

****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****

Members Attending: Ms. Curran, Mr. Acres, Mr. Burke, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Fay, Ms. Fiacco, Ms. Haggard, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Reagen, Mr. Sheridan, and Mr. Smithers, Ms. Terminelli

Members Attending via Video: Mr. Arquiatt and Mr. Forsythe

Others Attending in Person or via Video: Ruth Doyle, Dylan Soper, Kelly Pearson, Steve Button, Nancy Lafaver, Lance Rudiger, Matt Denner, Jason Pfothenauer, James Farrell, Jennie Bacon, Tom Nichols, Tim LePage, Jonnie Dorothy, Brooks Bigwarfe, and press representative Mike Gagliardi of Watertown Daily Times

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Ms. Curran called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Mr. Reagen moved to amend the agenda by adding a resolution as Item 10A, entitled “St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators calls upon Governor Katherine Hochul to remember how the people of Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County helped New York State and keep Ogdensburg Correctional Facility open”, seconded by Ms. Haggard, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes. Mr. Reagen moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mr. Fay, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Perkins moved to approve the October 18th meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

3. NATIONAL REGISTRY FOR COUNTY BUILDINGS – Nancy Lafaver, County Historian; Christine Bush, Preservation Services Director, Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH); and Randy Crawford, Crawford & Stearns Architects and Preservation Planners, PLLC

4. EMERGENCY SERVICES – MATT DENNER

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with New York State Office of Homeland Security for a FY21 Emergency Management Performance Grant (Res) – Mr. Denesha moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications for a FY20 Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula Grant and Modifying the 2021 Budget for Emergency Services (Res) – Mr. Perkins moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

C. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Intrado Life & Safety Solutions Corporation for 911 Systems and Professional Services (Res) – Ms. Fiacco moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

D. Emergency Services Supplemental Plan (Discussion) – Matt Denner

5. PLANNING – JASON PFOTENHAUER

A. Modifying the 2021 Budget for the Planning Office for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Funds (Res) – Mr. Sheridan moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Sub-Recipient Agreement with the North Country Housing Council, Inc. for the Delivery of the SLC CARES Housing Rehabilitation Program (Res) – Mr. Perkins moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

C. DOT Funding for Transit (Discussion) – Jason Pfothenauer

6. PUBLIC DEFENDER – JAMES MCGAHAN

James Farrell spoke to the following resolutions in Mr. McGahan's absence:

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law to participate in the Gauging Improvement in Defense Efforts and Outcomes in New York (Gideon) Project (Res) – Mr. Acres moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to Accept the Aid to Defense Grant for October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 (Res) – Mr. Acres moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

C. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to Accept the Aid to Defense Grant for April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 (Res) – Mr. Denesha moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

D. Authorizing the Chair to Sign an Amended Contract with New York State Indigent Legal Services for the Provision of Funding Associated with the Implementation of Senate Bill S.8114 and Assembly Bill A.10706, "An Act to Amend the County Law, the Executive Law and the State Finance Law, in Relation to Indigent Defense Services" (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

7. BOARD OF ELECTIONS – JENNIE BACON AND TOM NICHOLS

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with NTS Data Services for Renewing Voter Registration, Signature Digitization, Full Document Imaging, Election Reporting and Interface Messaging System Maintenance and Support for the Board of Elections (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Fiacco, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Info Tech Research Group for IT Research and Advisory Services to Comply with Cyber Security Regulations for the Board of Elections (Res) – Mr. Perkins moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Haggard, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

C. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Network Experts of New York, Inc., for Network Segmentation in Order to Comply with Cyber Security Regulations for the Board of Elections (Res) – Mr. Perkins moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

8. PROBATION – TIM LEPAGE

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign an Agreement with Language Line Services, Inc. to Provide Interpretation Services for St. Lawrence County (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES – JONNIE DOROTHY

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Burnham Benefit Advisors for Health Care Consulting and Related Actuarial Services (Res) – Mr. Lightfoot moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Public Safety Psychology, PLLC, for Psychological Evaluations for Police Officers and Deputies (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

10. SHERIFF – BROOKS BIGWARFE

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract for a FY21 Operation Stonegarden Program (OPSG) Grant from New York State Division of Homeland Security and Modifying the 2021 Budget for the Sheriff's Office (Res) – Mr. Perkins moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

10A. LEGISLATOR JIM REAGEN

A. St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators Calls upon Governor Katherine Hochul to Remember How the People of Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County Helped New York State and Keep Ogdensburg Correctional Facility Open (Res) – Mr. Reagan moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot.

Mr. Arquiatt, Mr. Forsythe, Ms. Curran, Mr. Burke, Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Acres and Mr. Perkins asked to be added as co-sponsors to this resolution.

Mr. Fay left the room at 6:51 p.m.

Mr. Reagen moved to amend the resolution to change the wording in the title of the resolution and in the now, therefore, be it resolved to state "...and to reconsider the decision to close the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility," seconded by Mr. Lightfoot and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Fay).

Motion carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Fay).

11. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Doyle said the County is at a rate of 55.2% fully vaccinated for COVID-19, and there is a 6.37% positivity rate. Three County Departments are impacted at this time with positive cases. The final approval for Pfizer vaccines for 5-11 year olds was approved, and Public Health will hold a clinic at St. Lawrence University on November 13th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Mr. Fay returned to the room at 6:53 p.m.

There has been work on developing a supplemental plan for Emergency Services. Information is being collected and data pulled together to have a well-informed discussion on a plan going forward. This will be discussed at the Emergency Management Services Committee and then will come to Operations Committee Meeting in December.

On Thursday the offices will be closed in recognition of Veteran's Day. The Court House Tower will be illuminated with green lights for 'Operation Green Light,' which is an initiative the County has taken on to show support for veterans and to raise awareness and let veterans know they are seen, appreciated, and supported. There has been VIP parking spaces placed at the Court House, HB Smith Building, Human Services Center, and Public Safety Complex for veterans.

The Bonadio Group will arrive tomorrow to begin work at the Department of Social Services.

There will be a discussion regarding the pilot program on the move to Ogdensburg at the upcoming Services Committee meeting.

The 2022 Tentative Budget Department Summaries were distributed.

The Department of Social Services will give a brief overview next week at the Services Committee Meeting on the training program for Children's Services.

Ms. Doyle said she met with Legislator Acres, the Chair of the American Rescue Plan Committee, regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the full Committee will meet soon to begin work. The County has a survey on the website for County residents to offer suggestions on spending the ARPA Funds.

Information will be provided at the November Finance Committee Meeting regarding the Legislative Agenda.

12. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE – RUTH DOYLE

- A. Summary (Info) – Ms. Doyle
- B. Sheriff – Sheriff Bigwarfe requested to abolish a Civil Account Clerk, and create and fill an Account Clerk, Position No. 100100046, in the Criminal Division of the Sheriff’s Office.
- C. Emergency Services – Mr. Denner requested to fill a Secretary 1, Position No. 005100035, in Emergency Services.
- D. Public Defender – Mr. Farrell requested to fill an Assistant Public Defender, Position No. 002140010, and fill an Assistant Public Defender, Position No. 002140011, in the Public Defender’s Office.

13. 2022 TENTATIVE BUDGET REVIEW

- A. Overview of 2022 Tentative Budget
- B. Board of Elections
- C. Conflict Defender
- D. County Clerk
- E. District Attorney
- F. Emergency Services
- G. Governmental Services
- H. Human Resources
- I. Information Technology
- J. Planning
- K. Probation
- L. Public Defender
- M. Sheriff

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board – Mr. Denesha
- B. Alternatives to Incarceration Board – Mr. Burke
- C. Board of Trustees for Supreme Court Library – no report
- D. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board – Ms. Curran
- E. Environmental Management Council – Ms. Terminelli
- F. Fire Advisory Board – Mr. Denesha
- G. Intercounty Legislative Committee – Ms. Curran
- H. Jury Board – no report
- I. Planning Board – no report

15. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- A. Adopting Proposed Local Law D (No.____) for the Year 2021, “Reapportioning Fifteen (15) Legislative District in St. Lawrence County” (Res) – Mr. Lightfoot moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha, Mr. Sheridan, and Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Ms. Terminelli said she would like to require County employees, whose job duties take them into homes of families, to wear masks when going into these homes regardless of their vaccination status.

Mr. Perkins moved to go to Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss litigation, personnel, negotiations, and appointments, seconded by Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) ycs votes.

Ms. Curran left the meeting at 7:41 p.m., and Mr. Denesha chaired the remainder of the meeting.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Two straw poll votes were taken during Executive Session: A vote was taken regarding a personnel matter with a vote of thirteen (13) yes votes, one (1) no vote, and one (1) absent. A vote was taken regarding litigation with a vote of twelve (12) yes votes, two (2) no votes, and one (1) absent.

Mr. Forsythe left the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Mr. Lightfoot moved to go to Open Session at 9:59 p.m., seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Curran and Forsythe).

17. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Denesha adjourned the November Operations Committee Meeting at 10:00 p.m., as there was no further business