

St. Lawrence County
Board of Legislators
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Full Board
Monday, January 12, 2026
5:15 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL: All Legislators were present with the exception of Mr. Levato, Mr. Burke, and Ms. Terminelli.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Ms. Curran moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and Mr. Gennett, and carried by a voice vote with twelve (12) yes votes, and three (3) absent (Levato, Burke, and Terminelli).

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 41-2026

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

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice requires that the St. Lawrence County District Attorney's Office file an annual Federal Equitable Sharing Program Agreement and 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 District Attorney's Office (J4011654 49900 DEA),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a Federal Equitable Sharing Program Agreement and an Annual Certification Report, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Webster moved to adopt Resolution No. 41-2026, seconded by Ms. Haggard, Mr. Smithers, and Mr. Gennett, and carried by a voice vote with twelve (12) yes votes, and three (3) absent (Levato, Burke, and Terminelli).

RESOLUTION NO. 42-2026

**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 (01TG0899 50300 EQSH),

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.

Mr. Perkins moved to adopt Resolution No. 42-2026, seconded by Mr. Gennett, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Hull, and carried by a voice vote with twelve (12) yes votes, and three (3) absent (Levato, Burke, and Terminelli).

RESOLUTION NO. - **TABLED**

**CALLING UPON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE FUNDING AND
WORK WITH NEW YORK STATE TO ADDRESS LEGITIMATE
FRAUD CONCERNS**

By Ms. Haggard, District 10

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County relies on stable federal funding, often administered in partnership with New York State to support vital services and programs that protect the health, safety, and economic security of County residents, and

WHEREAS, reductions, interruptions, delays, or uncertainty in federal funding can cause immediate harm in rural communities by destabilizing essential services and potentially increasing costs to local governments, providers, and families, and

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), has restricted access to federal funds for three (3) major social support programs, TANF (temporary

assistance), CCDF (child care funding), and SSBG (social services block grants) for New York and four (4) other states (California, Colorado, Illinois, and Minnesota) due to alleged concerns about fraud and misuse, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County supports strong accountability for public funds, including appropriate oversight and enforcement measures to address legitimate fraud concerns, and

WHEREAS, addressing fraud concerns must be pursued in a manner that is timely, evidence-based, transparent, and coordinated with New York State so that eligible residents and community providers are not harmed by broad funding disruptions, and

WHEREAS, a press release titled "Federal Funding Freeze Threatens to Punish Innocent Families and Shift New Costs to Local Taxpayers" published by New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) on January 7, 2026, describes the current funding disruption and calls for the Federal Government to restore funding while working with New York State to address legitimate fraud concerns without interrupting services, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government and New York State have a shared responsibility to protect taxpayers while maintaining continuity of essential services and avoiding preventable harm to St. Lawrence County and other counties in New York State, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County residents have long enjoyed the benefits of these specific programs, and

WHEREAS, in 2025, there was an average of 216 open TANF cases and 407 Safety Net Cases in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the number of Child Care Providers receiving funding from the CCAP program ranged from 120 to 151 over the course of the year, resulting in demand on the program exceeding the allocation of \$3.4M per year, with the responsibility to cover the overage falling to the County to cover, and

WHEREAS, in the Fiscal Year 24-25 period, SSBG cost \$5,958,603 but with the allocation of \$1,077,107 fell on the County to cover, and

WHEREAS, a failure of the State of New York and the Federal Government to reach agreement and unfreeze the necessary funds for TANF, CCDF, and SSBG could result in millions shifted to St. Lawrence County taxpayers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators hereby calls upon the Federal Government to restore funding and work with New York State to address legitimate fraud concerns, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges the relevant federal agencies, with cooperation from New York State, to:

- Immediately restore funding for TANF, CCDF, and SSBG programs to ensure continuity of services;
- Work with New York to address fraud concerns through existing federal oversight mechanisms;
- Target enforcement actions at specific bad actors rather than implementing blanket funding cuts that harm innocent eligible families;
- Recognize that New York State has robust eligibility verification systems in place and should not be penalized for isolated instances of fraud, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators affirms that restoring and stabilizing this funding is essential to protecting children and families, older adults, people with disabilities, working households, and the rural providers and agencies that serve them, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to United States Senator Charles ‘Chuck’ Schumer, United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, Governor Kathy Hochul, Assemblyman Scott Gray, Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Senator Dan Stec with appropriate transmittal letters and form.

Ms. Haggard moved to table the resolution, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Smithers, Mr. Perkins, and Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with twelve (12) yes votes, and three (3) absent (Levato, Burke, and Terminelli).

Ms. Terminelli arrived at 5:20 p.m.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Denesha moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Ms. Curran, Mr. Gennett, and Ms. Haggard, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Levato and Burke).

Mr. Denesha moved to reconsider the resolution authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) for the Provisions of Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Services for St. Lawrence County Facilities, seconded by Ms. Haggard, Mr. Reagen, Ms. Curran, and Mr. Gennett, and carried by a voice vote with twelve (12) yes votes, one (1) no vote (Smithers), and two (2) absent (Levato and Burke).

Mr. Levato arrived at 5:26 p.m.

Ms. Curran called the question, seconded by Ms. Haggard, Mr. Denesha, Ms. Terminelli, and

Mr. Reagen, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Burke).

Chair Forsythe requested a roll call vote. The motion to authorize the Chair to Sign a Contract with NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) for the Provisions of Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Services for St. Lawrence County Facilities, carried with nine (9) yes votes, five (5) no votes (Lightfoot, Smithers, Perkins, Webster, and Gennett), and one absent (Burke).

CHAIR'S APPOINTMENTS: There were no appointments made by Chair Forsythe.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Curran moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and Ms. Haggard.

Chair Forsythe adjourned the Full Board Meeting at 5:59 p.m., as there was no further business.