



RUTH A. DOYLE
County Administrator

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA
MS. RITA CURRAN, CHAIR
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025
BOARD ROOM AND VIA YOUTUBE
5:30 PM**



DAVID FORSYTHE
Chair, Board of Legislators

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 9, 2024

3. EMERGENCY SERVICES – MATT DENNER

- A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a One-Year Extension with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications for Fiscal Year 21/22 (FY21/22) Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula Grant (SICG) (Res)
- B. Full Scale Training Exercise Update (Discussion)

4. PLANNING – JASON PFOTENHAUER

- A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign the Section 5311 Funding Application for Public Mass Transportation Services (Res)
- B. Authorizing the Payment of Matching Funds to the Development Authority of the North Country for the Northern Border Regional Commission 2023 Catalyst Program for Broadband Expansion and Modifying the 2025 Budget for the County Administrator's Office (Res)

5. PROBATION – TIM LEPAGE

- A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with New Paradigm Psychological Services, PLLC, for Counseling Services for the Probation Department (Res)

6. SHERIFF – PATRICK ENGLE

- A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Federal Equitable Sharing Program Agreement and Annual Certification Report for the Sheriff's Office (Res)

7. LEGISLATOR REAGEN

- A. Calling Upon the New York State Legislature to Amend the Persons in Need of Supervision Reform Legislation of 2019 and to Adequately Fund Dispositional Outcomes (Res)

8. LEGISLATOR DENESHA

- A. Calling Upon the New York State Attorney General to Investigate Petroleum Price Differentials in the Tri-County Region of the North Country for Potential Price Gouging (Res)

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – RUTH DOYLE

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board (Denesha)
- B. Alternative to Incarceration Board (Burke)
- C. Board of Trustees for Supreme Court Library (Haggard)
- D. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (Curran)
- E. Environmental Management Council (Terminelli)
- F. Fire Advisory Board (Denesha)
- G. Jury Board (Sheridan)
- H. Planning Board (Fay)

11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

13. ADJOURNMENT – If there is no further business.

February 3, 2025

Operations Committee: 1-6-2024

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION WITH THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES OFFICE OF INTEROPERABLE AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 21/22 (FY21/22) STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS FORMULA GRANT (SICG)

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 314-2022 authorized the Chair to sign a contract with New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications for a FY21/22 Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula Grant (SICG) having an award of \$1,604,582 to Emergency Services which concentrates on improving interoperability and operability of communication systems in New York State with a contract period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024, and

WHEREAS, this grant allows New York State to provide aid to county, local, and municipal public safety organizations in enhancing emergency response, improving capability, improvements in governance structures, operating procedures, infrastructure development, and addressing SAFECOM guidance from the US Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications, and

WHEREAS, a one-year extension has been approved by New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services through December 31, 2025 (X2Z33895 56000 SI),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a one-year extension with New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications for Fiscal Year 21/22 (FY21/22) Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula Grant (SICG), and any other necessary documents as required by this grant, upon approval of the County Attorney.

February 3, 2025

Operations Committee: 1-6-2025

RESOLUTION NO.

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE SECTION 5311 FUNDING
APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC MASS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is submitting a request for grant funds to the New York State Department of Transportation, pursuant to Section 5311, Title 49 United States Code, for projects to provide public mass transportation service for St. Lawrence County for the 2024 and 2025 fiscal years and has secured resources to satisfy the local share, and

WHEREAS, the County and the State of New York have entered into continuing agreements, or will enter into successor continuing agreements, which authorize the undertaking of projects and the reimbursement of the Federal and applicable State shares, and

WHEREAS, the County is contracting with third-party subcontractors to complete the projects,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign the Section 5311 funding application for Public Mass Transportation Services, upon approval of the County Attorney.

February 3, 2025

Operations Committee: 1-6-2025

RESOLUTION NO.

**AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS TO THE DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY OF THE NORTH COUNTRY FOR THE NORTHERN BORDER
REGIONAL COMMISSION 2023 CATALYST PROGRAM FOR BROADBAND
EXPANSION AND MODIFYING THE 2025 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution 186-2023 was adopted supporting the application of Development Authority of the North Country to the 2023 Northern Border Regional Commission Catalyst Program for broadband infrastructure, and committed up to \$250,000 in County funds as a portion of the required matching funds for the application, and

WHEREAS, the application was successful, and work has begun on the development of approximately twenty (20) miles of new fiber optic cable and one hundred (100) new broadband connections in multiple parts of the County, and

WHEREAS, these funds are required to pay for expenses associated with the broadband infrastructure deployment in 2024, 2025, and 2026,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the payment of matching funds to the Development Authority of the North Country for the Northern Border Regional Commission 2023 Catalyst program for broadband expansion, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2025 St. Lawrence County Budget, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700	B SPEC Contingency Account	\$250,000
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

BL010104 43007	B LB Other Fees & Services	\$250,000
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any remaining funds will be rolled over to future budgets until fully expended.

February 3, 2025

Operations Committee: 1-6-2025

RESOLUTION NO.

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH NEW PARADIGM
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES, PLLC, FOR COUNSELING SERVICES FOR THE
PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

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

WHEREAS, New Paradigm Psychological Services, PLLC, is a practice in which its partners are New York State Licensed Psychologists and Clinical Members of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) with the experience and capacity to provide counseling to juveniles and adults identified as sexual offenders, and

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

WHEREAS, the Probation Department is seeking to continue services with New Paradigm Psychological Services, PLLC, for individual and group counseling sessions, as well as assessments (Q1031404 43000 SOM), with the terms of the contract beginning on the date of signing through December 31, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Probation Department is responsible for the rates, as follows, if a client does not have insurance coverage: \$35 (was \$25) per client for group sessions, \$60 (was \$50) per client for individual therapy, and \$300 (was \$200) for each sex offender assessment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with New Paradigm Psychological Services, PLLC, for counseling services for the Probation Department, upon approval of the County Attorney.

February 3, 2025

Operations Committee: 1-6-2025

RESOLUTION NO.

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A FEDERAL EQUITABLE SHARING
PROGRAM AGREEMENT AND ANNUAL CERTIFICATION REPORT FOR THE
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice requires that the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Office file an annual Federal Equitable Sharing Program Agreement and Annual Certification Report to be eligible to submit requests for federally forfeited property or proceeds, and

WHEREAS, the Agreement is entered into by the United States Department of Justice, the County of St. Lawrence and the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Office,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a Federal Equitable Sharing Program Agreement and Annual Certification Report for the Sheriff's Office.

February 3, 2025

Operations Committee: 1-6-2025

RESOLUTION NO.

**CALLING UPON THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND THE
PERSONS IN NEED OF SUPERVISION REFORM LEGISLATION OF 2019 AND TO
ADEQUATELY FUND DISPOSITIONAL OUTCOMES**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Reagan, District 1

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2017, the New York State governor signed legislation raising the age of criminal responsibility to age 18 to provide young people in New York who commit non-violent crimes with the intervention and evidence-based treatment they need, and

WHEREAS, the new measures were phased in over time, raising the age of criminal responsibility from age 16 to age 17 beginning on October 1, 2018, and subsequently raising the age to 18 on October 1, 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Raise the Age (RTA) Legislation included provisions to eliminate state funding for PINS placement and detention as of January 1, 2020, but did not alter the ability of the family courts of New York State to order such placements, which led to the enactment of the 2019 Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) reform legislation, and

WHEREAS, the 2019 PINS reform legislation established an emphasis placed on the use and delivery of services in the community, exhausting all diversion efforts prior to court intervention, and avoiding all unnecessary out-of-home placements, and

WHEREAS, there are special provisions regarding truancy allegations of youth, pursuant to PINS reform legislation:

- As part of PINS diversion, the lead agency (LDSS or probation) must review the steps taken by the school district to resolve the educational issues prior to a PINS petition being filed, regardless of whether the school district is the petitioner;
- All PINS petitions that include an allegation of truancy must detail the steps taken by the school district to address the truancy issue;
- In any PINS cases that include an allegation of truancy where the school district is not the petitioner, the courts may at any time, where they believe the assistance of the school district would be helpful in resolving the underlying issue, notify the school district and provide them an opportunity to be heard on the matter, and

WHEREAS, per the PINS reform legislation of 2019, if the only allegation or finding made against the child is truancy, no placement in foster care may be made or ordered by the Courts, and

WHEREAS, anecdotal reports from St. Lawrence County School Districts have suggested an increase in truancy among the student populations, and

WHEREAS, school districts have expressed frustration with an inability to handle these issues and have requested St. Lawrence County Department of Social Services step in, and

WHEREAS, educational neglect and truancy are not synonymous as truancy generally involves a child, often a teenager, who willfully refuses to attend school whereas when their parent/guardian is actively involved in facilitating their attendance, the child's absences are not considered educational neglect, and

WHEREAS, when a parent is making efforts to correct their truant behavior of the child, albeit without success, they can turn to the school for assistance through a PINS case, and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, the removal of state-funding as well as the limits on dispositional alternatives have effectively rendered PINS proceedings useless,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges the New York State Legislature to amend the law regarding Persons In Need of Supervision to reinvest school district and petitioners with remedies for truancy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators calls upon the State of New York to appropriately fund dispositional outcomes related to Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) matters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Assemblyman Scott Gray, Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Senator Dan Stec.

February 3, 2025

Operations Committee: 1-6-2025

RESOLUTION NO.

**CALLING UPON THE NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO
INVESTIGATE PETROLEUM PRICE DIFFERENTIALS IN THE TRI-COUNTY
REGION OF THE NORTH COUNTRY FOR POTENTIAL PRICE GOUGING**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Denesha, District 6

WHEREAS, for the past year, St. Lawrence County residents have observed big differences in gas prices throughout the tri-county region, and

WHEREAS, gas prices in St. Lawrence County have been observed as, on average, significantly higher than those experienced in neighboring Franklin County and Jefferson County, and

WHEREAS, according to publicly accessible data through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority as well as the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance: 1) Each gallon of gas or diesel has a \$.173 petroleum business charge added by the State; 2) Each gallon of gas has a \$.08 motor fuel tax assessed by the State; and 3) Each gallon of gas has sales and use tax of 7 or 8 % depending on the County, and

WHEREAS, since January of 2023, St. Lawrence and Jefferson have imposed the same percentages and rates of taxation per gallon of gas, and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that the taxing percentages are identical, the cost per gallon in St. Lawrence County comparatively to its neighbors remains significantly higher, and

WHEREAS, according to AAA, the price difference comes down to supply and demand and competition, and

WHEREAS, the price gouging statute of New York State, Section 396-r of the New York General Business Law, prohibits unconscionably excessive pricing of necessary consumer goods and services during any abnormal market disruption, and

WHEREAS, the statute applies to goods and services that are vital and necessary to the health, safety, and welfare of consumers and the general public, and these include the essentials: 1) Consumer goods and services provided primarily for personal, family, or household purposes; 2) Medical supplies and services used for the care, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of illness or disease; and 3) Goods and services used to promote the health or welfare of the public, and

WHEREAS, the statute prohibits price gouging by all parties in the distribution chain, including retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors, and

WHEREAS, the Office of the New York State Attorney General enforces the statute and may promulgate rules and regulations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators calls upon the New York State Attorney General to investigate petroleum price differentials in the Tri-County Region of the North Country for potential price gouging, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Attorney General Letitia James, Assemblyman Scott Gray, Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Senator Dan Stec.