St. Lawrence County Board of Ethics

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DAVID E. HORNUNG, Chair RICKY NEWVINE, Vice Chair

MEMBERS GALEN K. PLETCHER ROBERT LARRABEE CHERYL SHATRAW

February 19, 2021

Hon. William Sheridan, Chair St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators 48 Court Street Canton, New York 13617

Re: 2020 Annual Ethics Board Report

Dear Chair Sheridan:

As required in Article 15, Section 7 of the St. Lawrence County Ethics Law, this document is the Annual Report for the period from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 of the activities of the St. Lawrence County Board of Ethics. In 2020:

- 1. We continued with the established ethics training procedure for current and future county employees. The County Attorney has provided training videos which will now be on the Ethics Board website for county employees, outside Boards, Committees and Councils and Elected Officials.
- 2. We provided twelve (12) advisory opinions.
- 3. We reviewed and disposed of two (2) complaints.
- 4. We completed a systematic review of the St. Lawrence Country Ethics Law. There were no recommendations for any proposed changes in the law at this time.
- 5. Under the Code of Ethics, one of the Board's primary responsibilities is to review the annual financial disclosure statements filed by County officers and employees. The review is to assure that the filed forms are complete and responsive on their face to the requirements of the law. The Board's review is done in closed session. The Board accepted and reviewed 63 financial disclosures.
- 6. We continued to be available to respond to requests for advisory opinions and to respond to complaints of alleged violations of the St. Lawrence County Ethics Law.

7. We accepted the resignation of Board member Lloyd Grandy in February 2020. Cheryl Shatraw was appointed to the remainder of Mr. Grandy's term, such term to expire December 31, 2025.

The following are the members and their terms:

David Hornung, Chair. Term expires December 31, 2020 Rick Newvine, Vice-Chair. Term expires December 31, 2021 Galen Pletcher, Member. Term expires December 31, 2022 Robert Larrabee, Member. Term expires September 30, 2023 Cheryl Shatraw, Member. Term expires December 31, 2025

In 2020 the St. Lawrence County Board of Ethics, as well as all New York State County Ethics Boards went through an Audit by the Office of the New York State Comptroller, Division of Local Government and School Accountability. The Board was made aware of shortfalls with the Financial Disclosures and some record keeping issues. We have moved to electronic submissions of the financial statements. We expect it to be a faster process, eliminate papers and provide the filer with an immediate copy of their submission.

Very truly truly yours,

David E. Hornung/mz

David E. Hornung, Chair St. Lawrence County Board of Ethics