Article 14-B of the Retirement and Social Security Laws which eliminates the requirement for the annual certification, attesting to the fifty percent (50%) criminal law enforcement duties for the certified Deputy Sheriffs employed by a County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators adopts the New York State local retirement legislation Chapter 542, Laws of 2015, to provide for the crediting of service performed by a Deputy Sheriff enrolled in Article 14-B of the Retirement and Social Security Laws, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the effective date shall be the 9th day of November, 2020.

Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 290-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

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Operations Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 291-2020

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH KAROLE L. HOULE-MAROLF FOR CLEANING SERVICES AT THE DISTRICT OFFICES OF PROBATION, DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES LOCATED AT HARROWGATE COMMONS IN MASSENA, NEW YORK

By Mr. Denesha, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County leases property at Harrowgate Commons, Massena, New York, for district offices of Probation, Department of Motor Vehicles, Community Services, and the backup location for the dispatch center for Emergency Services (A1342504 43007, K1314104 43007, Q1M31404 43007, and XP036404 43007), and

WHEREAS, the contact period is January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the lease specifies that “lessee shall commit no act of waste and shall take good care of the premises and the fixtures and appurtenances therein, and shall, in the use and occupancy of the premises, conform to all laws, orders, and regulations of the federal, state, and municipal governments or any of their departments.” and “lessee shall not unreasonably permit the accumulation of waste or refuse matter on the leased premises or anywhere in or near the building,” and

WHEREAS, Karole L. Houle-Marolf will continue to provide cleaning services to the Harrowgate Commons, in Massena, New York, at a rate of \$25 per hour,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Karole L. Houle-Marolf for cleaning services at the district offices of Probation, Department of Motor Vehicles, Emergency Services, and Community Services located at Harrogate Commons, Massena, New York, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 290-2020, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

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Operations Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 292-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH JULIE L. LAWLESS,
LCSW, FOR COUNSELING SERVICES FOR THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

By Mr. Denesha, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the Probation Department has determined that the purchase of rehabilitative and supportive services can be an effective and efficient means to fulfill its statutory responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, Julie L. Lawless, LCSW, is a Licensed Master Social Worker 2 Counselor with the experience and capacity to provide counseling to juveniles and adults identified as sexual offenders, and

WHEREAS, the Probation Department is required as part of the enhanced services for the Sex Offenders Block Grant under the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives to ensure that all sex offenders are assessed by a trained treatment provider using a sex offender specific assessment instrument, and

WHEREAS, the Probation Department is seeking to continue the services for individual and group counseling sessions, as well as assessments (Q1031404 43000 SOM), with the terms of the contract being January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the rates are as follows: \$25 per client for group sessions, \$35 per client for individual therapy, and \$250 for each sex offender assessment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorize the Chair to sign a contract with Julie L. Lawless, LCSW, for counseling services for the Probation Department, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 292-2020, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Sheridan, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

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Operations Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 293-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

By Mr. Denesha, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation awarded \$100,000 of 2018 Section 5311 Operating Assistance to the County to offset expenses related to the delivery of its public transportation services, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 161-2020 modified the 2020 Budget (N2B56304 43007 and N2B45895 57003) to accept the award for public transportation expenses,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with New York State Department of Transportation for public transportation services, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 293-2020, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Acres, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Operations Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 294-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH VOLUNTEER
TRANSPORTATION CENTER, INC. TO PROVIDE MOBILITY MANAGEMENT
SERVICES IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY**

By Mr. Denesha, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County has signed a Section 5311 Contract with New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) for a term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022 for Mobility Management Services (N2B56304 43007), and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County issued a Request for Proposals and Volunteer Transportation Center, Inc. was the sole responding agency, and

WHEREAS, Mobility Management Services seeks to help people of all ages, abilities, and income levels with transportation access to education, employment, medical care, shopping and as well as enhance social interactions and improve overall life quality, and

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WHEREAS, Mobility Management Services pursues collaborative solutions with residents, transportation providers, human service agencies and funding sources to improve transportation options, and

WHEREAS, no County funds will be used to provide this service as the program is fully funded by the NYS DOT with a local match that is satisfied by the vendor,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Volunteer Transportation Center Inc. to provide Mobility Management Services in St. Lawrence County, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 294-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Operations Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 295-2020

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH CENTER FOR TECH AND CIVIC LIFE FOR THE COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANT AND TO MODIFY THE 2020 BUDGET FOR THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

By Mr. Denesha, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, funds have become available from the Center for Tech and Civic Life for the Board of Elections for the period beginning June 15, 2020 through December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$51,759, and

WHEREAS, the grant must be used exclusively for the public purpose of planning and operationalizing safe and secure election administration,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Center for Tech and Civic Life for the COVID-19 Response Grant, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislature authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2020 Budget for the Board of Elections, as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

E1Z27055 55000	E Gifts and Donations	\$51,759
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

E1Z14501 19000	E Regular Part Time Staffing	\$20,085
E1Z14504 42000	E Office Supplies	26,724
E1Z14508 81000	E Retirement	2,850
E1Z14508 83000	E Social Security	1,536
E1Z14508 84000	E Workmens Compensation	<u>564</u>
		\$51,759

Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 295-2020, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Forsythe, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Operations Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 296-2020

MODIFYING THE 2020 BUDGET FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE FY19 PSAP GRANT

By Mr. Denesha, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 420-2019 accepted a FY19 PSAP Grant from the New York State Division of Homeland Security in the amount of \$193,447 with a contract period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the resolution also established two accounts: equipment and contractual for all the grant expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the equipment expenditures have increased to an amount greater than anticipated for 2020,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2020 Budget for the Office of Emergency Services for the FY19 PSAP Grant, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

X2Z36404 43007 PSAP	X PSAP Other Fees & Services	\$25,000
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

X2Z36402 25000 PSAP	X PSAP Technical Equipment	\$25,000
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Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 296-2020, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Operations Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 297-2020

MODIFYING THE 2020 BUDGET FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE FY19 SICG GRANT

By Mr. Denesha, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 31-2020 accepted a FY19 SICG Grant from the New York State Division of Homeland Security in the amount of \$848,652 with a contract period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the resolution also established two accounts: equipment and contractual for all the grant expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the contractual expenditures have increased to an amount greater than anticipated for 2020,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2020 Budget for the Office of Emergency Services for the FY19 SICG Grant, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

X2Z36402 25000 19SI X 19SI Technical Equipment \$150,000

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

X2Z36404 43007 19SI X 19SI Other Fees & Services \$150,000

Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 297-2020, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Sheridan, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

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Operations Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 298-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION WITH
THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES OFFICE OF INTEROPERABLE AND EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 18 (FY18) STATEWIDE
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS FORMULA GRANT (SICG)**

By Mr. Denesha, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 457-2018 authorized the Chair to sign a contract with New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications for a fiscal year eighteen (FY18) Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula Grant (SICG) having an award of \$811,132 to Emergency Services which concentrates on improving interoperability and operability of communication systems in New York State (Terms: January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020)(X2736402 25000 18SI), and

WHEREAS, this grant allows New York State to provide aid to County, Local, and Municipal public safety organizations in enhancing emergency response, improving capability, improvements in governance structures, operating procedures, infrastructure development, and addressing SAFECOM guidance from the United States Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), and

WHEREAS, a one-year extension has been requested by New York State Division of Homeland Security Emergency Services to December 31, 2021 for approximately \$14,367, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a one-year extension with New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications for Fiscal Year 18 (FY18) Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula Grant (SICG), and any other necessary documents as required by this grant, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 298-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe and Ms. Curran and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

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Services Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 299-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH
MONROE COUNTY FOR MORGUE AND LABORATORY SERVICES**

By Mr. Sheridan, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the responsibility of the Coroners' Program falls under the Public Health Department, and

WHEREAS, the current contracted Pathologist travels to three (3) individual hospitals within St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, during times the Pathologist is unavailable, there is a need to have an alternate location for morgue and laboratory services, and

WHEREAS, Monroe County has agreed to receive cases from St. Lawrence County in the absence of the current Pathologist and/or provide for services when a forensic autopsy is required (PC011854 45100 and PC011854 407MF), and

WHEREAS, the contract term will be January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Monroe County for morgue and laboratory services, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Sheridan moved to adopt Resolution No. 299-2020, seconded by Mr. Smithers, Ms. Curran, and Mr. Fay, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Services Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 300-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH
OUR LADY OF LOURDES HOSPITAL AND TWIN TIER PATHOLOGY
FOR MORGUE AND LABORATORY SERVICES**

By Mr. Sheridan, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the responsibility of the Coroners' Program falls under the Public Health Department, and

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WHEREAS, the current contracted Pathologist travels to three (3) individual hospitals within St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, during times the Pathologist is unavailable, there is a need to have an alternate location to send cases, and

WHEREAS, Twin Tier Pathology, in Broome County, New York, also provides forensic pathology services, and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital and Twin Tier Pathology has agreed to receive cases from St. Lawrence County in the absence of the current Pathologist and/or when a forensic autopsy is required (PC011854 45100 and PC011854 407MF), and

WHEREAS, the contract term will be January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital and Twin Tier Pathology for morgue and laboratory services, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Sheridan moved to adopt Resolution No. 300-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, Ms. Curran, and Mr. Reagen, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Services Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 301-2020

MODIFYING THE 2020 BUDGET FOR SOCIAL SERVICES FOR SOFTWARE, EQUIPMENT, AND OFFICE SUPPLIES FOR THE HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

By Mr. Sheridan, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, there was a need for software, equipment, and supplies for the HEAP Department and the October 2019 through September 2020 HEAP allocation was utilized, and

WHEREAS, the funds will be utilized to improve the work spaces for HEAP Staff and ensure safety and social distancing protocols can be in compliance,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorize the Treasurer to modify the 2020 Budget for Social Services for software, equipment, and office supplies for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), as follows:

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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

DAH60104 420GE HEAP	D HEAP Office Supplies	\$8,440
DAH60104 420OF HEAP	D HEAP Misc Office Furniture	48,207
DAH60104 42004 HEAP	D HEAP Computer Software	<u>24,777</u>
		\$81,424

INCREASE REVENUE:

DAH46105 57000 HEAP	D FA HEAP Admin	\$81,424
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Mr. Sheridan moved to adopt Resolution No. 301-2020, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Services Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 302-2020

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO APPROVE ISSUING A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR AN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD IN COMMUNITY SERVICES

By Mr. Sheridan, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, Community Services has an overdue need to replace the current Electronic Health Records to increase the efficiency of operations by streamlining the billing process of the Department, enhancing the clinical client records, and providing the data analytics capability to carry the Department into the platforms required for Value-Based-Payments quality indicator reporting, and

WHEREAS, Community Services would utilize recently designated State Opioid Response Grant funding for the purchase of the selected Electronic Health Record,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to approve issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an Electronic Health Record in Community Services.

Mr. Sheridan moved to adopt Resolution No. 302-2020, seconded by Ms. Curran, Mr. Acres, and Mr. Burke, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

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Services Committee: 10-19-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 303-2020

MODIFYING THE 2020 BUDGET FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR FUNDING FROM RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR MENTAL HYGIENE (RFMH)/OASAS NEW YORK STATE OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT

By Mr. Sheridan, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, Community Services has received funding modifications from New York State Opioid Response (SOR), and

WHEREAS, Community Services has recognized the need for increased access of individuals with an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) to recovery services in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, this one-time only increase to partially fund a peer advocate to engage clients that are struggling with their recovery program and to purchase a new Electronic Health Record (EHR), and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2020 Budget for Community Services for funding from Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene (RFMH)/OASAS New York State Opioid Response Grant, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

A1Z42501 11000	A SOR Direct Service Worker	\$20,369
A1Z42508 81000	A SOR Retirement	2,870
A1Z42508 83000	A SOR Social Security	1,558
A1Z42508 84000	A SOR Workers Comp	623
A1Z42508 84500	A SOR Life	31
A1Z42508 86000	A SOR Medical	5,121
A1Z42508 86500	A SOR Dental	212
A1Z42508 89000	A SOR Vision	100
A1Z42504 47801	A SOR Data Processing	<u>191,970</u>
		\$222,854

INCREASE REVENUE:

A1Z43895 56000	A SOR FA Chem Dep	\$222,854
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any remaining funds be rolled over to future budgets until the grant is fully expended.

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Mr. Sheridan moved to adopt Resolution No. 303-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe and Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Finance Committee: 10-26-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 304-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO AWARD AND SIGN CONTRACTS
FOR BROWN'S BRIDGE ROAD OVER RAQUETTE RIVER,
TOWN OF PIERREPONT BIN 3221560, PIN 775380**

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the 2021 Budget provides for the approval and funding of 2021 Capital Bridge Projects, Highway Reconstruction Projects, and Highway Paving Projects, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Highways has solicited bids for replacement of Brown's Bridge Road over Raquette River, Town of Pierrepont, BIN 3221560, PIN 775380, and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder for this project has been determined,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to award and sign contracts for Brown's Bridge Road over Raquette River, Town of Pierrepont, BIN 3221560, PIN 775380, and does hereby approve the award of the following contract to:

Contractor: J. E. Sheehan Contracting, Corp.

Contract Title: Brown's Bridge Road over Raquette River
Town of Pierrepont
BIN 3221560, PIN 775380

Contract Amount: \$1,996,963
HM651204 465CO 1901

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign all necessary contracts, contingent upon the contractor complying with all required contractual documentation, upon concurrence of New York State Department of Transportation, and upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 304-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Denesha, and Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote by fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) abstention (Perkins).

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Finance Committee: 10-26-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 305-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH GARY BOWITCH, ESQ.
FOR LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, Gary S. Bowitch, Esq. has been environmental counsel to St. Lawrence County since 2009, providing legal services and guidance to the County regarding a range of environmental matters including the remediation of environmentally impaired tax-delinquent properties throughout St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, the County and Mr. Bowitch would like to formalize their relationship by entering into an agreement, which will define respective rights and duties as to all services to be performed by Mr. Bowitch, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bowitch shall provide the County with the following legal services, including but not limited to:

- Tax Delinquent Site Activities: Assist and coordinate efforts of the County to cleanup and return contaminated tax-delinquent properties to the tax rolls taxable status; and
- J&L Site Activities: Assist and coordinate efforts relating to the J&L Site cleanup, redevelopment, and sale efforts; and
- Environmental Counsel Duties: Provide, on an as needed basis, advice and guidance to County Attorney on a range of environmental matters affecting St. Lawrence County; and
- Other environmental issues, as necessary

WHEREAS, County Law § 501 states "...the county attorney may employ counsel to assist in any civil action or proceeding brought by or against the county or any county officer in his official capacity,"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Gary S. Bowitch, Esq. for legal services related to environmental matters (01TG0899 50300 ENRS), upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms of the agreement would be January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024, with the prospect of two successive one (1) year options (T1013254 43002).

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Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 305-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe and Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Finance Committee: 10-26-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 306-2020

OPPOSING THE UNFUNDED MANDATE OF ENFORCEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDERS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND CALLING UPON THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO REMOVE THE THREAT OF LOSS OF STATE AID CONDITIONED ON ENFORCEMENT

By Mr. Acres, District 8

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued a declaration, pursuant to Executive Law § 29-a, that the State of New York was facing an emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, and

WHEREAS, since March 7th, 2020, Governor Cuomo has issued seventy (70) executive orders amending, modifying, suspending, and/or directing action related to hundreds of laws and regulations of the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, many of the Executive Orders (as many as 12 of the 70 orders) have directed local governments to enforce the provisions of the obligations through the imposition of fines and fees against those individuals alleged to have violated the requirements of the Governor's New York on P.A.U.S.E Program, and

WHEREAS, initially the directives of the Governor required that local governments enforce the individual mask mandate, social distancing measures, and population density reduction measures through the imposition of a fine on the individuals of up to \$1,000 per occurrence, and

WHEREAS, the Executive Orders were amended to empower local governments to impose a fine of as much as \$10,000 on businesses who failed to require individual patrons to observe the New York on P.A.U.S.E provisions, and

WHEREAS, on October 6th, Executive Order 202.68 was issued which modified the law and states, in pertinent part: " Sections 12 and 206 of the Public Health Law, to the extent necessary to, notwithstanding any other provision of this Executive Order, provide that any individual who encourages, promotes or organizes a non-essential gathering as set forth in Department of Health regulation, shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$15,000 per day; and Sections 12-a and 206(4) of the Public Health Law, to the extent necessary to authorize, at the direction of the Commissioner of Health or the Commissioner's representative, any local government official to assess, and the local government to retain, a civil penalty for violations of Executive Orders issued pursuant to Section 29-A of the Executive Law, or any regulations of the Department of Health, that impose requirements pertaining to maintaining social distance and

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wearing of face coverings, for the duration of this disaster emergency, and to conduct any hearing related to such penalties. Such penalties, if assessed on an individual basis, shall not exceed \$1,000 per violation, except as otherwise provided herein,” and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, the Governor issued Executive Order 202.69, which states in pertinent part, “In furtherance of the protection of public health, and in recognition of the extreme consequences failure to adhere to the restrictions set forth in Executive Order 202.68 presents, the director of the budget is authorized to withhold any funds appropriated in the FY20 Enacted Budget to or for, directly or indirectly, a public or nonpublic school or school district and/or to a locality for the period of time that such school district, school or locality is found to have been in violation of Executive Order 202.68, or for the period of time that such school district, school, or locality is in violation of any order of the department of health issued pursuant to Executive Order 202.68,” and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2020, a control room conference call was held with representatives of the Governor who communicated to local government officials from across New York State that their inability or failure to impose fines on those perceived to be in violation of the Executive Orders would result in the State withholding local government aid, and

WHEREAS, during the same conference call, representatives of the Governor indicated that enforcement of the Executive Orders would be almost exclusively a local government responsibility, without the aid of the New York State Police and without any additional financial support from the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, during the same conference call, representatives of the Governor indicated that the citizenry of the County would be called upon to report on alleged violations of the Executive Orders and accuse alleged violators for the purpose of enforcement sanctions, and

WHEREAS, the ‘deputizing’ of local individuals has the potential to have children reporting parents, siblings reporting other siblings, and friends reporting friends for violations of the alleged executive orders, and

WHEREAS, the United States, the State of New York, and St. Lawrence County are facing a public health crisis unlike any experienced in approximately one-hundred years, and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is putting stress on public and private healthcare systems, as well as local law and public enforcement agencies (e.g.//Sheriff, County Administrator, County Attorney, Public Health, and the District Attorney) that are already stretched very thin, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County and all county governments across New York State have been taking unprecedented steps to slow down the rate of infections with little to no support from the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, county healthcare workers, first responders, and all essential employees in the public sector are on the front lines of this pandemic, and

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WHEREAS, this is the third time since March 7, 2020, where the Governor has specifically indicated that eligibility and receipt of State Aid for counties were endangered, and

WHEREAS, the Governor has specifically stated that if New York does not receive federal funding in a federal coronavirus stimulus bill, local government aid will be reduced by twenty percent (20%), and

WHEREAS, the Governor has also conditioned future state aid on the adoption of local police reforms by local governments pursuant to Executive Order 203, and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order disregards the Home Rule provisions of the New York State Constitution whereby local governments are free to craft local laws regarding public safety within the confines of the areas proscribed by the State Legislature, and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order ignores the constitutional authority vested within the State Legislature to appropriate funds and establish a State Budget, and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of the Executive Orders only applies to local governments and not to State police agencies, a glaring discrepancy that imposes an unfunded mandate upon local governments, and

WHEREAS, local governments should be supported and praised for their frequent sacrifices and their selfless service rather than be villainized under threat of harm to their constituents through the loss of State aid,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators oppose the unfunded mandate of enforcement of the Executive Orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic and calling upon the Governor of the State of New York to remove the threat of loss of State aid conditioned on enforcement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Legislators calls upon the State of New York to assume the responsibility of enforcement of their own directives or, in the alternative, provide additional funding to support the efforts at the local government level, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Patricia Ritchie, Senator Elizabeth Little, Senator Joseph Griffo, Assemblyman Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, and Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush.

Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 306-2020 seconded by Mr. Forsythe.

Mr. Smithers said he does not have an issue with the safety aspects of the executive order, but does have a problem with turning in someone.

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Ms. Curran said it was not an issue of wearing a mask, but she does not think people should receive fines.

Mr. Burke said it is a huge job to keep people safe from COVID-19, and he does not agree with the wording of the resolution. He asked what cost the County has incurred regarding unfunded mandates. Mr. Lightfoot said constitutionally it is the Senate and Assembly that passes the budget and there is a sense that the executive order proposes to withhold money for not complying, but the Governor cannot arbitrarily do what he proposes in the order.

Mr. Acres said there is nothing in this resolution regarding wearing masks or the five pillars. The Governor said there is not a lack of public education, there is a lack of enforcement. He excluded the NYS Police from the enforcement and the burden then falls on the Sheriffs and local police agencies and public officials. Mr. Acres said New York State has one of the highest infection rates and deaths. This mandate has true costs to it.

Ms. Reagen said he thinks people are losing sight of the point of the resolution. The resolution says we are opposed to the Governor threatening local and county governments with the loss of State aid by up to as much as twenty percent (20%).

Ms. Haggard said we still have not heard answers to Legislator Burke's question when he asked what the cost has been to the County. She said she will be voting no to this resolution and she considers it political grandstanding.

Mr. Perkins said New York State currently has nine (9) unfunded mandates that accounts for ninety percent (90%) of the County Budget, and it is a constant worry about when and if the money will come from the State. The seventeenth whereas states "...the Governor has specifically stated that if New York does not receive federal funding in a federal coronavirus stimulus bill, local government aid will be reduced by twenty percent (20%)" and that is the reason he is supporting this resolution.

Resolution No. 306-2020 was adopted by a roll call vote with nine (9) yes votes, and six (6) no votes (Fiacco, Burke, Arquiatt, Terminelli, Fay, and Haggard).

Finance Committee: 10-26-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 307-2020

**SUPPORTING SENATE BILL S2047 AND ASSEMBLY BILL A6461 PROPOSING
AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 4 AND SECTION 5-A OF ARTICLE 3 OF THE
CONSTITUTION, IN RELATION TO THE NUMBER OF SENATORS AND THE
APPORTIONMENT OF SENATE DISTRICTS**

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Smithers, District 5

WHEREAS, unlike the U.S. Senate, which gives each state two senators regardless of the population of the state, the New York State Senate is apportioned according to population

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under the “one man, one vote” standard created by the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in Lucas v. Colorado General Assembly in 1964, and

WHEREAS, new legislation introduced by Senator Joseph Griffo, with a matching bill in the Assembly sponsored by Assemblyman Mark Walczyk, has been proposed to help create a more equitable distribution of legislative representatives by amending the State Constitution to reduce the number of Senate districts from 63 to 62 with each county electing one senator, and

WHEREAS, this legislation would not change representation in the Assembly, and

WHEREAS, many in upstate New York have concerns that their voices are not heard and that all levels of State government are controlled by downstate and New York City representatives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators supports Senate Bill S2047 and Assembly Bill A6461 proposing amendments to Section 4 and Section 5-a of Article 3 of the Constitution, in relation to the number of senators and the apportionment of senate districts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Patricia Ritchie, Senator Elizabeth Little, Senator Joseph Griffo, Assemblyman Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, and Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush.

Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 307-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Smithers, and Ms. Curran.

Mr. Burke said he will not support this as there is no clear evidence that it would enhance the representation of the people in the County.

Mr. Acres said there are 32 senators in the New York City area and St. Lawrence County has three representative, and the interest in urban areas is quite different from that of the North Country. This change would make it like the federal system, and he supports this resolution.

Mr. Smithers said there is a map on google drive and it shows representation is clearly skewed by urban areas.

Resolution No. 307-2020 was adopted by a roll call vote with ten (10) yes votes, and five (5) no votes (Burke, Arquiatt, Terminelli, Haggard, and Fiacco).

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Finance Committee: 10-26-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 308-2020

**DESIGNATING THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS
THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TOURISM PROMOTION AGENT AND
AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE 2021-2023 CONTRACT**

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, it is requested that each County appoint a Tourism Promotion Agent in order to participate in the Empire State Development Division of Tourism Matching Funds Program, and

WHEREAS, participation in this program doubles the earmarked Tourism Promotion Funds by St. Lawrence County through I Love New York Funds, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce represents the County as its Tourism Promotion Agent by creating a comprehensive marketing and advertising campaign, consisting of events, attractions, and recreational opportunities throughout the County, and

WHEREAS, tourism marketing and the opportunity to leverage state grant opportunities operates on a two year cycle and requires a digital marketing presence,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators designates the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce as the St. Lawrence County Tourism Promotion Agent, and authorizes the Chair to sign the 2021-2023 contract, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract will continue the funding mechanism to a formula that incentivizes the Chamber to work diligently to improve tourism in St. Lawrence County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the formula associated with occupancy tax sharing with the Chamber of Commerce will provide forty-five percent (45%) as an appropriation for Years 2021 and 2022, and fifty percent (50%) appropriations for Year 2023,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the percentage of occupancy tax shall be based on a rolling five (5) year average and every dollar above the average will be shared at seventy-five percent (75%) to the Chamber of Commerce and twenty-five percent (25%) to St. Lawrence County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County recommends that the Chamber of Commerce continue to improve its financial position and bring measurable successes to the Board of Legislators annually for review.

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Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 308-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, Ms. Curran, and Mr. Smithers, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Finance Committee: 10-26-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 309-2020

**ADOPTING AN AMENDED ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TITLE VI PLAN AND
AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE PLAN**

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 254-2016, authorized the Board of Legislators to adopt a Title VI Plan, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the St. Lawrence County Title VI Program Plan was drafted to reaffirm the policy of the County to allow all individuals the opportunity to participate in federal financially assisted services, and

WHEREAS, as a recipient of federal and state funds, St. Lawrence County is subject to the requirements and provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and

WHEREAS, the provisions include, but are not limited to, prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of race, color or national origin (being denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity administered by federal or state assisted programs, services, or activities), and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is currently working with the New York State Department of Transportation Office of Civil Rights to ensure compliance with Federal Highway Administration requirements related to Title VI and non-compliance can affect federal financial assistance, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County assures every effort will be made to guarantee nondiscrimination in all of its programs and activities, whether those programs and activities are federally funded or not, and every effort will be made to ensure that no person is excluded from participation in or denied benefits of its services based on race, color, or national origin,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators adopts the amended Title VI Plan and authorizes the Chair to sign the Plan, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators appoints the Director of Planning as the Title VI Coordinator, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Plan will be housed within the St. Lawrence County Planning Department and available for review.

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Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 309-2020, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Finance Committee: 10-26-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 310-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF
OGDENSBURG FOR HAZMAT TEAM SERVICES**

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 224-2002 created the St. Lawrence County Bio-Hazard Response Team Operational Guidelines, and

WHEREAS, one of the basic functions of government is to provide for the safety of its citizens and without an operational St. Lawrence County Hazardous Materials Response Team (HAZMAT Team), the health and safety of the citizens of the county has become a cause of concern to many, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County recognizes the value of both paid and volunteer staff, and

WHEREAS, the HAZMAT Team will be able to meet the required Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training and equipment standards to respond safely to incidents once HAZMAT training is conducted and funding provided to the City of Ogdensburg, and

WHEREAS, the required training is provided at no cost through the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control and will be provided to both the paid and volunteer HAZMAT first responders, and

WHEREAS, consortium funds from New York State are available to cover some of the expenses associated with the HAZMAT Team, and

WHEREAS, it is an unfortunate certainty that incidents including hazardous materials will occur in the future in St. Lawrence County as they have happened in the past, and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of our communities that the County have both paid and volunteer staff readily available that meet the training requirements with adequately tested equipment to the level necessary to respond in a way that mitigates harm to themselves and the communities, and

WHEREAS, the HAZMAT Team has been successfully operational since its inception,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with the City of Ogdensburg for HAZMAT Team Services, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the term will be January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 310-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe and Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 311-2020

**AUTHORIZING FILLING OF VACANCIES AND MODIFYING THE
2020 BUDGET FOR THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

By Mr. Lightfoot, District 3 and Ms. Curran, District 15

WHEREAS, Resolution Nos. 281-2008 and 198-2011 implemented a non-essential hiring freeze and created a thirty day delay of filling positions and implemented emergency measures that provided an exception for positions completely funded by an outside source to be filled, respectively in response to the fiscal challenges faced by the County, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 222-2015 that affirmed the 2008 hiring freeze and extended the standard delay for filling vacancies to 60 days, and Resolution No. 226-2015 reinstated the Vacancy Review Committee to be inclusive of Legislators and staff to return recommendations for filling vacancies going forward, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 369-2019 authorized the continuance of the current vacancy review process with a recommendation that the vacancies continue to be deliberated at each jurisdictional committee, but one resolution be created for all approved positions to be considered at the Regular Board Meeting,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the fill of each of the following vacancies which have been reviewed and recommended to be filled or created and filled by the Vacancy Review Committee:

<u>Department/Unit:</u>	<u>Title:</u>	<u>Position No.:</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
Social Services / TA/SNAP	Senior Social Welfare Examiner	814100012	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Social Services / CPS	Caseworker	815200026	FT	Permanent	90 days
Social Services	Caseworker	815000014	FT	Permanent	90 days
Social Services / Legal	Attorney (new)	818000004	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Community Services	Administrative Services Mgr. (new)	102600001	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Office for the Aging	Senior Advocate Worker (new)	800300006	FT	Contingent	Immediate
Office for the Aging	Keyboard Specialist (new)	003100099	FT	Temporary	Immediate
Office for the Aging	Advocate Worker for the Elderly	800200003	FT	Permanent	30 days

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Sheriff / Jail	Corrections Officer	603000007	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Probation	Senior Probation Officer	610100001	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Public Health	Keyboard Specialist (new)	003100100	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Public Health	Public Health Program Aide (new)	500400004	FT	Temporary	Immediate
Public Health	Senior Account Clerk	100200038	FT	Temporary	Immediate
Public Health	Secretary I	005100026	FT	Permanent	Immediate
WIOA	Employment & Training Counselor	701000010	FT	Permanent	Immediate

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following positions be abolished: Position Nos. 100000002, Office Manager and 3100000092, Keyboard Specialist, in Community Services; and Position No. 800200004 Advocate Worker in the Office for the Aging, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to modify the 2020 Budget for the Office for the Aging, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

OP067721 11000 Senior Advocate for the Elderly \$41,005

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

OP067721 11000 Advocate Worker for the Elderly \$31,491

INCREASE REVENUE:

OP047725 57000 OFA POE Federal Aid \$9,513

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appointing authorities are authorized to fill the positions as provided for in the resolution.

Mr. Forsythe moved to adopt Resolution No. 311-2020, seconded by Mr. Sheridan.

Mr. Lightfoot moved to amend the resolution to add a Social Services Attorney for the Department of Social Services, seconded by Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) abstention (Haggard).

Resolution No. 311-2020 was adopted by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) abstention (Haggard).

RESOLUTION NO. 312-2020

ADOPTION OF THE 2021 BUDGET

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Board of Legislators

WHEREAS, the 2021 Tentative Budget has been reviewed by the Finance Committee and Board of Legislators, and

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WHEREAS, on October 26, 2020, the Finance Committee delivered the 2021 Tentative Budget as presented by the Budget Officer on October 5, 2020 to the Board of Legislators, and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing on the 2021 Tentative Budget was held on November 2, 2020,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators hereby adopts the 2021 Tentative Budget with said budget requiring the raising of real property taxes in the amount of \$50,400,490, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County 2021 Tentative Budget be distributed in the funds as per Exhibit A and Exhibit B of said Adopted Budget, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators directs that the Clerk of the Board of Legislators to establish the St. Lawrence County Tax Levy for the year 2021 in the amount of \$50,400,490.

2021 ADOPTED BUDGET SUMMARY

EXHIBIT A:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	
General Government Support	\$57,081,500
Education	651,000
Public Safety	17,694,191
Health	16,237,761
Transportation	25,562,374
Economic Assistance Opportunity	69,511,651
Culture & Recreation	387,756
Home & Community Services	7,478,261
Employee Benefits	36,829,103
Debt Service	2,267,788
Interfund Transfers	<u>15,919,093</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$249,620,478

EXHIBIT B:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
Departmental Revenues	\$67,317,564
State Aid	36,402,283
Federal Aid	22,836,048
Sales Tax	60,450,000
Appropriated Surplus	500,000
Inter-Fund Transfers	11,714,093
Amount to be Raised by Taxes	<u>50,400,490</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$249,620,478

2021 Recommended Budget and Amendments

Budget Element	2020 Adopted	2021 Tentative	2021 BOL Review	BOL vs. Tentative Budget	BOL vs. 2020 Adopted
COUNTY COST	50,140,286	50,900,490	50,900,490	0	760,204
Appropriated Surplus	1,063,000	500,000	500,000	0	-563,000
Proposed Levy	49,077,286	50,400,490	50,400,490	0	1,323,204
Assessed Valuation	5,922,139,996	6,152,629,802	6,152,629,802	0	230,489,806
Estimated Tax Rate per \$1000 AV	8.2871	8.1917	8.1917	0.0000	-0.0954
Change in County Cost		1.49%	0.00%	0.00%	1.49%
Change in Appropriated Surplus		-52.96%	0.00%	0.00%	-52.96%
Change in Levy		2.70%	0.00%	0.00%	2.70%
Change in True Value Tax Rate		-1.15%	0.00%	0.00%	-1.15%

Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 312-2020, seconded by Mr. Fay, Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Denesha, Ms. Curran, Mr. Arquiett, Mr. Perkins and Mr. Sheridan.

Mr. Acres said he wished to commend County Administrator Doyle, Department Heads and the Budget Team for putting together an excellent budget. There is a slight tax reduction and that is important to him, and the fact that is able to be done, especially this year with COVID-19, is unexpected.

Mr. Arquiett said he echoed Legislator Acres remarks, as each year we continue to asked staff to tighten their belts and each year you never let us or the taxpayers of St. Lawrence County down.

Mr. Reagen said he echoed the sentiments of Legislator Arquiett. He said during a very difficult year, the County was able to avoid any massive layoffs, furloughs or cuts to personnel. This Board of Legislators has shown loyalty to the County employees and have worked together making it possible for citizens to receive needed services despite this extraordinary year.

Mr. Perkins said this has been a lot of work, and hats off to the Budget Team as this is another year taxes have been reduced. It would be nice if the towns, villages, and schools could follow the County's lead.

Resolution No. 312-2020 carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

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RESOLUTION NO. 313-202 (TABLED)

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE NORTH COUNTRY (DANC) FOR A BROADBAND SURVEY ASSESSMENT AND MODIFYING THE 2020 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

By Mr. Acres, District 8

WHEREAS, a proposal has been made by the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) to obtain an inventory of broadband infrastructure in St. Lawrence County, and to develop a plan to assess existing infrastructure, the needs of the County, and to create a plan for the future, and

WHEREAS, the data collected can be used to support grant applications available to the County, and

WHEREAS, the broadband inventory will provide documentation and GIS mapping of broadband facilities in St. Lawrence County, and will include existing fiber optic and coaxial cabling, central office and remote terminal locations, wire line boundaries, and wireless and water tower sites, and

WHEREAS, the data will identify owners of existing fiber networks, map the collected data into GIS layers, and identify portions of the County that are unserved and underserved, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the availability of broadband internet access to all areas of the County, including rural areas, to provide direct access to education, connect the public to healthcare, bring local businesses to global markets, and to increase job growth and economic development, and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the importance of high-speed internet connections at homes and may hinder the ability of people with slow access or no access to complete remote work and education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorize the Chair to sign a contract with the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) for a broadband survey assessment, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to modify the 2020 Budget for the County Administrator's Office, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700	B SPEC Contingency Account	\$38,250
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

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BL010104 43007

B Other Fees and Services

\$38,250

Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 314-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe.

Mr. Fay said DANC was created in 1985 as a revenue based public corporation with a net assets of \$169 million dollars, as of March 2019. Although broadband infrastructure is very important to the County, he feels it is the responsibility of DANC to fund the complete survey.

Mr. Arquiett said he agrees with Legislator Fay and other entities in the County have done this type of survey, and he is not in support of this resolution.

Ms. Terminelli said broadband is something that is needed for students, healthcare workers, the economy and infrastructure, and she supports broadband for everyone. She asked the Planning Director, Jason Pfothauer, if the information DANC is seeking is something that the County Planning Office already has or if it is something that could be compiled by the Planning Office. Mr. Pfothauer said the Planning Office does not have that information, and would need additional detailed information to see if it is something that could be compiled.

Mr. Forsythe said DANC partnered with the County a few years ago on a program to buy equipment for Solid Waste. In order to be able to apply for grants a current, updated survey is needed and they have the expertise to do it. He supports the resolution.

Mr. Perkins said other groups have come before the Board discussing gathering this same type of information. He cannot see redoing another survey when the information is already available.

Mr. Reagen said the DANC is not required to assist the County to bring broadband to the rural areas of the County, but they are offering to do this. There is a real need in rural areas, and the County should give DANC credit for stepping forward to help. He urged everyone to get behind the resolution, and to show appreciation to DANC for going to bat for us and providing this service.

Ms. Haggard said it is critical that broadband is made available to everyone. She does know that the school districts put out a survey this spring regarding broadband, so there is information available that is relatively current.

Mr. Burke said no one is questioning the need for broadband. The question is if the information is already available. He thinks the resolution should be tabled until further information is gathered.

Mr. Arquiett moved to table this resolution, seconded by Mr. Burke and Ms. Terminelli, and carried by a voice vote with eight (8) yes votes and seven (7) no votes.

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Mr. Denesha said the resolution says the survey will provide GIS mapping of broadband facilities in St. Lawrence County, and will include information that we are not able to get from others who may have already it.

Mr. Fay said he presented this idea in hopes that DANC would pay the full amount.

Ms. Curran moved to remove the following resolution from the Table for discussion, seconded by Mr. Forsythe and Mr. Acres, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Finance Committee: 10-26-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 314-2020

AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID, STIMULANT, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SITE-BASED PROGRAM GRANT AND MODIFYING THE 2020 BUDGET FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, on Friday, October 16, 2020, the County received notice from the Office of Justice Programs that the application submitted by St. Lawrence County was successful and will receive funding opportunity entitled Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County has recognized the need for increased access of individuals with an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) to recovery services, and

WHEREAS, the approved award is for a term of three years in the amount of \$900,000 for the implementation of a multi-agency treatment approach to individuals with Opioid Use Disorder which includes an Opioid Treatment Program, Recovery Housing, and Certified Recovery Peer Support Services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the acceptance of the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program and awards St. Lawrence Health Services to administer the Program for St. Lawrence County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer’s Office is authorized to modify the 2020 Budget for Community Services for the \$900,000 to provide St. Lawrence Health Systems with the necessary funding to meet the deliverables as described in the Grant as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

A1544865 57000	A Opioid Recovery FA Grant	\$900,000
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

A1542204 46500 A Opioid Recovery Program Payments \$900,000

Mr. Burke said he has concerns because the meetings held by the Community Services Board regarding the acceptance of the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program Grant and who would administer the program were held without notifying the public. There needs to be transparency.

Mr. Acres said the Board needs to move ahead with this as overdoses are on the rise, and there is a huge heroin and methamphetamine problem in St. Lawrence County.

Ms. Curran agreed to move ahead as two more individuals have died this week.

Mr. Arquiett said he has great sympathy for anyone afflicted with this disease and for anyone who has lost family members to this disease, but as elected officials the Board is obliged to obey open meeting laws and Roberts Rules of Order and should not move forward until legal guidance is received.

Ms. Haggard said everyone knows there is a need for this clinic in St. Lawrence County, but she does care about constituents having a say and knowing what is going on in the County.

Mr. Forsythe asked the County Attorney to weigh in on the question regarding the open meeting law. Mr. Button said he is not aware of what notices to the public were made, but they would be bound by open meeting laws. The vote, itself, appeared to be legitimate, but would have to have been noticed to the public.

Mr. Sheridan asked the County Attorney if this Board was obligated to following the vote of the Community Services Board. Mr. Button said the application of the Grant said it would be selected by the Community Services Board and this Board would confirm.

Mr. Arquiett asked the County Attorney if there could be any recourse brought against the County due to the Community Services Board not notifying the public of the meeting. Mr. Button said theoretically the Community Services Board would just have to notify the public, reconvene and take another vote. Most likely it would be nothing more than a proverbially slap on the hand.

Mr. Burke said there were thirty-four (34) overdoses this year, so far, so there is an urgency. There have been eleven (11) deaths with the possibility of four (4) more pending toxicology reports. Time is of the essence, and important factors such as readiness to implement has not been even considered.

Mr. Arquiett moved to amend the resolution to accept the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program Grant without identifying the provider, seconded by Mr. Burke.

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Mr. Acres said he is not in favor of this amendment.

Mr. Burke said the issue is that this Board or the public has not been made privy to the discussions of the Community Services Board.

Amendment failed by a voice vote of seven (7) yes votes (Arquiett, Burke, Fay, Fiacco, Haggard, Perkins, and Terminelli) and eight (8) no votes.

Mr. Forsythe called the question, seconded by Mr. Sheridan, Ms. Curran, and Mr. Acres and carried failed by a voice vote of eight (8) yes votes, and seven (7) no votes (Arquiett, Burke, Fay, Fiacco, Haggard, Perkins, and Terminelli). A two-thirds vote is needed to call the question.

Mr. Sheridan said he will support the resolution.

Mr. Denesha said the Community Services Board made an educated, informed choice and he will support that decision.

Mr. Reagen said three major health care entities in the County are stepping forward to help in a major healthcare crisis, and their help should be welcomed. He will support this resolution.

Mr. Smithers said he shares the concern of operating within the law, but it is time to act and the Board should move forward.

Ms. Terminelli said she agrees with Legislator Smithers that it needs to move forward, but she is concerned open meeting laws may have been violated.

Mr. Perkins said he has supported St. Lawrence Community Services being the provider from the beginning because he knows they truly care for the patients. He feels the clients would be better served by Community Services.

Resolution No. 314-2020 was adopted by a roll call vote with eight (8) yes votes, and seven (7) no votes (Arquiett, Burke, Fay, Fiacco, Haggard, Perkins, and Terminelli).

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Doyle thanked the Legislators for approving the 2021 Budget.

A daily health assessment of all employees will begin tomorrow via email to assess health as related to COVID-19.

The Vacancy Review Committee will meet tomorrow to review six (6) vacancies.

There will be a resolution brought to the Finance Committee this month asking to set aside funds to carry over to 2021 that had been set aside this summer for Bassmasters.

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There will be a presentation by the Sheriff regarding Police Reform at the upcoming Operations Committee.

The Human Resources Director will provide required annual training to the Legislators following one of the Committee meetings this month.

The November committee meetings will each be held separately each Monday.

Ms. Doyle congratulation the thirteen employees who have reached 30 and 35 year of service with St. Lawrence County.

Tomorrow is Election Day, and there have been over 5,000 votes cast by early voting.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Burke said at the last meeting there were discussions regarding sales tax negotiations with the City of Ogdensburg, and he said he was disappointed to have members of the Board make offers to the City when active negotiations with the City are in progress. It was in poor taste and undermines the process.

Chair Lightfoot refused to allow Legislators Reagen to speak. Mr. Reagen appealed the ruling of the Chair. The ruling of the Chair was overturned.

Mr. Reagen said there are some Legislators who want to cut huge amounts of funds to the City of Ogdensburg and this will cut funding to emergency services and public safety services.

Ms. Haggard said she read today that the City of Ogdensburg were able to cut taxes and she wished all municipalities could do that. She said this Board was united in a position, and then it flipped without being discussed by everyone.

Mr. Smithers said he feels uncomfortable as these discussions should be held in Executive Session.

Mr. Forsythe said he has not made an offer to anyone to give an extra \$7.5 million dollars away.

Mr. Arquiatt said he disagrees as Mr. Forsythe proposed in public session that he would like to offer up four (4) more years to the City of Ogdensburg.

Ms. Curran said she was contacted by the Town Supervisors of her district and they do not want changes.

Mr. Acres said the Board voted on a one (1) year extension with the purpose to get further information from the census numbers. Once the census numbers are known, the numbers could be looked at again.

Mr. Reagen said this Board needs to take responsibility for what it is proposing. Towns and Villages have repeatedly said they do not want to change the terms of the contract.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no Committee Reports

Mr. Perkins moved to go to Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss litigation, negotiations, personnel, and appointments, seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Forsythe moved to go to Open Session at 9:19 p.m., seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Mr. Denesha moved to appoint the following individual to the **Ag & Farmland Protection Board** (Term to Expire: 12/31/2024), seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes:

Margaret Finen, 529 Austin Ridge Road, Norwood 13668 (Replacing Allyn Tubbs)

Mr. Denesha moved to appoint the following individual to the **EMS Advisory Board**, seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes:

Douglas Bohl, 355 Giffin Road, Potsdam 13676 (Replacing Joyce Dalton)

Mr. Denesha moved to reappoint the following individual to the **Ag & Farmland Protection Board** (Term to Expire: 12/31/2024), seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes:

David Fisher, 3084 County Route 14, Madrid 13660

Mr. Denesha moved to reappoint the following individuals to the **EMS Advisory Board** (Terms to expire: 12/31/2023), seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes:

Robert Storm Cilley, 933 Elizabeth Street, Ogdensburg 13669
Mark Deavers, 3696 County Route 17, DeKalb Junction 13630
Carol Muench, 2813 County Route 49; Winthrop 13697
Christopher Towler, 748 Old Potsdam Parishville Road, Potsdam 13676
Kevin Wells, 6731 Country Route 27, Canton 13617

Mr. Denesha moved to reappoint the following individuals to the **Fair Housing Task Force** (Terms to expire: 9/30/2024), seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes:

Frederick J. Hanss, Post Office Box 94, 16 School Street, Hannawa Falls 13647
James O'Neill, 3470 US Highway 11, Dekalb Junction 13630

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Mr. Denesha moved to reappoint the following individuals to the **St. Lawrence County Planning Board** (Term to Expire: 12/31/2023), seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes:

David B. Duff, 64 S. Woods Road, Hammond 13646

Mr. Sheridan moved to appoint the following individual to the **Community Services Board – OPWDD Subcommittee**, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes:

Cynthia Ackerman, 34 Chardonway Drive, Ogdensburg 13669

Mr. Sheridan moved to reappoint the following individuals to the **Community Services Traffic Safety Board**, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes:

Michele James, 28 Maple Street, Canton 13617 (Term to expire 3/31/2023)

Ernest Olin, 2881 County Route 21, Canton 13617 (Term to expire: 2/16/2022)

Mr. Acres moved to appoint the following individual to the **Workforce Development Board** (Term to expire: 12/31/2023), seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Burke, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes:

Lynn M. Pietroski, 380 Gaffney Drive, Watertown 13601(Replacing Eric Tressmer)

Mr. Acres moved to reappoint the following individual to the **St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors** (Term to expire: 10/31/2023), seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Burke, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes:

Rebecca Allen, 29 Cayey Road, South Colton 13687

CHAIR’S APPOINTMENTS: There were no Chair’s Appointments

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Lightfoot adjourned the November Full Board Meeting at 9:23 p.m., as there was no further business.

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