

Members Attending: ~~Mr. Burke~~, **Ms. Curran**, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Gennett, Ms. Haggard, ~~Mr. Hull~~, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Reagen, Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Smithers, Ms. Terminelli, and Mr. Webster

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Ms. Curran called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Terminelli moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes and two (2) absent (Hull and Burke.)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Mr. Smithers moved to approve the minutes of October 20, 2025, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes and two (2) absent (Hull and Burke.)

3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – RICK JOHNSON

A. Authorization to Abolish a Computer Programmer/Analyst and Create and Fill a Computer Technician Position in the Information Technology Office – Mr. Gennett moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes and two (2) absent (Hull and Burke.)

B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Provision of Attack Surface Management with the New York State Office of Information Technology Services and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Gennett and Mr. Reagen, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes and two (2) absent (Hull and Burke.)

4. SHERIFF'S OFFICE – PATRICK ENGLE

A. Modifying the 2025 Budget for the Sheriff's Office to Accept a FY22 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers and Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes and two (2) absent (Hull and Burke.)

B. Modifying the 2025 Budget for the Sheriff's Office for the FY23 Operation Stone Garden Grant from New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services – Mr. Smithers moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot and Mr. Forsythe, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes and two (2) absent (Hull and Burke.)

5. PROBATION - TIM LEPAGE

A. Arming of Probation Officers Update (Discussion)

6. 2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET REVIEW:

A. Department Reviews: Board of Elections, County Clerk, District Attorney, Emergency Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, Planning, Probation, Public Defender, and Sheriff's Office

7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – RUTH DOYLE

Ms. Doyle reported that Commissioner of Social Services, Mr. Seeber, has been dedicating significant time speaking with the media and working to obtain additional information from the State regarding the impacts of the government shutdown and anticipated next steps. Commissioner Seeber participated in a news interview earlier today to help inform the public.

An update on Child Care Assistance will be provided at the next Services Committee meeting. Funding had recently resumed, however, those funds are nearly depleted again. The department is also continuing to face challenges with HEAP funding and ongoing issues related to SNAP benefits. These matters remain a top priority for the Commissioner, who will share updates as they become available.

Food drive items will be collected and combined at The Hub in Potsdam for distribution to local food pantries.

The Surrogate's Court stairs project is progressing well, with demolition nearly complete. The boiler has been replaced and is operational. The County Attorney's Office has temporarily relocated to offices in the Old Jail during the renovations. Windows for the Surrogate's building are expected to arrive next week, with replacement planned while the building remains vacant. New paint and carpeting will also be installed.

The Public Defender's Office has moved into its new space within the Courthouse.

Contracts have been finalized for the Courthouse project, and demolition is expected to begin soon. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will discuss the project further at this week's meeting.

Ms. Doyle also reminded everyone that County offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 11th, in observance of Veterans Day, except for departments that operate 24/7.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Haggard announced that a Nuclear Energy Public Forum will be held at Clarkson University on November 13th at 5:30 p.m. Anyone planning to attend is asked to RSVP.

Mr. Gennett noted that the United States Marine Corps is celebrating its 250th birthday.

Mr. Forsythe reported that he attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Fort La Presentation for the new pavilion constructed at the Look-out Point, in Ogdensburg. He recognized the students and staff from BOCES Northwest Tech for their assistance with site work and contributions to the project.

Mr. Denesha announced that the Town of Russell will hold a dedication ceremony on Veterans Day for a newly built brick wall at the town park, honoring all veterans from the Town of Russell from the Revolutionary War through Afghanistan. The ceremony will begin at 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Curran announced that she is collecting gently used suitcases for children in foster care throughout St. Lawrence County. Anyone wishing to donate can contact her to arrange drop-off or pick-up.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board (Denesha) – No report

B. Alternative to Incarceration Board (Burke) – No report

C. Board of Trustees for Supreme Court Library (Haggard) – No report

D. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (Curran) – No report

E. Environmental Management Council (Terminelli) – No report

F. Fire Advisory Board (Denesha) – No report

G. Jury Board (Sheridan) – No report

H. Local Government Task Force (Forsythe) – No report

I. Planning Board (Hull) – No report

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Haggard moved to go to Executive Session at 6:39 p.m., to discuss litigation, personnel, and appointments, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes and two (2) absent (Hull and Burke.)

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Forsythe moved to go to Open Session at 6:51 p.m., seconded by Ms. Terminelli and Mr. Gennett, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Hull and Burke.)

Mr. Forsythe moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot.

Chair Curran adjourned the Operations Committee Meeting at 6:52 p.m., as there was no further business.