St. Lawrence County

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

48 Court Street, Court House Canton, New York 13617-1169 (315) 379-2276 FAX (315) 379-2463

RUTH A. DOYLECounty Administrator

WILLIAM J. SHERIDAN Chair, Board of Legislators

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA KEVIN ACRES, CHAIR MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021 ***BOARD ROOM AND LIVE VIA YOUTUBE *** ***5:30 P.M. ***

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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES February 22
- 3. **COVID-19 UPDATE** Dr. Andrew Williams
- 4. HIGHWAY DON CHAMBERS
 - A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with J.E. Sheehan Contracting Corp. for Replacement of Two Bridges on Jones Road over West Branch of St. Regis River, BIN 3366590 and BIN 3341150 (Res)
 - B. Modifying the 2021 Budget for the Department of Highways for the St. Lawrence County Bridge Preservation Project, BIN 3340980, BIN 3341780, PIN 775396 (Res)
 - C. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) for a Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program Grant (Res)
 - D. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Supplemental Agreement #1 with Stantec Consulting Services for Additional Engineering and Design Services for County Route 35 Bridge Over Trout Brook, BIN 3341700, PIN 775394 and Modifying the 2021 Budget for the Highway Department (Res)
 - E. Modifying the 2021 Budget for the Department of Highways for State Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Grant Funds for the Northumberland Street Bridge Project, BIN 3341380, SJ.3, Town of Morristown (Res)
 - F. Authorizing the Chair to Sign Roadside Mowing Contracts (Res)
 - G. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Franklin County Highway Department for Road Salt (Res)
 - H. Determining that Construction of Equipment Garages and Salt/Sand Storage Buildings in the Towns of Russell, Lisbon, and Potsdam, New York, will not Result in any Significant Adverse Environmental Impacts (Res)
 - I. Authorizing the Acquisition of a Permanent Easement for Construction of a County Highway Facility in the Town of Potsdam (Res)
 - J. Authorizing the Issuance of a Negative Declaration Related to the SJ.03 Northumberland Bridge Project in Morristown, New York (Res)

5. REAL PROPERTY – BRUCE GREEN

A. Income Based Real Property Exemptions (Info)

6. WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) – BARB LASHUA

A. Authorizing the Treasurer to Modify the PY20 Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Budget to Transfer Formula Funds from Dislocated Worker Accounts to Adult Accounts (Res)

7. COUNTY ATTORNEY – STEVE BUTTON

A. Authorizing the Submission of a Joint Application for Intervenor Funds with the Towns of Brasher, Norfolk, and Massena Related to a Public Service Law Article 10 Proceeding Regarding the Siting of an Industrial Scale Solar Generating Facility and Authorizing the Chair to Sign Service Agreements (Res)

8. LEGISLATOR LARRY DENESHA

A. Requesting the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) Perform a Traffic Study and Investigation on a Portion of U.S. Route 11 in the Town of DeKalb and Supporting a Request by the Town of DeKalb for Enactment of Senate Bill S1868 and Assembly Bill A4201 "To Reduce the Maximum Speed Limit on Certain Public Roadways" (Res)

9. LEGISLATOR KEVIN ACRES

A. Proclaiming March 21-27, 2021, As National Agriculture Week in St. Lawrence County (Res)

10. LEGISLATOR JOE LIGHTFOOT

A. Authorizing the Consolidation of the Department of Social Services Legal Unit with the Office of the County Attorney (Res)

11. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE

- A. Highway
 - 1. Fill a Bridge Construction Mechanic Position (312300001)

12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – RUTH DOYLE

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Cornell Cooperative Extension Board (Denesha)
- B. Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Region 6 (Curran)
- C. Fisheries Advisory Board (Terminelli)
- D. Gouverneur Fair Board (Smithers)

- E. Highway/Solid Waste Committee (Smithers)
- F. Industrial Development Agency (Reagen)
- G. Recreational and Trails Advisory Board (Arquiett/Perkins)
- H. St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency (RVRDA) (Forsythe)
- I. St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce (Haggard)
- J. Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors (Acres/Burke)

14. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. Adopting Proposed Local Law A (No. _) for the Year 2021, "A Local Law Re-Establishing the St. Lawrence County Multi-Use Recreational Trail System and Establishing a Trail Permitting Process" (Res)
- B. Sales Tax Distribution Options (Discussion)

Note: Please allow a few minutes for the electronic transition to executive session

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Negotiations
- B. Litigation
- C. Personnel
- D. Appointments

***Note: Please allow a few minutes for the electronic transition to open session ***

16. ADJOURNMENT – If there is no further business.

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH J.E. SHEEHAN CONTRACTING CORP. FOR REPLACEMENT OF TWO BRIDGES ON JONES ROAD OVER WEST BRANCH OF ST. REGIS RIVER, BIN 3366590 AND BIN 3341150

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators approved and funded Capital Bridge Projects, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Highways has solicited bids for the replacement of two bridges on Jones Road over the West Branch of St. Regis River, BIN 3366590 and BIN 3341150, 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 sign a contract, and all necessary documents, with J.E. Sheehan Contracting Corp. for replacement of two bridges on Jones Road over West Branch of St. Regis River, BIN 3366590 and BIN 3341150, upon approval of the County Attorney, as follows:

Contractor:

J.E. Sheehan Contracting Corp.

Contract Title:

Jones Road Bridges over W. Branch of the St. Regis River

BIN 3366590, BIN 3341150, Town of Hopkinton

Contract Amount:

Not to Exceed \$975,650 HM551124 465CO B24 Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

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MODIFYING THE 2021 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS FOR THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BRIDGE PRESERVATION PROJECT, BIN 3340980, BIN 3341780, PIN 775396

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is responsible for maintaining its infrastructure for the safety of the traveling public, and

WHEREAS, construction is scheduled in 2021 for the St. Lawrence County Bridge Preservation Project, BIN 3340980 and BIN 3341780, and

WHEREAS, the construction/construction inspection phase for this project is funded with eighty-percent (80%) federal funds and twenty-percent (20%) non-federal funds, and

WHEREAS, the construction/construction inspection phase for this project was not included in the 2021 Budget for the Department of Highways,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2021 Budget for the Department of Highways for the St. Lawrence County Bridge Preservation Project, BIN 3340980, BIN 3341780, PIN 775396, as follows:

DECREASE UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

Fund Balance, Unreserved Unappropriated	\$24,540				
INCREASE APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:					
Fund Balance, Unreserved Appropriated	\$24,540				
INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:					
H CR Transfers to Capital Fund	\$490,804				
INCREASE REVENUE:					
H SA Marchiselli Aid	\$209,888				
H F/A Transportation Capital P	256,376 \$466,264				
	Fund Balance, Unreserved Appropriated INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS: H CR Transfers to Capital Fund INCREASE REVENUE: H SA Marchiselli Aid				

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

RESOLUTION NO.	
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AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (NYS DEC) FOR A WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (WQIP) PROGRAM GRANT

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County was awarded \$400,000 through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Highways will use these funds toward a salt storage facility at the Russell Outpost,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) for a Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program Grant, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair will execute all necessary Agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for State funding, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Highways will engage in requisite activities to carry out the scope of work, provide grant administration, and close out this grant as required.

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT #1 WITH STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES FOR ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR COUNTY ROUTE 35 BRIDGE OVER TROUT BROOK, BIN 3341700, PIN 775394 AND MODIFYING THE 2021 BUDGET FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators approved and funded Capital Bridge Projects, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 168-2020 authorized the Chair to sign a contract with Stantec Consulting Services for consulting services for engineering and design services for County Route 35 Bridge over Trout Brook Project, (the "Project"), and

WHEREAS, an additional supplemental agreement is now required due to additional engineering and design services required above the original contract estimate,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a Supplemental Agreement #1 with Stantec Consulting Services for additional engineering and design services for County Route 35 Bridge over Trout Brook, BIN 3341700, PIN 775394, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to modify the 2021 Budget for the Highway Department, as follows:

DECREASE UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

03TG0911 50300	Fund Balance, Unreserved Unappropriated	\$3,100		
INCREASE APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:				
03TG0910 50300	Fund Balance, Unreserved Appropriated	\$3,100		
INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:				
HM299509 90600	H CR Transfers to Capital Fund	\$62,000		
INCREASE REVENUE:				
HM035915 560MA HM045975 57000	H SA Marchiselli Aid H F/A Transportation Capital P	\$9,300 <u>49,600</u> \$58,900		

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

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MODIFYING THE 2021 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS FOR STATE RESILIENCY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (REDI) GRANT FUNDS FOR THE NORTHUMBERLAND STREET BRIDGE PROJECT, BIN 3341380, SJ.3, TOWN OF MORRISTOWN

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Cuomo launched the Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) in May of 2019 in order to meet the needs of New Yorkers living in the eight (8) counties impacted by Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River flooding, and

WHEREAS, under REDI, St. Lawrence County was awarded \$2,100,000 in project costs (HM299509 90600) for the Northumberland Street Bridge, BIN 3341380, in the Town of Morristown, asset SJ.03, and

WHEREAS, the project is financed through REDI grant assistance at ninety-five percent (95%) of project costs, and a local project cost match of five percent (5%), and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, the Board passed Resolution No. 75-2020 authorizing the Chair to sign agreements for the State REDI Grant and the Treasurer to modify the 2020 Budget for the total cost of the project, and

WHEREAS, the project was not completed in 2020, and

WHEREAS, only a portion of the construction/construction inspection funds for this project was included in the 2021 Budget for the Department of Highways,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2021 Budget for the Department of Highways for State Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Grand Funds for the Northumberland Street Bridge Project, BIN 3341380, SJ.3, Town of Morristown, as follows:

DECREASE UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

03TG0911 50300	Fund Balance, Unreserved Unappropriated	\$40,604
INC	CREASE APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:	
03TG0910 50300	Fund Balance, Unreserved Appropriated	\$40,604
	INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:	
HM299509 90600	H CR Transfers to Capital Fund	\$812,066
	INCREASE REVENUE:	

H SA Highway Capital Projects

HM035915 56000

\$771,462

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

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AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN ROADSIDE MOWING CONTRACTS

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the 2021 Budget provides for the approval and funding of the 2021 Roadside Mowing, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Highways will contract with five (5) towns for roadside mowing on 62.30 miles of County Roads (HM351104 430RM),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorized the Chair to sign Roadside Mowing Contracts, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators does hereby approve the following contracts to:

Towns:

Clifton

Fine

Hopkinton Piercefield Stockholm

Contract Title:

Roadside Mowing

Contract Amount:

\$271.50/mile

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH FRANKLIN COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR ROAD SALT

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Superintendent of Highways has advised the Franklin County Highway Superintendent that Franklin County will be able to purchase road salt though the 2021-2022 St. Lawrence County salt bid, and

WHEREAS, including road salt estimates for Franklin County, the bidding process will likely lower the cost per ton for both counties, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Superintendent of Highways recommends that permission be granted,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorized the Chair to sign a contract with Franklin County Highway Department for Road Salt, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the terms of terms of the contract will be August 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022.

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

RESOLUTION NO.	
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DETERMINING THAT CONSTRUCTION OF EQUIPMENT GARAGES AND SALT/SAND STORAGE BUILDINGS IN THE TOWNS OF RUSSELL, LISBON, AND POTSDAM, NEW YORK, WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators intends to construct three new truck equipment garages and three new sand/salt storage buildings for the Highway Department in Russell, Lisbon, and Potsdam – all on parcels currently owned by the County (Russell and Lisbon) or shared with the County (Town of Potsdam DPW) – in order to enhance the effectiveness of the County Highway Department operations in and throughout the County, and

WHEREAS, the County intends to initiate this activity by an award of contract for the construction of these buildings, and

WHEREAS, such award of contract constitutes an "action" as delineated in 6 NYCRR Part 617 and requires that the County comply with the requirements of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and

WHEREAS, Short Environmental Assessment Forms (SEAF) identifying and assessing the potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction at each of these three sites has been prepared and distributed to the Board of Legislators in an electronic version for review, and

WHEREAS, the preparation of the SEAF incorporated data was collected from the following sources: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation critical habitats data bases, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation information on archeological sites and concerns, FEMA FIRM maps for each town, state and federal wetlands delineation maps, a state and federal wetland delineation study, internal engineering assessments, highway sufficiency ratings, soils maps, a site survey and assessment of local land use regulations and design considerations that may be incorporated to minimize adverse impacts, and

WHEREAS, the County provided notice of its intent to serve as lead agency for purposes of environmental review to the affected jurisdictions and determined that there are no other "involved" agencies as defined in § 617.3 (b) (4),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators determines that construction of equipment garages and salt/sand storage buildings in the Towns of Russell, Lisbon, and Potsdam, New York, will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that based upon the environmental assessment and supporting materials, the ultimate development of these projects will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators directs the County Administrator to prepare a "Negative Declaration" which indicates that the Board determines that the no adverse environmental impacts will result from these projects based upon the upon the summary of environmental impacts as described in the SEAF and incorporating the points noted in the presentation and discussion of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator is directed to file the "Negative Declaration" in compliance with the requirements of § 617.12; determines that completion of this environmental review fulfills the requirement of the Board under SEQRA; and further determines that the Board is free to take "actions" on the project as defined under 6 NYCRR Part 617, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators will fully comply with any and all permit conditions to mitigate environmental damage both during construction and occupancy of the building as may be required by other permitting agencies subject to the conclusions of their SEQRA reviews and/or in compliance with applicable environmental requirements or standards.

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A PERMANENT EASEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A COUNTY HIGHWAY FACILITY IN THE TOWN OF POTSDAM

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Department of Highways plans to construct a new Highway facility in the Town of Potsdam, Tax Map No. 64.049-1-16, and

WHEREAS, the land upon which the County wants to construct the new Highway facility is currently owned by the Town of Potsdam, and

WHEREAS, several meetings have been held between the Town of Potsdam and St. Lawrence County to discuss cooperation at the proposed site, and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of this joint endeavor, the Town of Potsdam has indicated that there is support for the conveyance of a permanent easement on land owned by the Town of Potsdam whereat the County would be permitted to construct appropriate facilities as envisioned for the project, and

WHEREAS, prior to construction the County must obtain an ownership interest over the land, which would be satisfied by obtaining a permanent easement, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Potsdam has agreed to issue a permanent easement to St. Lawrence County for the construction of the new Highway facility on Tax Map No. 64.049-1-16,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the acquisition of a permanent easement for construction of a County Highway Facility in the Town of Potsdam, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair is authorized to execute any documents necessary to complete the transfer of the permanent easement to the County, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will take effect immediately.

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A NEGATIVE DECLARATION RELATED TO THE SJ.03 NORTHUMBERLAND BRIDGE PROJECT IN MORRISTOWN, NEW YORK

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 75-2020, adopted March 2, 2020, authorized the Chair to sign an agreement for State Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Grand fund for the Northumberland Bridge Project, BIN 3341380, SJ.03, in the Town of Morristown, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, as amended, the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and the implementing regulations at 6NYCRR Part 617 (the "Regulations"), the County desires to comply with SEQRA and the Regulations with respect to the Project, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and the implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617, the County previously completed the SEQRA process and passed a Negative Declaration (Resolution No. 113-2020) for the proposed Project on April 6, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the previously reviewed project scope included the removal of the closed Northumberland Bridge over Morristown Bay, and existing water and sewer utility lines on the bridge will be relocated under the bay using directional drilling techniques, and

WHEREAS, the Project now involves the installation of a wastewater pump station along Bay Street, and the existing vacuum sewer does not have the capacity to transport wastewater under the bay; therefore a pump station with a force main system will be installed to adequately service the existing sewer district, and

WHEREAS, as lead agency, the County has updated Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) to reflect the change in project scope, and subsequently notified all interested and involved agencies of the amendments made to the project, in support of re-issuing a Determination of Significance, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the SEQRA Regulations, the County, as lead agency, considered the significance of the potential environmental impacts of the amended Project by (a) using the criteria specified in Section 617.7 of the SEQRA Regulations, (b) examining the amended FEAF for the Project, including the facts and conclusions in Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the FEAF and Part 3 Evaluation Document, together with other available supporting information, to identify the relevant areas of environmental concern, and (c) thoroughly analyzing the identified areas of environmental concern,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the issuance of a negative declaration related to the SJ.03 Northumberland Bridge Project, in the Town of Morristown, New York, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that based upon the environmental assessment and supporting materials, the Board of Legislators has determined that the development of this project will not result in any significant adverse environmental, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator is directed to prepare a "Negative Declaration" which indicates that the Board of Legislators determines that the no adverse environmental impacts will result from this project based upon the summary of environmental impacts as described in the full EAF, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators directs the County Administrator to file the "Negative Declaration" in compliance with the requirements of SEQRA; to determine that completion of this environmental review fulfills the requirement of the Board under SEQRA; and further determines that the Board is free to take "actions" on the project.

Finance Committee Meeting of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators

Bruce Green, Director of Real Property March 22, 2021

Income Based Real Property Tax Exemptions offered by St. Lawrence County

- Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes Exemption
- Senior Citizens Exemption

Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes Exemption, Form RP 459-c

If allowed by local option, property that (1) is owned by one or more persons with disabilities; by spouses or by siblings, at least one of whom has a disability and whose income, as defined under Ownership Requirements below, is limited by reason of such disability, and (2) is used exclusively for residential purposes is partially exempt from general municipal taxes.

Property must be owned by one or more persons with disabilities, or by spouses or by siblings, at least one of whom has a disability. A person with a disability is one who has a physical or mental impairment, not due to current use of alcohol or illegal drug use, which substantially limits such person's ability to engage in one or more of the major life activities, such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working, and who (1) is certified to receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits

Each county, city, town, village and school district may choose (1) whether or not to allow the base (50%) exemption and (2) the amount of the maximum income exemption eligibility level (see <u>Ownership Requirements</u> above). The option to exempt must be exercised through adoption of a local law or school district resolution (after a public hearing). In addition, each county, city, town, village, and school district which has chosen to allow the base exemption may choose to permit an increase in the maximum income exemption eligibility level and a corresponding decrease in the percentage of exemption.

Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income Limits by Municipality (see next page)

PERSON'S WITH DISABILITIES & LIMITED INCOME

RP 459-C

(exemption code - 4193_)

COUNTY, TOWN AND VILLAGE INCOME LIMITS

JURISDICTION	BASE INCOME	MAX. INCOME
Canton	\$10,000 (Sliding Scale to 5%)	\$18,400
Hermon	10,000 (Sliding Scale to 5%)	18,400
Lawrence	10,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	15,699
Massena	29,000	29,000
Massena (V)	21,000	21,000
Morristown	10,000 (Sliding Scale to 5%)	18,400
Potsdam	16,000 (Sliding Scale to 5%)	24,399
Potsdam (V)	16,000 (Sliding Scale to 5%)	24,399
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY	10,000 (Sliding Scale to 5%)	18,400

LAST UPDATED 3/3/2021

Senior Citizens Exemption, Form RP 467

If allowed by local option, property that (1) is owned by persons 65 years of age or older, or by certain other persons described under Ownership Requirements below, whose income does not exceed the maximum established by local option, (2) is used exclusively for residential purposes, and (3) has been owned by at least one of its owners for a minimum of 12 consecutive months prior to application for exemption or for a period of time considered to be the equivalent of 12 consecutive months (see Required Construction Start Date or Other Time Requirement below) is partially exempt from general municipal taxes.

To qualify for the base exemption (50% of assessed value), the combined incomes of the owners for the income tax year (January - December unless a different 12-month period is used for personal income tax filing purposes) immediately preceding the application for exemption must not be greater than the maximum income eligibility level specified by local law. Such maximum income levels may range from \$3,000 to \$29,000.

Municipalities that have elected to allow the base exemption may amend such local law, ordinance, or resolution to increase the maximum income eligibility level in accordance with the sliding-scale provisions described under Calculation of Exemption below. Income includes social security and retirement benefits, interest, dividends, net capital gains (capital gains can only be offset by capital losses incurred in the same tax year), net rental income, net income from self-employment, salaries, and earnings.

Senior Citizens Exemption Income Limits by Municipality (see next page)

2021

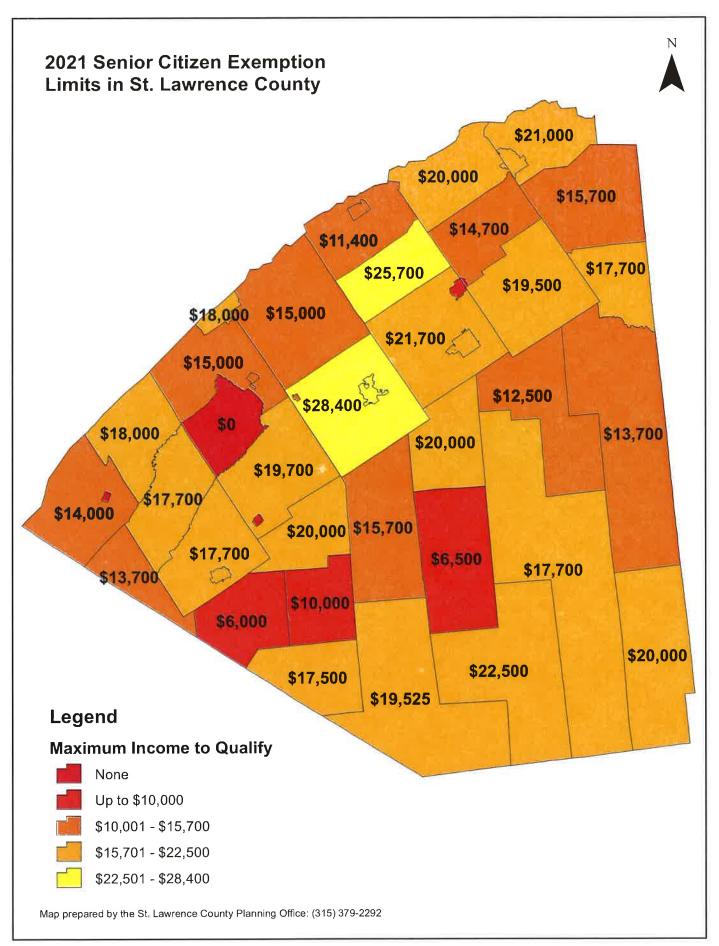
SR. CITIZEN REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

COUNTY, TOWN and CITY LIMITS

		MAX.
JURISDICTION	BASE INCOME	INCOME
Brasher	\$10,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	\$15,699.99
Canton	20,000 (Sliding Scale to 5%)	28,399.99
Clare	6,500	6,500
Clifton	15,000 (Sliding Scale to 10%)	22,499.99
Colton	12,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	17,699.99
Dekalb	14,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	19,699.99
Depeyster	NONE	NONE
Edwards	10,000	10,000
Fine	12,025 (Sliding Scale to 10%)	19,524.99
*Fowler	15,000	15,000
Gouverneur	12,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	17,699.99
Hammond	14,000	14,000
Hermon	20,000	20,000
Hopkinton	8,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	13,699.99
Lawrence	12,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	17,699.99
Lisbon	15,000	15,000
Louisville	20,000	20,000
Macomb	12,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	17,699.99
Madrid	20,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	25,699.99
**Massena	29,000	29,000
Morristown	18,000	18,000
Norfolk	9,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	14,699.99
Oswegatchie	15,000	15,000
Parishville	12,500	12,500
Piercefield	20,000	20,000
Pierrepont	20,000	20,000
Pitcairn	10,000 (Sliding Scale to 10%)	17,499.99
Potsdam	16,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	21,699.99
Rossie	8,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	13,699.99
Russell	10,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	15,699.99
Stockholm	12,000 (Sliding Scale to 10%)	19,499.99
Waddington	11,400	11,400
Ogdensburg	18,000	18,000
ST.LAWRENCE CO.	\$12,000 (Sliding Scale to 20%)	17,699.99

^{*}Town of Fowler increased their maximum income amount from 6,000 to 15,000

^{**}Town of Massena increased their maximum income amount from 21,000 to 21,000



Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

AUTHORIZING THE TREASURER TO MODIFY THE PY20 WORKFORCE INNOVATION OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) BUDGET TO TRANSFER FORMULA FUNDS FROM DISLOCATED WORKER ACCOUNTS TO ADULT ACCOUNTS

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the Notice of Authorization PY20-3 was issued with the remaining allocation of funding for Program Year 2020 WIOA Title IB Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, and

WHEREAS, a transfer of funds would provide more flexibility and ensure that WIOA is able to provide services to as many eligible participants as possible, and

WHEREAS, that all participants eligible for the Dislocated Worker Program will be enrolled in the Dislocated Worker Program, and no eligible participant will be denied services, including training services, due to transfer of funds, and

WHEREAS, WIOA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Section 683.130, allows Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) the authority to transfer one-hundred percent (100%) of a program year allocations between the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs, and

WHEREAS, the LWDB authorized, with Resolution Number 21-A13-01, the transfer of funds from the Dislocated Worker to Adult,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the PY20 Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Budget to transfer formula funds from Dislocated Worker Accounts to Adult Accounts, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

UA062924 461TU TRA	AN Adult Tng Tuition Fees	\$35,000		
DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:				
UE062911 11000	Disc Core Direct Service Worker	\$6,145		
UE062911 14000	Disc Core Clerical	2,238		
UE062911 19501	Disc Core Longevity Pay	225		
UE062918 81000	Disc Core Retirement	1,505		
UE062918 83000	Disc Core Social Security	807		
UE062918 84000	Disc Core Workmen Compensation	307		
UE062918 84500	Disc Core Group Life Insurance	14		
UE062918 86000	Disc Core Hospital & Medical I	1,926		
UE062918 86500	Disc Core Dental Insurance	107		
UE062918 89000	U Vision Insurance	52		
UE062924 461OJ	Disc Tng OJT Employer Reimbursement	16,000		
UE062924 461PM Participant Travel		142		

UE062924 4	61TU Disc Tn	g Tuition Fees	5,532	
	INCREA	SE REVENUE:	\$35,000	
UA047905 5	7000 TRAN U FA A	Adult Training	\$35,000	
	DECREA	SE REVENUE:		
UE047905 5	7000 Dislocated	Worker Revenue	\$35,000	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any remaining fund be rolled over to future years until fully expended.

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

RESOLUTION	NO.
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AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A JOINT APPLICATION FOR INTERVENOR FUNDS WITH THE TOWNS OF BRASHER, NORFOLK, AND MASSENA RELATED TO A PUBLIC SERVICE LAW ARTICLE 10 PROCEEDING REGARDING THE SITING OF AN INDUSTRIAL SCALE SOLAR GENERATING FACILTY AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN SERVICE AGREEMENTS

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, North Side Solar Energy Center, LLC ("North Side"), a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, filed an application before the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment ("Siting Board") for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need ("Certificate") to construct and operate a 180 megawatt ("MW") solar electric generating facility ("Facility") on or about February 19, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the Facility is to be sited on approximately 1,200 to 1,400 acres of land located in County of St. Lawrence ("County") and the Towns of Massena, Brasher and Norfolk (collectively, "Towns") (A copy of the mapping associated with the project is attached hereto as Exhibit 'A'), and

WHEREAS, before the Siting Board issues a certificate, North Side's application is subject to a statutorily prescribed review and evaluation process, pursuant to Article 10 of the New York Public Service Law ("Article 10") and applicable Siting Board regulations, and

WHEREAS, in addition to certain regulatory agencies of the State of New York, other eligible parties, including the County and Towns, may participate in this Article 10 siting process, and

WHEREAS, preliminary meetings have been held between representatives of the Towns and the County wherein the Towns have expressed interest in participating jointly with the County in this Article 10 proceeding, and

WHEREAS, the County believes it is in the best interests of both the Towns and the County that the municipal entities work collaboratively on the review of this project, and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2021, the Siting Board issued a Notice indicating that intervenor funds in the amount of \$180,000 was available to all eligible municipal and other eligible parties for the purpose of funding the activities of legal, engineering and other consultants to assist such parties in actively and meaningfully participating in the Article 10 proceeding, and

WHEREAS, the Towns and the County wish to jointly apply for Intervenor Funds in order to pay for the consulting services of Barton & Loguidice to perform a detailed technical review and evaluation of North Side's Article 10 application, participate in meetings, prepare interrogatory requests and provide expert witness testimony on behalf of the Towns and the County at a future adjudicatory hearing, if deemed necessary by the Siting Board, and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to also apply for Intervenor Funds to pay for the services of Gary S. Bowitch, Esq., to assist the County Attorney and the County Planning Office, in coordination with the attorneys for the Towns, in all aspects of this Article 10 proceeding, including participation in procedural conferences and meeting, negotiations with North Side, oversight of the activities of Barton & Loguidice, preparation of legal documents and pre-filed direct testimony, as needed, and representation in a future adjudicatory hearing, if deemed necessary by the Siting Board,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the submission of a joint filing with the Towns of Massena, Brasher, and Norfolk for Intervenor Funds related to a Public Service Law Article 10 proceeding regarding the siting of an industrial scale solar generating facility and authorizing the chair to sign service agreements, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to execute any agreements necessary to apply for Intervenor Funds in order to pay for and retain engineering and legal services related to this Article 10 proceeding and to execute any other agreements necessary to effectuate the terms of the collaborative submission of an application for Intervenor Funds, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the County Attorney, Gary S. Bowitch Esq., the County Planning Office and any other staff deemed necessary by the County Administrator, to participate in all aspects of the North Side Solar Energy Center, LLC Article 10 Facility siting process, including applying for Intervenor Funding.

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

RESOLUTION NO.

REQUESTING THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NYS DOT) PERFORM A TRAFFIC STUDY AND INVESTIGATION ON A PORTION OF U.S. ROUTE 11 IN THE TOWN OF DEKALB AND SUPPORTING A REQUEST BY THE TOWN OF DEKALB FOR ENACTMENT OF SENATE BILL S1868 AND ASSEMBLY BILL A4201 "TO REDUCE THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON CERTAIN PUBLIC ROADWAYS"

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee Co-Sponsored by Mr. Denesha, District 6

WHEREAS, in New York State, the statutory speed limit on all roads is 55 mph unless otherwise posted on an authorized regulatory sign, and

WHEREAS, Vehicle and Traffic Law, Sections 1620, 1622 and 1624, give the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) the authority to establish speed limits on county and town roads and on state highways, and

WHEREAS, should a town wish to change the speed limit on one of their town roads, the proper procedure is for the town to pass a resolution for the change and submit this to the NYS DOT for an engineering study, and

WHEREAS, there are three types of permanently established speed limits: linear, area, and school zone, and

WHEREAS, a linear speed limit is one which applies only on a specific highway or road; an example of a linear speed limit is a 35 mph speed limit through a small community on a state highway, like the 35 mph limit on U.S. Route 11 through the Town of DeKalb, and

WHEREAS, while a linear speed limit has been established within the Town of DeKalb on U.S. Route 11, it does not extend to the area directly adjacent to the Hermon-DeKalb School, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IX of the New York State Constitution, the Town of DeKalb has requested the enactment of Senate Bill S1868 and Assembly Bill A4201, "To reduce the maximum speed limit on certain public roadways" which would permit the reduction of the posted maximum speed limit in the area of concern, and

WHEREAS, the request seeks to establish maximum speed limits at not less than forty-five (45) miles per hour along U.S. Route 11, beginning one quarter mile North of the United States Route11 and East DeKalb Road intersection and ending one quarter mile South of the entrance to the Hermon-DeKalb Central school athletic fields, and

WHEREAS, in order to enable the Town of DeKalb to be able to impose a speed limit less than 55 mile per hour, it is likely that the State will have to perform a traffic engineering study and a traffic investigation made in accordance with established traffic engineering practices, and

WHEREAS, the County is supportive of the efforts of the Town of DeKalb to seek a reduction of the maximum speed capable of being traveled by motor vehicles leading to and in front of, the Hermon-DeKalb School,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators requests the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) perform a traffic study and investigation on a portion of U.S. Route 11 in the Town of DeKalb and supporting a request by the Town of DeKalb for enactment of Senate Bill S1868 and Assembly Bill A4201 "to reduce the maximum speed limit on certain public roadways," and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED upon review of the study, Senate Bill S1868 and Assembly Bill A4201 be passed, if required, to permit the reduction of the posted speed to allow for safe access to Hermon-DeKalb Central School, and

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

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

R	ES	OLI	ITI	ON	NO.	
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PROCLAIMING MARCH 21-27, 2021, AS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the Agriculture Council of America (ACA) and the National Ag Day Program was started in 1973; the ACA is an organization uniquely composed of leaders in the agriculture, food, and fiber communities dedicated to increasing public awareness of the vital role agriculture plays in our society, and

WHEREAS, March is designated as Agriculture Month, and is celebrated for the importance that agriculture provides almost everything we eat, wear, and use on a daily basis in the United States, and this year, March 23rd, is recognized as National Ag Day celebrating the variety and abundance provided by farms throughout the United States, New York, and St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, there are 33,400 farms in New York State and 6,900,000 acres of operated farmland with each American farmer feeding more than 165 people, and as the world population soars there is an even greater demand for food and fiber produced in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the agricultural industry in New York State contributes more than \$5.4 billion in agricultural sales to the New York economy each year, and

WHEREAS, with farmland occupying nearly one-quarter (1/4) of all land area in New York State agriculture promotes quality of life in many ways, including providing access to fresh, locally-sourced food, preserving open space, and maintaining a strong economy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators proclaims March 21-27, 2021, as National Agriculture Week in St. Lawrence County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators encourages all citizens of the County to participate in programs and activities on National Ag Day and throughout the year, to learn about and appreciate the role agriculture plays in all our daily lives, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Legislators encourages young people to understand how food and fiber products are produced, to value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy, and to consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AUTHORIZING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES LEGAL UNIT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee Co-Sponsored by Mr. Lightfoot, District 3

WHEREAS, prior to 1984 all Department of Social Services legal matters were handled by attorneys in the Office of the County Attorney, and

WHEREAS, in 1984, due to growing responsibilities the Board of Legislators decided to divest the County Attorney of the responsibility of providing representation to the Department of Social Services in Family Court cases and create Social Services Attorney positions pursuant to Social Services Law, Section 66, and

WHEREAS, since 1984 the Department of Social Services has seen an increase in the number of cases with a growing need for additional staff assistance, and

WHEREAS, the DSS Legal Unit has grown to include management personnel of a General Counsel, a Senior Attorney, three (3) Assistant Social Services Attorneys, a Paralegal, and approximately nine (9) support staff positions, and

WHEREAS, recent information from the Department of Social Services management personnel has raised concerns regarding appropriate staffing levels they see as needed to handle the workload associated in the Legal Unit, and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services and the General Counsel have alleged that the failure to provide appropriate support to the Department has resulted in a financial loss to the County, and

WHEREAS, due to a staffing shortage at the end of 2019, the Deputy County Attorney provided assistance beginning December 16, and the County Attorney assumed responsibility on all matters of DSS Legal Unit from January 28, 2020 through April 5, 2020, and on support matters again from July 27, 2020 through August 7, 2020, and

WHEREAS, from July 27, 2020 through August 7, 2020, the DSS General Counsel notified the St. Lawrence County Family Court that the Office of the County Attorney would henceforth be responsible for all current and future child support matters in Family Court, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 333-2020, adopted December 7, 2020, authorized the Chair to sign a contract for Support Cases between the Department of Social Services and the Office of the County Attorney, and

WHEREAS, a pattern of assistance from the Office of the County Attorney has emerged wherein the Office of the County Attorney has provided needed assistance to the DSS Legal Unit to support their efforts, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators believes consolidation of these offices through abolishing the management positions and re-establishing the filled positions as Assistant County Attorneys and a Paralegal while maintaining all support staff titles in the Department of Social Services is consistent with past actions and renders immediate aid to the DSS Legal Unit by making the County Attorney and Deputy County Attorney, as well as their staff, eligible to immediately assist with all DSS Legal Unit work,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the consolidation of the Department of Social Services Legal Unit with the Office of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Attorney will assume responsibility for the oversight of legal matters of the Department of Social Services, pursuant to the authority vested in Social Services Law, Section 66, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the abolition of the management classified positions in the DSS Legal Unit and the creation of those positions as Assistant County Attorneys and Paralegal in the Office of the County Attorney as follows:

ABOLISH:

DAA60101 13000 Social Services Attorney		\$76,812
	Social Services Attorney	\$76,812
	\$87,909	
	\$102,665	
	Paralegal	\$50,469
	Social Services Attorney (vacant)	\$63,234
	<u>CREATE:</u>	
	Assistant County Attorney	TBD*
	Paralegal	\$50,469

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator and the Director of Human Resources are directed to review the process for consolidation and to prepare a budget modification to reflect all changes in a manner consistent with the purpose and direction included in this resolution.

^{*2021} Band V Range \$74,663 - \$92,503

St. Lawrence County Vacancy Authorization Form

Highway

	3 -				
Type: Fill Bridge Construction Mechanic					
Subunit (If Applicable):		Date Submitted: 2/16/2021			
Reason Vacated: Transfe	er	Position Number: 312300001			
Date Vacated: 2/15/2021		Position # Abolished:			
Position Will Be: Fulltime	•	Last Fill Date: 09/17/2016			
Hours Per Week: 40		Appointee Will Be: Permanent			
-	Bud	lget			
Fill Request Timeline:Imm	nediately	Temporary Position? No			
Salary of Person Leaving:	\$42,133	Revenue Generating: No 0 %			
Benefits: Yes	\$20,287	Reimbursed by State or Federal Funds: No 0 %			
Base Salary: \$37,855		Budget Mod Attached, If Required?			
Grade: 18	Net County Co	st: \$62,420			
	Detailed J	Justification			
need to fill the position.		sition is not filled? Please provide, in detail, the ce provided, if it is mandated, number of people ition is not filled.			
backhoes and trucks; ins installs decking stringers foundations, walls, and a	talls I beams, steel decks, braces, hand rails, and butments; assists in setti	onstruction equipment such as front end loaders, s, posts, and ribbon railings; headings on bridges; builds forms, footings, ng up and maintaining traffic control devices, k area. This position also participates in snow and			

County Administrator:

Department Head: Double Charles

Resolution #:

Approved?

Yes No

Finance Committee: 3-22-2021

ADOPTING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW A (NO. _) FOR THE YEAR 2021, "A LOCAL LAW RE-ESTABLISHING THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY MULTI-USE RECREATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHING A TRAIL PERMITTING PROCESS"

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee Co-Sponsored by Mr. Sheridan, District 4; Mr. Denesha, District 6; Mr. Perkins, District 7; and Mr. Arquiett, District 13

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Legislators of the County of St. Lawrence, as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This local law shall be known as "Re-Establishing the St. Lawrence County Trail System and establishing the St. Lawrence County Trail Permitting Process"

SECTION 2. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

This local law is enacted pursuant to the following authority:

- A. Municipal Home Rule Law ("MHL") §10(1)(i) provides that a county may adopt local laws relating to its property, affairs or government provided it is not inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution or any general law.
- B. County Law § 219(1) provides that a county may utilize its reforestation properties "for recreation and kindred purposes." This has been interpreted as authorizing a county to designate reforestation lands for use by all-terrain vehicles ("ATVs"), provided that such use is consistent with forest and wildlife conservation and watershed protection. Opinion Atty. Gen. Op. No. 2002-1.
- C. Vehicle and Traffic Law § 2405(2) states that: "a municipality, by ordinance or local law, may designate any appropriate public lands, waters and properties other than highways under its jurisdiction as a place open for travel by ATVs upon written request for such designation by any person, and may impose restrictions and conditions for the regulation and safe operation of ATVs on such public property. . ."

SECTION 3. PURPOSE

A. The purpose is to establish Local Law No. ____, "A Local Law Re-Establishing the St. Lawrence County Trail System and Establishing the St. Lawrence County Trail Permitting Process", by incorporation of reference to the Local Laws adopted thereto since 2006, and to update by amendment various provisions of the Local Law and thereby Re-Establish the St. Lawrence County Trail System.

B. This Local Law is to:

- 1. Establish a network of trails and interconnecting roads ("Trail System") that is available for ATV operation throughout St. Lawrence County.
- 2. Establish a set of guidelines for the potential expansion of such ATV trail system.
- 3. Establish a methodology for managing the trail system and implementing appropriate procedures to mitigate environmental impacts and provide for the long-term preservation of natural resources.

SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

The Board of Legislators hereby restates and makes the following findings in support of this Local Law:

A. That the Board of Legislators received and reviewed and adopted Resolution No. 149-2011, on May 2, 2011 that determined that the St. Lawrence County Multi-use Trail Plan DGEIS ("Trail Plan") was complete and as a result, the DGEIS was deemed adequate for the purpose of commencing public review of the document, which set forth a resource management plan for the development of a network of interconnecting trails throughout St. Lawrence County for outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the use and operation of all-terrain vehicles ("ATVs"). The Trail Plan contemplates the creation of a St. Lawrence County Trail System ("Trail System"), which is an identified and designated system of trails and interconnecting roads. The Trail System may include:

- 1. Trails located on County Reforestation Lands and/or other lands the County may own.
- 2. Trails located on private lands that are designated as open to the public.
- 3. Railroad Corridors.
- 4. Utility Corridors.
- 5. Recreation Easements.
- 6. Interconnecting Town Roads (as authorized by local law by the respective townships).
- 7. Interconnecting County Roads (as authorized by local law).
- B. The goal of the Trail Plan was to set out the management objectives and guidelines for the development of the Trail System so that the interests of ATV operators could be balanced with the long-term preservation of the environment and the County's natural resources for future generations.
- C. Before taking action with respect to the proposed Trail Plan, the Board of Legislators, acting as lead agency, conducted an extensive review of the potential impacts to the environment pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York, as

amended, and Title 6, Part 617 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations ("NYCRR") implementing Article 8 (collectively referred to hereinafter as "SEQRA").

- D. The Board of Legislators further determined that pursuant to Part 6 NYCRR § 617.6(a)(4), preparation of a draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement ("GEIS") would better serve the Board in assessing potential environmental impacts.
- E. The Board of Legislators has heretofore accepted the Final GEIS and has adopted a Findings Statement in accordance therewith.
- F. That the Trail Plan has been reviewed and revised, where necessary, in order to assure that it conforms to the GEIS and its related Findings. Contemporaneously, the Board of Legislators formally approved and adopted by resolution the Trail Plan in its final form.
- G. The Board of Legislators further finds that one of the key elements of the Trail System is the development of trails on County-owned reforestation lands. The Board is equally aware that the reforestation lands are valuable assets to the County and its residents both now and for generations to come. Therefore, the Board finds that it is incumbent upon them to set forth clearly defined rules and regulations as to the use of the reforestation lands, and more particularly the use of the trails thereon.
- H. The Board of Legislators further finds that similar considerations pertain to the use of trails that are now or may hereafter become available to the County for incorporation into the Trail System, whether such trails are located on private property, along former railroad beds or utility corridors.
- I. Furthermore, the Board of Legislators finds that this Local Law is necessary in order to set forth certain procedures for the development of the Trail System in order to assure that both present and future development complies with the GEIS and its related Findings.

SECTION 5. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Local Law:

- A. All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs): Shall have the same meaning as an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) set forth in § 2281 of the Vehicle & Traffic Law. ATV as defined under VTL §2281, including registered dirt bikes, ATVs, UTVs under the weight and length limits set forth in the VTL, and as may be amended
- B. St. Lawrence County Highway Superintendent (SLCHS): Shall refer to the individual who holds the position of St. Lawrence County Highway Superintendent, as defined under Highway Law § 100
- C. County: Shall mean the County of St. Lawrence.
- D. County Reforestation Lands: Lands purchased, acquired, or accepted by gift by the County of St. Lawrence for purposes of reforestation. Pursuant to County Law § 219, County reforestation lands may be used for "watershed protection..., the production of timber and forest products and for recreation and kindred purposes."

- E. Current Trail Development: Shall refer to:
 - 1. Trails and logging roads located upon County Reforestation Lands or any other County land identified herein and designated by operation of this Local Law as open and available for ATV trail development, subject to the rules and regulations set forth herein and the management guidelines set forth in the Trail Plan, and
 - 2. Trails located in, on or upon private property that heretofore have permitted ATV trails to be developed for use by the public pursuant to an agreement with the landowner, and
 - a) Have been reviewed by the County in connection with the DGEIS and FGEIS, and
 - b) Are authorized by this local law to be incorporated into the St. Lawrence County Trail System by mutual agreement between the landowner and the County.
- F. Amendments to the Trail System: Shall refer to amendments to the Trail System as the result of:
 - 1. County Reforestation Lands that may be designated in the future as being available for ATV development, subject to the rules and regulations set forth herein and the management guidelines set forth in the Trail Plan, or
 - 2. New ATV trails to be constructed where none existed previously on or across County Reforestation Lands that are identified by this Local Law as being available for ATV trail development, or
 - 3. Newly identified trails to be located on or across private lands, including railroad corridors or public or private utility rights-of-way.
- G. Hazards: Obstacles in the trail corridor making travel unsafe; something causing unavoidable danger, peril, risk, or difficulty.
- H. Non-Trail Areas: Property located directly adjacent to the designated trails in the Trail System. Only those trails that are designated as part of the St. Lawrence County Trail system are open to the public. Adjacent property and/or private trails that are not so designated are to be respected as private property and should not be encroached by ATV users.
- I. Operate: shall mean to ride in or on, other than as a passenger, or use or control the operation of an ATV in any manner, whether or not said ATV is under way.
- J. Operator: means every person who operates or is in actual physical control of an ATV.
- K. Railroad Corridors: existing RR lines no longer in use by the railroads. These corridors of land are vast stretches of land, which can be utilized for recreational trails, provided that permission is granted by the owner of the rail lines.

SECTION 6. DESIGNATION OF COUNTY REFORESTATION LANDS FOR CURRENT TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

- A. The Board of Legislators hereby declares that all the trails and logging roads located in and upon County Reforestation Lands previously designated and approved by Local Law and by subsequent addition by Resolution, shall be open for the use and operation of ATVs, subject to the rules and regulations herein set forth and the management guidelines set forth in the St. Lawrence County Trails Plan.
- B. The opening of any County Reforestation Land to trail development does not imply that ATV use and operation is permitted in any non-trail area within the parcel of land. The use and operation of ATVs on County Reforestation Lands shall be strictly limited to the designated and signed trails within such parcel, as hereinafter set forth.

SECTION 7. DEVELOPMENT OF ATV TRAILS ON DESIGNATED COUNTY REFORESTATION LANDS:

- A. Upon the designation of any County Reforestation Land by the Board of Legislators, upon consultation with the St. Lawrence County Multi-use Trail Committee, through this Local Law or any future local law, as available for Trail Development, the Board of Legislators hereby authorizes the St. Lawrence County Highway Superintendent (SLCHS) or their designee to develop ATV trails in and upon such land in the following manner:
 - 1. The SLCHS or their designee to personally inspect the proposed parcel of land and/or the proposed trail and map out with as much specificity as possible where any proposed ATV trails would be located on the parcel of land (including GPS coordinates for such proposed trails, where possible).
 - 2. Designate such existing truck trails, logging roads or similar trails as open for use by ATVs by marking the same with appropriate signs, provided that:
 - a) The SLCHS, or their designee, determines, that such use is consistent with forest and wildlife conservation and watershed protection and does not otherwise interfere with the County's reforestation plans; and
 - b) Each such truck trail, logging road or similar trail is clearly marked with signs to be placed thereon by the SLCHS, or their designee.
 - 3. All signs to be used by the SLCHS for the purposes set forth in this Local Law shall be of uniform size, shape, lettering, and marking; shall include the St. Lawrence County official logo; and shall clearly and concisely inform the public that the trail is open for the operation of ATVs, or restricted by ATV classification as determined by the SLCHS, or their designee.
- B. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to obligate the SLCHS, or their designee, to open any particular truck trail, logging road or similar trail or any part thereof for use by all classifications of ATVs on a trail. Such determination, including classification of ATV for access on any or all trails shall be at the sole discretion of the SLCHS or their designee.

SECTION 8. AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAIL SYSTEM

A. In the event that the SLCHS receives (i) a written request from an individual or organization to open additional County Reforestation Lands or any other land owned or controlled by the County to trail development, or (ii) a written request from an individual or organization to construct a new trail upon a County Reforestation Land that is herein or hereafter being opened for trail development, or (iii) a written request from an individual or organization to open trails on private parcels of land or railroad or utility right-of-ways or corridors, the SLCHS, or their designee, shall take the following steps:

- 1. Perform an initial evaluation of the application, assessing the feasibility of admitting the property based upon several factors, including: the property's overall potential for enhancing the existing trail system; proof of property ownership; the property owner's willingness to execute an access agreement with the County; the property's ability to safely host ATV travel; and such other factors as deemed reasonable and prudent by the SLCHS.
- 2. the initial evaluation of the application of the SLCHS or the designee indicates that it may be feasible to admit the property, he/she can authorize the performance of a more detailed environmental review pursuant to SEQRA, with the Board of Legislators or the St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District serving as Lead Agency for such review.
- 3. Upon completion of a substantive environmental review, the SLCHS will forward to the Board of Legislators the results of such review, plus a recommendation on property admission. The Board of Legislators will then finalize its own review of the available information, complete its SEQRA Lead Agency responsibilities, if required, and ultimately decide whether or not to admit the property.
- 4. In the event that the Board of Legislators deems it appropriate to admit the property to the Trail System, the Board shall amend the Trail System as follows:
 - a) If County Reforestation Land, by local law designating any or all County land as open for the use and operation of ATVs, subject to the rules and regulations herein set forth and the management guidelines set forth in the St. Lawrence County Trails Plan.
 - b) If private property, by resolution of the Board of Legislators approving an access agreement between the landowner and the County, and subject to the rules and regulations herein set forth and the management guidelines set forth in the St. Lawrence County Trails Plan.
- B. Upon admission to the Trail System as set forth above, the property shall be identified and mapped by the SLCHS, or their designee, as described in Section 7 above.

SECTION 9. INTERCONNECTING PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

A. It is anticipated that the Trail System may include one or more public highways that will interconnect with the trails located on County Reforestation Lands or any other County land, and the off-road trails on private property that have been identified and signed as incorporated into the St. Lawrence County Trail System. Interconnecting public highways may be incorporated into the St. Lawrence County Trail System under the following conditions:

- 1. The highway in question has been designated for use by ATV traffic by appropriate government action pursuant to Vehicle and Traffic Law § 2405 by the governmental agency having jurisdiction.
- 2. In the case of a town highway, the SLCHS has received a concurring resolution or local law from the town board setting forth their consent or designation that said portion of the town highway is open to ATV access, and therefore can be included as a designated highway into the St. Lawrence County Trail System.
- 3. In the event that either a town road or County Highway has not been reviewed pursuant to the GEIS performed by the County and identified on the map attached to the FGEIS, the SLCHS initiates the procedures set forth in subparagraphs "b" and "c" of Section 7, Paragraph 1 above.
- 4. The SLCHS, or their designee, identifies the highway as being incorporated into the Trail System by placing or causing to be placed thereon appropriate St. Lawrence County Trail signs as well as identifying such highway on maps produced by the Trails Department for public use.

SECTION 10. OPERATION OF ATVs ON THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TRAIL SYSTEM

- A. No person shall operate an ATV on the Trail System except in conformance with this Local Law, the St. Lawrence County ATV Code and any other applicable law, rule or ordinance.
- B. No person shall operate an ATV on the Trail System except where designated and marked for such classified use by appropriate signage as hereinafter provided.
- C. No person shall operate an ATV in or on a non-trail area as defined herein, or on a trail not designated for that ATV classification. Any person who operates an ATV on the Trail System:
 - 1. Upon a trail that is marked and signed as "closed" or otherwise has not been designated and marked as being "open" for such use and or classification, or
 - 2. Operates an ATV outside of the designated and signed trail shall be guilty of trespass and any other identified violation(s) of law, and shall be subject to prosecution under civil and criminal laws, as appropriate.

SECTION 11. ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY ATV TRAIL PERMITS

A. Except as hereinafter provided, no person shall operate any ATV on any County Reforestation Land, County Property, or any trail on private property that has been incorporated into the St. Lawrence County Trail System unless such ATV has received a St. Lawrence County Trail Permit in accordance with the provisions of this Local Law, and the St. Lawrence County Trail Permit number for such ATV is in full force and effect and displayed as provided under this Local Law and regulations promulgated hereunder.

An ATV which is to be operated and have access to the St. Lawrence County Trail System shall provide for coverages required of an "owner's policy of liability insurance", issued by an insurance carrier authorized to do business in the State of New York. The owner or operator of

the ATV shall carry a copy of said insurance coverage at all times while accessing the Trail System, and produce same upon the request of any person having authority to enforce the provisions of this Local Law and NYS VTL §2407, and any person(s) who claims to have suffered personal injury or property damage as a result of the operation of such ATV, as more fully set forth in VTL § 2407.

- B. The St. Lawrence County SLCHS or her/his designee is hereby authorized to issue a St. Lawrence County Trail Permit or a Trail Pass and assign a St. Lawrence County Trail Permit or Trail Pass number to each such ATV, upon the receipt of a completed application and payment of appropriate permit fee(s) as hereinafter provided.
 - 1. The ATV Permit Season shall run from May 15th through September 15th of each year, unless otherwise established by the Board of Legislators on or before its March Board meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the SLCHS, after consultation with the Board of Legislators, is authorized to delay the opening date of any or all of the trails within the Trail System based upon weather and environmental conditions. In such event, the SLCHS, or their designee, shall post the trails accordingly, provide notice of the date of opening on the County website, Chamber of Commerce website, and provide other means of notification as deemed reasonable and appropriate.
 - 2. A Trail Permit shall be valid from the date of issuance through and including the last day of the Permit Season for which it was issued, except that a trail permit purchased on or after the Tuesday after Labor Day shall be valid for the following Permit Season.
 - 3. A Trail Pass shall be valid for a period not to exceed three (3) consecutive days, provided that in no event shall a Trail Pass allow use of the Trail System beyond the closing date of the Permit Season as set forth above.
 - 4. The SLCHS, or their designee, is authorized to provide for and post a free Three (3) Day Pass weekend the first full weekend of August (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), as determined by the Director and the Board of Legislators.
 - 5. The Board of Legislators may license designated outlets who shall be authorized to receive permit applications, receive permit fees and transmit the same to the SLCHS, and issue permits to the applicant, all in accordance with the terms of such license agreement as approved by the Board of Legislators.
 - 6. The Board of Legislators authorizes the SLCHS and/or her designated vendor to provide for the receipt of permit applications and permit fees through a secure internet site to be administered by the Director or her designee.
 - 7. Notwithstanding the above, the SLCHS and Board of Legislators shall have the discretion to open and/or close any part of the trail system at any time for environmental and safety concerns, trail maintenance, and for any other reason.
- C. Fees. Fees for the issuance of a St. Lawrence County Trail Permit to be collected by the St. Lawrence County under this Local Law are as follows.
 - 1. A fee of sixty-five dollars (\$65) for the first ATV applicant who is not a current, registered member of an ATV club with an active ATV Trail Agreement with St. Lawrence County.

- 2. A fee of forty-five (\$45) dollars for the first ATV for which a Trail Permit is requested where the applicant must present proof of current, registered membership in an ATV Club with an active ATV Trail Agreement with the County.
- 3. In the event that an applicant wishes to obtain permits for more than one ATV, the applicant must show proof that all additional ATVs are owned/registered to the same address. The permit fee for each additional ATV shall then be \$20 per machine.
- 4. Fees shall not be pro-rated for the Permit Season, and such fees shall be applicable to the year in which the permit is issued, except that permits purchased on or after the Tuesday after Labor Day shall be valid the following Permit Season.
- 5. The provisions of paragraphs a. and b. of this subdivision shall not apply to any landowner who has entered into and has an active access agreement with the County to permit the development of one or more ATV trails on his/her property.
- 6. As an alternative to obtaining a Trail Permit, an ATV operator may purchase a three (3) day Trail Pass. The fee for the Trail Pass shall be twenty (\$20) dollars each. The trail pass shall allow the holder thereof use of the appropriate Trail System for the classification of the ATV for a period of no longer than three (3) consecutive days.
 - a) The Trail Pass shall be of such design and material as determined by the SLCHS.
 - b) To obtain a Trail Pass, an ATV operator must complete an application and provide the same information as is required to obtain a Trail Permit.
 - c) The SLCHS may establish such other rules and regulations for administering the purchase and sale of Trail Passes as deemed necessary and consistent with the regulations provided in these local laws. All other rules and regulations that apply to Trail Permits shall equally apply to Trail Passes.
- D. Application. The owner of each ATV requiring St. Lawrence County Trail Permit or Trail Pass under this Local Law shall present an application for a St. Lawrence County Permit or Trail Pass to the St. Lawrence County Highway Superintendent, or her/his designee as provided in Paragraph 2 above, on a form to be prepared and furnished by the St. Lawrence County SLCHS for that purpose. Such application shall contain, but not be limited to the following information:
 - 1. Vehicle Identification Number (VIN#) and/or License Plate Number;
 - 2. Check off of all appropriate information, including that the applicant has proper insurance coverage for the vehicle (s);
 - 3. Proper execution of agreement with any and all waivers, including but not limited to knowledge and understanding of all requirements for operation of ATVs and New York State ATV Laws;
 - 4. Payment of appropriate fee(s) as provided in Paragraph 4 above.

Upon receipt of a completed application, the SLCHS, or their designee, shall issue a St. Lawrence County Trails Permit or Trail Pass, with the appropriate identifying receipt and/or sticker. The Trail Permit/Pass receipt must be carried by the ATV operator at all times, and any

issued sticker properly affixed. No duplicate for lost or damaged Permits/stickers will be issued. No ATV shall be considered as validly using or accessing the St. Lawrence County Trail System within the meaning of this section unless a current St. Lawrence County Trail Permit and sticker are issued, possessed, and affixed.

- E. Renewal. Every owner of an ATV shall renew his or her St. Lawrence County Trail Permit each calendar year by submitting an application together with the appropriate information, attestations, fees and waivers. The Owner is to keep a copy of the permit renewal receipt.
- F. Exemption. No Trail Permits shall be required for the following described ATVs:
 - 1. ATVs owned and operated by St. Lawrence County and used by the St. Lawrence County SLCHS, St. Lawrence County Sheriff, or any deputy, special patrolman or peace officer employed thereby; St. Lawrence County Emergency Management Services Director and Assistant.
 - 2. ATVs owned and operated by NYS Police, Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Parks and Recreation or any other department thereof.
 - 3. Search and Rescue Responders and Fire Department Responders to an emergency.
- G. Special events. The person(s) or entity in charge of a special event involving the operation of ATVs shall comply with the provisions of section twenty-four hundred eight of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, including but not limited to providing the SLCHS with at least thirty (30) days prior Notice of the scheduled special event. Governmental agencies having jurisdiction over the proposed special event shall either grant or deny authorization to hold a special event within thirty days after receipt of a full and complete application for authorization as described in VTL §2408. The event shall not be conducted without prior written authorization from the governmental agencies having jurisdiction over the site(s). ATVs participating in a properly Noticed and Approved special event may be exempted from the provisions of this Local Law concerning Trail Permits, at the discretion of the Board of Legislators.
- H. Responsibility for operation by minors. No owner or other person in possession of any ATV shall authorize or knowingly permit any person under eighteen years of age to operate such ATV in violation of any provisions of this section.

I. Violations.

- 1. Any person who rides on the St. Lawrence County Trail System without a valid Permit, shall be fined the sum of \$125 for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense, and shall be subject to the offending ATV being impounded; these fines shall also apply to the record owner of the machine;
- 2. Any person who enters upon property other than the trail system shall be subject to trespass and any other appropriate violations of the law. Such person(s) shall be fined the sum of \$125 for the first offense and shall be banned from the Trail System for the remainder of the Season with the Trail Permit revoked. Such person(s) shall be fined the sum of \$250 for the second offense and may be permanently banned from the Trail System.

- 3. Any person who is convicted of violation of the speed limit (25 miles per hour) within the trail system shall receive a fine of \$250 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense and with the immediate revocation of the Trail Permit(s) issued to that person.
- 4. Any person who violates any other provisions of this the Local Law, the St. Lawrence County ATV Code Local Law, or any other State or Local Law or regulation shall be guilty of a traffic infraction and/or all other appropriate laws and regulations so violated. A person guilty of a first offense shall receive a fine of \$125 in addition to any other fines specifically set forth in the VTL, ECL or other relevant statute. Upon conviction of a second offense occurring within one calendar year, the offender shall receive a fine of \$250, and all Trail Permits issued to the owner and operator thereof shall be revoked for a period of one calendar year from the date of conviction. The aforesaid is in addition to any other appropriate fines and remedies at law.
- J. Rules and regulations. The SLCHS shall promulgate such other rules and regulations as he or she may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this article, and submit same to the Board of Legislators for approval and adoption as an amendment to this Local Law.
- K. Disposition of fees. The SLCHS shall deposit all monies received from the issuance of St. Lawrence County Trail Permits for ATVs and all fees otherwise collected under this Local Law to the credit of a Recreational Trails Fund established by the St. Lawrence County Treasurer. All such funds shall be dedicated exclusively to the establishment, maintenance and operation of the St. Lawrence County Trail System.

SECTION 12. REFERENCE TO ATV

Reference to "ATV" in all other ATV Local Laws subsequent thereto, including all Amendments and Additions by Local Law and/or by Resolution, shall be deemed to refer to "ATV" in accordance with this Local Law.

SECTION 13. SEVERABILITY

In the event that any part or provision of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part or provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of the Local Law or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances. Moreover, the Board of Legislators of the County of St. Lawrence hereby declares its intent that it would have passed this Local Law or the remainder thereof had such invalid provision or invalid application been apparent.

SECTION 14. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.