

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: All Legislators were present.

Due to extenuating circumstances, Legislator Gennett will attend remotely from 1350 County Route 53, Brasher Falls.

Mr. Denesha offered the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. Denesha moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Smithers, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Curran moved to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2024, meeting, seconded by Mr. Hull and Mr. Smithers, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Deputy Clerk read the following correspondence:

1. A resolution was received from Greene County to adopt Local Law 1 of 2024, A local law superseding the Public Officers Law Section 3(1) as to the Residency of Certain Public Officers (Assistant Public Defenders) in Greene County.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Elizabeth Cooper, Executive Director of the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA).

VIII. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS:

August 5, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 220-2024

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CATHERINE BOOTH TOURON DENNY

By Mr. Reagen, District 1

WHEREAS, longevity of life is a blessing for an individual and for the community that benefits from the knowledge and experiences this individual brings to all, and

WHEREAS, the County of St. Lawrence and City of Ogdensburg recognize with great respect and admiration the contributions that all people, including senior citizens, give to our communities, and

WHEREAS, Catherine Booth was born on August 21, 1924, to her parents, Fred and Alice Maley Booth, attending school in Ogdensburg and graduating from OFA in 1941, and

WHEREAS, after graduation, and during WWII, Catherine worked at a chemical factory in Massena taking a bus from Ogdensburg to the job site each day, and over the years has also worked diligently at every job since then including Ogdensburg A&P grocery store, Diamond International, and New York State Psychiatric Center, and

WHEREAS, Catherine married Francis Louis Toruon in 1944, raising five children: Francis L. Touron, retired US Army Colonel, Nurse Anesthetist, who is still practicing at the age of 78; Martha O'Marah, retired Veterans' Affairs staff ; Dave Toruon, retired Corrections Officer from Ogdensburg Correctional Facility; Gordon Touron, a retired Quality Control Specialist; and Gary Toruon, Vice President of NBT Bank, and

WHEREAS, some of the finest blessings in Catherine's life are her ten grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, with another on the way, and

WHEREAS, after the passing of her husband in 1975, Catherine married Howard Denny in 1984, and continued spending time with family, serving her community, and volunteering, and

WHEREAS, known as a quiet, modest woman who is extremely humble, Catherine dedicated her life to serving others and is well known for her committed volunteerism at St. Joseph's Nursing Home, and has also received many awards and accolades including Woman of the Year for the Altar and Rosary Society in 1987; Ogdensburg Woman's Club Volunteer of the Year in 1999, and was even given a citation and medallion called Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice from the Pope, which is the highest papal lay award given from the Catholic Church,

WHEREAS, Catherine was a member of several organizations, including a lay Associate of the Grey Nuns of Sacred Heart; Notre Dame Altar and Rosary Society Member; a Eucharistic Minister and a lay Minister for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and after taking courses at Mater Dei College, she taught religion classes to children in her home, and

WHEREAS, now at the blessed age of 100 years old, Mrs. Catherine Booth Toruon Denny is to be commended for distinguishing herself not only for the length of her incredible life but for the impact she undoubtedly had on many lives in her community and beyond, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators wishes to honor the newest centenarian in the County with the sincerest congratulations and best wishes for many more happy, productive years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators recognizes the 100th birthday of Mrs. Catherine Booth Toruon Denny.

Mr. Reagen moved to adopt Resolution No. 220-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Operations Committee: 7-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 221-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN CONTRACTS REQUESTING GRANT
EXTENSIONS FOR THE 2024 ABSENTEE BALLOT PRE-PAID POSTAGE GRANT
FOR THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 329-2022 authorized the Chair to sign grant applications for New York State Absentee Ballot Pre-paid Postage Grant Program, and

WHEREAS, New York State has notified the Board of Elections that they are extending the grant deadlines to March 31, 2025, for those grants that have an unexpended balance, and are increasing the amount available to the St. Lawrence County Board of Elections for 2024, and

WHEREAS, the unexpended balance for Absentee Ballot Pre-paid Postage Grant Program is \$10,142 (E1030895 56000),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign contracts requesting grant extensions for Absentee Ballot Prepaid Postage Grant for the Board of Elections, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any remaining funds will be rolled over to the future budgets until the grant is fully expended.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 221-2024, seconded by Ms. Haggard and Mr. Smithers, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 222-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN GRANT AMENDMENTS FOR THE EARLY VOTING EXPANSION (EVE) GRANT CONTRACT EXTENSION AND MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 202-2021 authorized the Chair to sign grant applications for the Early Voting Expansion Grant, and also allowed for the rollover of these funds annually, and

WHEREAS, New York State has notified the Board of Elections that they are extending the grant deadlines to March 31, 2025, for those grants that have an unexpended balance, and

WHEREAS, the unexpended balance for the Early Voting Expansion Grant is \$19,653,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign grant amendments for the Early Voting Expansion (EVE) Grant Contract Extension, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislature authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the Board of Elections, as follows, and to roll over any remaining funds until the Grant is fully expended:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

E1Z14502 25000	Technical Equipment	\$19,653
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INCREASE REVENUE:

E1Z30895 56000	State Aid	\$19,653
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Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 222-2024, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 223-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN CONTRACTS AMENDING TERMS FOR THE
CYBERSECURITY REMEDIATION GRANT AND MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET
FOR THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the Board of Elections has been awarded a Cybersecurity Remediation Grant Program for expenses related to Cybersecurity, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 231-2020 authorized the Chair to sign a contract with New York State for the NYS Cybersecurity Remediation Grant Program for the Board of Elections, and

WHEREAS, New York State has notified the Board of Elections that they are extending the grant deadlines to March 31, 2025, for those grants that have unexpended balances, and

WHEREAS, the unexpended balance for the Cybersecurity Remediation Grant Program is \$42,275,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign contracts amending terms for the Cybersecurity Remediation Grant, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the Board of Elections, as follows, and to roll over any remaining funds until the Grant is fully expended,

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

E1Z14502 25000	Technical Equipment	\$42,275
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INCREASE REVENUE:

E1Z30895 56000	State Aid	\$42,275
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Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 223-2024, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Operations Committee: 7-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 224-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN CONTRACTS REQUESTING GRANT
EXTENSIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND ELECTION RESOURCE
(TIER) GRANT PROGRAM AND MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators approved Resolution No. 203-2021, authorizing the Chair to sign grant applications for the New York State Technology Innovation and Election Resource (TIER) Grant Program, and allowing for the rollover of these funds annually, and

WHEREAS, New York State has notified the Board of Elections that they are extending the grant deadlines to March 31, 2025, for those grants that have unexpended balances, and that they are increasing the amount available to the St. Lawrence County Board of Elections, and

WHEREAS, the unexpended balance for the State Technology Innovation and Election Resource (TIER) Grant Program is \$131,563,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign contracts requesting grant extensions for the Technology Innovation and Election Resource (TIER) Grant Program, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the Board of Elections, as follows, and to roll over any remaining funds to future budgets until the Grant is fully expended:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

E1Z14502 25000 TIER	E SA Technical Equipment	\$131,563
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INCREASE REVENUE:

E1Z30895 56000 TIER	E State Aid	\$131,563
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Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 224-2024, seconded by Mr. Smithers and Mr. Denesha.

Ms. Curran moved to amend the resolution to change the amount in the third whereas and the amounts of the budget modification to \$131,563, seconded by Mr. Burke, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Resolution No. 224-2024 was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Operations Committee: 7-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 225-2024

**MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT
ATTORNEY FOR DISCOVERY GRANT FUNDS**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Discovery Grant Funds have been received in 2024 for use in the years of 2022-2024 to cover the cost of an Ogdensburg Police Officer, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to modify the 2024 Budget for the Office of the District Attorney to reflect this change,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the Office of the District Attorney for Discovery Grant Funds, as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

J1030895 56000	J State Aid Special Items	\$92,362
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

J1011654 43007	J Other Fees and Services	\$92,362
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Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 225-2024 , seconded by Mr. Smithers and Mr. Reagen, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Operations Committee: 7-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 226-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN SUCCESSIVE ANNUAL FACILITIES USE PERMITS WITH THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AT CANTON, NY

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, due to space constraints at County facilities, the County utilizes the State University of New York College of Technology at Canton for Civil Service tests on an as needed basis, and

WHEREAS, the State University of New York College of Technology at Canton requests that St. Lawrence County sign a facilities use permit for a cost of \$150/hour (CP014304 40700),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign successive annual facilities use permits with the State University of New York College of Technology at Canton, NY, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 226-2024, seconded by Mr. Perkins, Mr. Denesha and Mr. Smithers, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Operations Committee: 7-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 227-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH FIRSTLIGHT FOR SIP TELEPHONE TRUNK SERVICE FOR ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the current telephone system service for St. Lawrence County Government is an out-of-date service called PRI Trunks, which is based on an analog system, and

WHEREAS, telephone service providers are phasing out support for PRI Service, and

WHEREAS, Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Service, which is digital, is more cost-efficient, modern, scalable, and easily supported, and

WHEREAS, thorough comparison and vetting has been performed by communication industry experts, and

WHEREAS, the term of the contract will be three (3) years at a monthly rate of \$1,580 plus taxes and fees (CS016104 42302),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes

the Chair to sign a contract with FirstLight for SIP Telephone Trunk Service for St. Lawrence County, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 227-2024, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Operations Committee: 7-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 228-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH GEOCOVE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF GIS SERVICES TO UPGRADE ESRI ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE AND MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the current St. Lawrence County GIS Enterprise, installed in 2020, is no longer supported by its software manufacturer ESRI, and

WHEREAS, Microsoft Edge and Google Chrome have released plans for July of this year, which will impact all the GIS web applications within the GIS enterprise of the County, and while ESRI is releasing patches to address web browser updates, the version the County is currently running will not be available to have an update installed, and

WHEREAS, additionally, in 2023 St. Lawrence County began transitioning from *.org* to *.gov* for the County website and email addresses; in August 2024 New York State will require County governments to use the *.gov* domain on County websites, and the current GIS portion of the website still uses *.org*, and

WHEREAS, Geocove, an ESRI-approved professional service vendor, has already completed a number of successful initiatives for the County, and has offered the following quote to perform the services described at a cost not-to-exceed cost of \$15,000,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Geocove for the acquisition of GIS Services to upgrade ESRI Enterprise Software, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for Information Technology, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

CD016804 43007

C IT Other Fees

\$15,000

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700

B SPEC Contingency Account

\$15,000

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 228-2024, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Operations Committee: 7-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 229-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH ADIRONDACK
TECHS TO BUILD BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE WITH NYS
CONNECTALL COUNTY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDS**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators is committed to the expansion of and accessibility to broadband services throughout the County, and has applied to the New York State ConnectALL County Partnerships Program for \$428,872 to build out broadband infrastructure to seventy-seven (77) previously un-served locations in areas of the Towns of Fowler and Parishville, and

WHEREAS, Adirondack Techs was the sole internet service provider that submitted a viable proposal for these areas in response to St. Lawrence County RFP 2023-04, Expanding Access to Broadband in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, New York State has indicated its intent to make conditional awards under the County Partnerships Program in July 2024 and a prompt start will facilitate potential completion of construction in 2024,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Adirondack Techs to build broadband infrastructure with New York State ConnectALL County Partnerships Program Funds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign any documentation necessary for the application, administration, reporting and close-out of this project.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 229-2024 , seconded by Mr. Denesha, Ms. Terminelli, Mr. Smithers and Mr. Perkins, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Operations Committee: 7-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 230-2024

**RECOGNIZING ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY AS HAVING SOME OF THE BEST
FRESHWATER FISHERIES IN THE NATION**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County has consistently ranked among the top in the Nation in quality, diversity, and bounty of its freshwater fisheries, and

WHEREAS, fishing tournaments draw hundreds of participants to the area each year, which has important widespread economic benefits, and

WHEREAS, many entities, including local municipalities, fishing clubs, sportsman and hunting clubs, lake associations, university researchers, the Chambers of Commerce, the SLC Environmental Management Council, the SLC Fisheries Advisory Board, SLC Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, New York State Department of Conservation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and numerous passionate individuals support, promote, and preserve the quality of the fisheries in our County, and

WHEREAS, the national recognition of the area as a premier sports fishing destination is something to be proud of, valued, and encouraged,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators recognizes and celebrates St. Lawrence County as having some of the best freshwater fisheries in the Nation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED in collaboration with local, state, and federal partners, the Board of Legislators will work to protect its fisheries, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators recognizes all the individuals who support the fisheries in St. Lawrence County.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 230-2024, seconded by Mr. Reagen, Mr. Fay, and Ms. Terminelli.

Ms. Curran said she meets a lot of people from all over the Country and world who come here to fish. She extended her thanks to all the volunteers who oversee the fishing tournaments and derbies.

Mr. Reagen said it is important to make an effort to make people aware that St. Lawrence County has some of the best fisheries in the Country and the World.

Resolution No. 230-2024 was adopted by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Operations Committee: 7-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 231-2024

**MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR PROBATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE
NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Probation has received unique funding from The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for pretrial services in the amount of \$206,976, and

WHEREAS, the State has approved \$20,000 to be used for data management,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for Probation for funding from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

Q1031404 43007	Q Other Fees & Services	\$20,000
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INCREASE REVENUE:

Q1033105 56000 ATI	Q SA ATI Pre Trial	\$20,000
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Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 231-2024 , seconded by Mr. Burke, Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Perkins, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Operations Committee: 7-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 232-2024

MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR

PRESCRIPTION COSTS AT THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the cost of prescriptions associated with general medical care has exceeded the 2024 Budget, and

WHEREAS, the challenges of pharmaceutical prices rising, along with the challenge of predicting the population in the jail and medications that may be needed throughout the year, make establishing an annual budget difficult, and

WHEREAS, the law mandates that incarcerated people receive health care, but prohibits the use of Medicaid funds for services provided to an inmate of a public institution,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the Sheriff's Office for prescription costs at the Correctional Facility, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700	B SPEC Contingency Account	\$200,000
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

S4031504 45100	S JAIL Medical Supplies	\$200,000
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Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 232-2024, seconded by Mr. Burke and Mr. Perkins.

Mr. Denesha thanked the Sheriff for forwarding information to the Legislators on this matter.

Resolution No. 232-2024 was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Services Committee: 7-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 233-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE OFFICE OF ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES (OASAS) FOR FUNDING TO SUPPORT ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY ADDICTION SERVICES' FOR THE JAIL-BASED MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) PROGRAM

By Mr. Hull, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, Community Services will receive funding through the New York State Opioid Settlement Funds to offset St. Lawrence County Addiction Services cost to provide support for the mandated jail-based Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program, and

WHEREAS, Addiction Services currently provides Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) services, as well as counseling and peer services at the Correctional Facility, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators recognizes the need for access for individuals with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) to recovery services in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, this is one-time funding of \$66,000 for a three-year period, tentatively beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2026,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) for funding to support St. Lawrence County Addiction Services for the jail-based Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Hull moved to adopt Resolution No. 233-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Fay, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Services Committee: 7-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 234-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THRIVE WELLNESS
AND RECOVERY INC., TO ACCEPT PASS-THROUGH FUNDING FROM THE NEW
YORK STATE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH**

By Mr. Hull, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, a contract was previously signed with North Country Transitional Living Services to accept pass through funds from the New York State Office of Mental Health and,

WHEREAS, North Country Transitional Living Services and Credo filed a Certificate of Merger on July 1, 2024, and

WHEREAS, THRIVE Wellness and Recovery Inc. will be the surviving entity, and the Community Services Board supports the merger,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with THRIVE Wellness and Recovery Inc., to accept pass-through funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Hull moved to adopt Resolution No. 234-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Perkins, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Services Committee: 7-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 235-2024

**MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR SOCIAL SERVICES FOR FLOORING IN THE
HAROLD B. SMITH BUILDING**

By Mr. Hull, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services maintains a large server infrastructure for storage and access to utilize vast quantities of client and departmental information, and

WHEREAS, a raised floor exists in the server room and it has assisted in preventing damage as well as providing access for maintenance and ventilation to the server and equipment infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the basement of the Harold B. Smith building flooded from the ceiling in the server room, causing damage to the network infrastructure and to the existing raised floor, and

WHEREAS, the raised floor has not been replaced since the room sustained flood damage and the subsequent wear and tear has made it even more difficult to maintain critical equipment for Social Services, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to replace the existing raised floor and this update will improve the integrity of managing the infrastructure safely,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for Social Services for flooring in the Harold B. Smith Building, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

DAA60102 21000	D Admin Furniture & Fixtures	\$45,000
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DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

DAA60104 40800	D ADM Maintenance Building	\$30,000
DAA60104 42000	D Admin Office Supplies & Exp	5,000
DAA60104 42600	D Admin Books & Periodicals	<u>10,000</u>
		\$45,000

Mr. Hull moved to adopt Resolution No. 235-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran, Mr. Lightfoot, and Mr. Fay, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Services Committee: 7-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 236-2024

MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR SOCIAL SERVICES FOR CHILD CARE

By Mr. Hull, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services is allocated funding from New York State Child Care Block Grant, and

WHEREAS, funds remaining from the prior fiscal year are added to the initial allocations, and

WHEREAS, there were \$2,162,178 in funds remaining from the prior fiscal year for the Child Care Block Grant, and

WHEREAS, at the end of the prior fiscal year there was \$366,155 in unspent ARPA funds remaining,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for Social Services for Child Care, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

DSD60554 46500 CCBG	D NYS Child Care Block Grant I	\$2,528,293
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INCREASE REVENUE:

DSD36555 56000 CCBG D SA NYS Child Care Block Grant

\$2,528,293

Mr. Hull moved to adopt Resolution No. 236-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Services Committee: 7-15-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 237-2024

**RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE RECENT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON
FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP**

By Mr. Hull, Chair, Services Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Forsythe, District 2; Mr. Sheridan, District 5;
Mr. Smithers, District 6; Mr. Perkins, District 7; and Ms. Curran, District 15

WHEREAS, Former President Donald Trump was shot and injured in an assassination attempt on Saturday, July 13, 2024, whereupon a spectator was killed and two others were critically injured, and

WHEREAS, snipers killed the shooter, a 20-year-old man, after he fired eight rounds at the rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, and

WHEREAS, the former president and Republican candidate for the 2024 Presidential election could be seen with blood on his face, surrounded by Secret Service agents, after the shooting at a campaign rally, and

WHEREAS, the FBI identified the shooter early on July 14th, 2024 as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, a registered Republican who, in 2021, had donated to "Act Blue," a democratic political action committee, and

WHEREAS, the event conjured images of prior assassination attempts on political leaders: Ronald Reagan, John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Theodore Roosevelt, and

WHEREAS, despite the horrific scenes and circumstances surrounding the attempted killing, thousands took to social media to express their displeasure that the shooter had failed in his objective, and

WHEREAS, the former President emerged following the shooting, stating, "In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand united, and show our true character as Americans, remaining strong and determined, and not allowing evil to win," and

WHEREAS, vitriolic political speech, normalized speech of desperation, and political attacks have been a hallmark of American politics in the last decade, escalating in the most recent event, and

WHEREAS, as Abraham Lincoln (a victim of arguably America's most notable political assassinations) once famously said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand," and

WHEREAS, Americans must gather together to condemn the attempted assassination of the former President and, as true patriots, lead Americans in times of trouble to a more prosperous future without elevated acrimony, and

WHEREAS, "Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well-wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the Revolution, never to violate, in the least particular, the laws of the country; and never to tolerate their violation by others," (Abraham Lincoln),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators condemns the recent assassination attempt on former President Donald J. Trump in the strongest terms possible.

Mr. Hull moved to adopt Resolution No. 237-2024, seconded by Mr. Perkins, Ms. Curran, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Smithers, and Mr. Webster.

Ms. Haggard said it was horrific, and said she does not care who the person was, what party they were, or what affiliations they had, it is just appalling. She questioned what the purpose was of including the fourth whereas in the resolution.

Mr. Forsythe said it is very troubling, and he thanked Legislator Perkins for bringing the resolution forward.

Resolution No. 237-2024 was carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Finance Committee: 7-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 238-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO ACCEPT AND SIGN A FY24 HOWARD G. BUFFET
FOUNDATION GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HUMAN**

**TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE, AND MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE
SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has been awarded a five (5) year Howard G. Buffett Foundation Grant that will cover costs associated with St. Lawrence County's Human Trafficking Task Force that serves St. Lawrence County and Northern New York, and

WHEREAS, the task force will include local law enforcement, victim service agencies, legal services, and outreach entities, and

WHEREAS, these grant funds will be administered by the Sheriff's Office with sub-awards to the District Attorney's Office and Renewal House to cover criminal investigations, prosecutions, outreach, legal advocacy, case management, emergency assistance, training coordination and data analysis, and

WHEREAS, the scope of this project includes establishing and formalizing a St. Lawrence County Human Trafficking Task force which is focused on labor trafficking, and

WHEREAS, the goals of this grant are to investigate and prosecute labor trafficking, provide comprehensive services to survivors, build the capacity to identify and respond to labor trafficking in Northern New York, engage in outreach and trust building with vulnerable communities and to also collect and use data, and

WHEREAS, the grant is for a five (5) year period (2024-2029) in the amount of \$7,011,620 of which \$251,768.54 is considered indirect costs as well as Renewal House receiving \$2,260,609 upon the execution of the cost reimbursement contract to cover salary, fringes, along with other necessary equipment and contractual expenses, and

WHEREAS, the grant is to include the creation of three positions in the Sheriff's Office this year: an Administrative Assistant, Position No. 005200017; Crime Analyst, Position No. 607300001; and Deputy Sheriff - Detective, Position No. 605500009 upon review and recommendation of the Vacancy Review Committee, and one position in the District Attorney's Office, approved by the Board of Legislators on July 7, 2024: an Assistant District Attorney, Position No. 026800015,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to accept and sign the FY24 Howard G. Buffett Foundation Grant on behalf of the St. Lawrence County Human Trafficking Task Force, upon the approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to modify the 2024 Budget for the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

S1Z31101 11000 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Direct Service Worker	\$682,017
S1Z31101 13000 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Technical	334,264
S1Z31101 14000 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Clerical	126,433
S1Z31101 18000 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Overtime	709,844

S1Z31101 18600 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Training	20,799
S1Z31102 23000 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Automotive Equipment	170,000
S1Z31102 25000 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Technical Equipment	234,945
S1Z31104 42300 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Other Communications	9,000
S1Z31104 42800 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Other Supplies	6,000
S1Z31104 43007 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Other Fees	2,335,609
S1Z31104 44001 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Automobile Expenses	45,000
S1Z31104 44100 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF I/D Fuel Charges	53,280
S1Z31104 44500 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Other Travel	84,900
S1Z31104 45300 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Uniforms & Clothing	6,000
S1Z31104 81000 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Retirement	236,043
S1Z31108 83000 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Social Security	128,887
S1Z31108 84000 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Workers' Compensation	47,209
S1Z31108 84500 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Life Insurance	3,372
S1Z31108 86000 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Health Insurance	606,593
S1Z31108 86500 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Dental Insurance	20,982
S1Z31108 89000 HGB2	S CRIM HGBF Vision Insurance	7,493
J1Z11651 12000 HGB2	J HGBF Supervisory/Administrative	464,158
J1Z11652 23000 HGB2	J HGBF Automotive Equipment	50,000
J1Z11652 25000 HGB2	J HGBF Technical Equipment	4,250
J1Z11654 42300 HGB2	J HGBF Other Communications	2,700
J1Z11654 43007 HGB2	J HGBF Other Fees and Services	73,132
J1Z11654 44000 HGB2	J HGBF I/D Automotive Expenses	12,500
J1Z11654 44100 HGB2	J HGBF Fuel Costs	15,000
J1Z11654 44500 HGB2	J HGBF Other Travel	14,155
J1Z11654 81000 HGB2	J HGBF Retirement	58,484
J1Z11658 83000 HGB2	J HGBF Social Security	31,934
J1Z11658 84000 HGB2	J HGBF Workers' Compensation	11,697
J1Z11658 84500 HGB2	J HGBF Life Insurance	835
J1Z11658 86000 HGB2	J HGBF Health Insurance	145,281
J1Z11658 86500 HGB2	J HGBF Dental Insurance	5,199
J1Z11658 89000 HGB2	J HGBF Vision Insurance	<u>1,857</u>
		\$6,759,852

INCREASE REVENUE:

S1Z27055 55000 HGB	S HGBF Donation Revenue	\$5,868,670
J1Z27055 55000 HGB2	J HGBF Donation Revenue	<u>91,182</u>
		\$6,759,852

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any remaining funds will be rolled over to future budgets until the grant is fully expended.

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 238-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Fay, Mr. Webster.

Mr. Forsythe thanked the Sheriff for bringing this forward, and said it is a lot of money coming into this County and he appreciates the efforts of everyone involved.

Resolution No. 238-2024 carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Finance Committee: 7-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 239-2024

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL TO VETO NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY BILL A. 2882 AND NEW YORK STATE SENATE BILL S.6649 WHICH MODIFIES PENAL LAW §400.00 IMPOSING CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR MANDATED SIGNAGE FOR FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSES DEALERS

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Sheridan, District 4; Mr. Denesha, District 6;
Mr. Perkins, District 7 and Ms. Curran, District 15

WHEREAS, in early June 2024, the New York State Assembly and Senate voted to pass Assembly Bill A.2282 and Senate Bill S.6649 that would require firearms dealers to post conspicuous signs in their stores warning potential customers of the dangers of guns, and

WHEREAS, the notice mandates “Access to a weapon or firearm in the home significantly increases the risk of suicide, death during domestic disputes, and/or unintentional deaths to children, household members and others,” the warning would read. “If you or a loved one is experiencing distress and/or depression, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988”, and

WHEREAS, the bill would also require that gun sellers provide the same warning printed out in at least 26-point font to all who buy a gun, and

WHEREAS, shop owners who do not post the signs within ninety (90) days of the bill being signed into law would be subject to a fine of at least \$1,000, or 15 days in county jail, and each day a shop goes without posting the sign would be counted as an individual offense, and

WHEREAS, the bill is the latest of more than twenty (20) anti-gun laws passed by the State of New York over the past couple of years and continues to focus efforts on deterring gun ownership through vendors who sell guns and ammunition, rather than through the purchasers, and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2022, the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association et al. v. Bruen et al., striking down the New York State ‘proper cause’ requirements for the issuance of a pistol license to individuals,

sending the State of New York looking for new ways in which to discourage or impede gun ownership and possession, and

WHEREAS, since 2022, attempts by the State of New York to crack down on individual gun ownership and possession have met numerous legal challenges, many of which have been successful in noting the infringement by the State of New York on an individual's constitutionally protected 2nd Amendment rights to bear arms, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has coupled their attacks on individual gun possession rights with attacks on the businesses responsible for the sale, distribution, and manufacture of firearms, passing a slate of laws designed to make operation of those businesses encumbered to near impossible, and

WHEREAS, there is currently no empirical data readily available demonstrating a connection to legal sales of firearms and an increased likelihood of criminality or suicide, and

WHEREAS, according to data released by the CDC in 2021, and reported by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in January 2024, there were 1,660 suicides in the State of New York in 2021, of which twenty-six percent (26%) involved a firearm, and

WHEREAS, a study performed in sixteen (16) rural New York counties performed by NORC, a non-partisan, objective research organization, at the University of Chicago found a greater incidence of mental health distress in these rural communities as the primary cause for suicide, not gun ownership, and

WHEREAS, enactment of this bill will have no effect on consumers and will merely impose greater burdens on one of the most heavily regulated industries in America,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges Governor Kathy Hochul to veto New York State Assembly Bill A.2882 and New York State Senate Bill S.6649 which modifies Penal Law §400.00 imposing criminal liability for mandated signage for federal firearms licenses dealers, and

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

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 239-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Lightfoot and Mr. Fay.

Ms. Curran asked to be added as a co-sponsor to this resolution.

Mr. Denesha said this proposed legislation is, at best, arbitrary and is one more attempt by the liberal left to further erode second amendment rights.

Resolution No. 239-2024 was adopted by a roll call vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) no votes (Haggard and Terminelli).

August 5, 2024

Finance Committee: 7-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 240-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF A SEGMENT OF PROPERTY FROM
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TO LEE AND MELISSA MATTHEWS
IN THE TOWN OF FINE**

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, in 1923, St. Lawrence County acquired in "fee simple" two small parcels of land consisting of a combined .58 acres known as the Fine-Star Lake Federal Aid Highway, State Highway 8175 from May Lansing via Map 13, Parcels A and B, and from Northern NY Utilities via Map 14, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the acquisition was to assist the State of New York in the development of State Highway 3 in the Town of Fine between 1920s and the 1950s; however, a small segment of the acquisition was ultimately never used after the 1950s due to a highway realignment, and

WHEREAS, as the County owns the underlying fee title, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) does not have the ability to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of this property, and

WHEREAS, the NYSDOT abandoned maintenance jurisdiction via official Order No. 217 dated February 5, 1957, to the Town of Fine, and the property has remained unused since 1923, and

WHEREAS, the County Attorney has received contact from an agent on behalf of the adjacent landowners, Lee and Melissa Matthews, regarding the parcel, and following the completion of a boundary line survey of land already owned by the Matthews, the Matthews Survey identified the two small parcels of land that lie between the Matthews parcel and Boni Road and New York State Route 3, and

WHEREAS, the Matthews have inquired as to the willingness by the County to transfer the parcels with the understanding that the County has no immediate plans or needs for highway purposes for this area, and

WHEREAS, the addition of these parcels back into their parent chain of title would help clean-up the erratic boundary that currently exists along the front of the Matthews' land, and it is noteworthy that the area covered by the parcels in question appears to currently already be tax assessed to the Matthews, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of years of taxes paid by the Matthews of land owned by the County, and in consideration of the Matthews' offer to acquire the parcel for the average value of an acre of land in the amount of \$232, it is the recommendation of the County Attorney that

the Board approve the conveyance of the parcel to the Matthews,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Transfer of a Segment of Property from St. Lawrence County to Lee and Melissa Matthews in the Town of Fine, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair is authorized to execute all documents necessary to convey a segment of property to Lee and Melissa Matthews known as the segment of Fine-Star Lake Federal Aid Highway, SH 8175 from May Lansing via Map 13, Parcels A and B, and from Northern NY Utilities via Map 14, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 240-2024, seconded by Mr. Denesha, Ms. Curran, and Mr. Smithers, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Finance Committee: 7-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 241-2024

ADOPTING LOCAL LAW F (NO.) FOR THE YEAR 2024, "REPEALING LOCAL LAW 3 FOR THE YEAR 1993 AND AMENDING LOCAL LAW 2 FOR THE YEAR 1956, "A LOCAL LAW ENUMERATING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY SELF-INSURANCE PLAN"

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

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

I. TITLE

A local law enumerating rules and regulations for the administration of the St. Lawrence County Self-Insurance Plan

II. STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT

It is the intent of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators:

1. To equitably apportion the cost of participants consistent with the risk brought to the plan and the participant's recent experience, thereby encouraging participants to focus on accident prevention coupled with early and safely returning injured workers to productive work. Local Law No. 3 for the year 1993 is hereby REPEALED. Local Law No. 2 of 1956 [A Local Law enumerating Rules and Regulations for the Administration of the St. Lawrence County Self-Insurance Plan] to establish apportionment of costs to plan participants, together with such other amendments and additional new rules and regulations necessary for the efficient administration of the Self-Insurance Plan is hereby AMENDED; and

2. The apportioned funds will be exclusively used for plan operation, including all direct and indirect expenses; and
3. To allow “fire districts” with taxing authority or that are municipal corporations shall be eligible plan participants as an independent entity as provided under Workers’ Compensation Law §60 provided such fire district, if currently apportioned as part of another participant, shall first agree with said participant how the ongoing liabilities of any claims incurred prior to such conversion shall be paid; and
4. To establish a method for making actuarial calculations of plan liabilities for any purposes (including the sum owing from an entity withdrawing from the plan and establishing a buy-in rate to entering participants), an installment methodology for both entering and withdrawing participants, provisions relating to the role and responsibilities of the plan administrator, determining the maximum reserve upon an actuarial determination of plan liabilities, requiring proof of medical testing for certain titles as prescribed by law, codifying the required labor management safety committee together with its powers, and methods of enforcement plan provisions and the governing law, including but not limited to, withholding of sales tax proceeds; and
5. Further, it is intended that any provision of Local Law No.2 of 1956 that is not amended by this local law shall remain in full force and effect as is currently in force and as amended hereto, if so amended hereto.

III. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Article V of the New York State Workers’ Compensation Law provides:

§64, Administration of Plan: authorizes the County Legislature by local law to provide for the administration of the Self-Insurance plan including naming an administrator, provides that plan funds shall be placed in the custody of the County Treasurer and that the County Attorney is designated as the legal advisor to the Self-Insurance plan.

§65, Rules and Regulations: authorizes the County Legislature, by local law, to establish plan rules and regulations , including but not limited to, enforcement mechanisms and collections of any enforcement sanctions from participants.

§67, Annual Estimate; payments by participants: obligates the plan administrator to prepare an annual budget estimate and provides for the methods of notification to participants and the allocation amongst the Self-Insurance plan participants and collection method for non-payment.

§69, Reserve: authorizes the legislature by local law to establish a reserve of the Self-Insurance plan for payment against plan liabilities and the maximum amount of contribution to the reserve.

§71(1), Accrual of Liabilities: authorizes the legislature by local law to provide for operation of the Self-Insurance plan on an actuarial and/or experience rating basis, in whole or part, and once adopted may not thereafter be discontinued.

§74 Manner of Adoption of Local Laws: provides for the manner of the adoption of local laws under the Workers' Compensation Law in the manner prescribed in the Municipal Home Rule Law; yet shall not be subject to mandatory or permissive referendum.

IV. RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules and regulations for the administration of the St. Lawrence County Self-Insurance Plan is hereby promulgated:

A. Participation:

In addition to the county, participation in the St. Lawrence County Self-Insurance Plan shall be available to:

- Cities
- Towns
- Villages
- School Districts
- Rescue Squads
- Fire Districts

The participation of a town or village shall include: fire districts, fire protection districts, fire alarm districts and volunteer ambulance companies of the respective town or village under the terms and conditions as more fully set forth in the provisions of Workers' Compensation Law §63, unless said rescue squad or fire district is an independent participant as provided hereinafter.

B. Entry and Withdrawal:

Entry into the Plan by an eligible municipality, fire district or volunteer ambulance company, other than participants in the Plan on the effective date of this local law, shall be made by service upon the Administrator of a certified copy of the local resolution or legalizing act authorizing same on or before March 31st of the calendar year for the ensuing calendar year. Withdrawal by an eligible municipality from the Plan shall be made by service of a certified copy of the local resolution or legalizing act withdrawing from the Plan on or before March 31st of in the calendar year for the ensuing calendar year. Any withdrawal from the Plan shall require the payment of the withdrawing participant's equitable share of unfunded liabilities of the Plan, as calculated by an actuarial reserve estimate without discounting for present value.

C. Appointment of Costs:

Following the preparation of the annual estimate of projected amounts necessary for the ensuing calendar year, pursuant to Workers' Compensation Law §71, the share of the amounts chargeable to each participant shall be made using the classifications and loss costs adopted by the New York Compensation Insurance Rating Board to govern the underwriting of Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance, Voluntary Compensation Insurance and Employers Liability Insurance in the State of New York. In the event that the New York Compensation Rating Board shall cease to promulgate said rates and classifications, the County Legislature shall by resolution identify another equitable means to identify costs by employee industrial classification.

D. Payment by Participants:

Each participant, except towns and Cities, shall pay the County Treasurer within thirty days after the commencement of its fiscal year the amount billed as its share of the annual estimate of the plan.

The amount due from each Town and City participating shall be included in the next succeeding tax levy against property taxable by the participant responsible therefor.

E. Reserve:

All funds of the Plan are to be held by the county treasurer as a separate fund as required under Workers' Compensation Law §64(2). In such fund, a self-insurance reserve is established in an amount not to exceed [\$200,000.00] where such sum represents the figure above the amount necessary to fully fund the actuarially determined outstanding ultimate liability of the Plan.

F. Reporting of Required Medical Tests:

Each Plan participant is responsible to provide medical tests and examinations as required by law, licensing agency, or government entity having oversight over the participant's employee qualifications or standards. Upon compliance, but in any event within the timeframe required for compliance of such medical tests and examinations, the Plan participant shall provide confirmation or status to the Administrator of the completion of such required medical tests and examinations. The costs associated with any and all such tests shall be borne by the respective Plan participant.

G. Administrator Functions:

The plan administrator as appointed pursuant to Local Law No. 1 of 1956 shall have the following duties and authority within the annual estimate adopted, together with and in addition to such other duties as are required to administer the plan under the controlling laws and regulations that apply to the plan:

1. Prepare and recommend the annual estimate as set forth under WCL §67;
2. Secure a professional claims administrator, actuary and other required professional services for the implementation of the provisions of this local law;
3. Make safety recommendations to the Labor Management Safety Committee and engage safety professionals or trainers for any adopted safety measures;
4. Advise the legislature of significant changes to the Workers' Compensation Law, regulations and case law;
5. Settle plan claims or stipulate to plan claim resolutions. The administrator shall settle or stipulate to claim resolutions using a reasonable and prudent standard. In no event, other than medical exigency, shall the administrator voluntarily enter into such an agreement or stipulation if the amount to be paid, together with the total amounts expended for the given budget year will exceed the adopted budget for the given year. All such agreements and stipulations shall be reported to the chair at least quarterly;
6. Provide plan participants with all necessary forms at plan expense that are reasonably necessary for plan participants to file required claims forms, logs and reports;
7. Provide or arrange for participant "key employee" training on all plan procedural

requirements, including, but not limited to, new claim and claim update reporting;

8. Report deficiencies of participant filing and reporting to the Labor-Management Committee or the legislature as prescribed herein for such action as authorized under Workers' Compensation Law §65(2).

H. Labor Management Safety Committee:

A Labor-Management Safety Committee is established under the plan as provided for under Workers' Compensation Law §71(2) and shall be constituted as directed therein. Within a line item in the annual estimate adopted for the plan, the Labor-Management Committee shall have the authority to:

1. Establish such plans and programs designed to educate public employees of the plan participants in proper health and safety procedures,
2. Design additional programs as may be appropriate to the development of a safe working environment in participants' facilities and job sites,
3. Publicize the availability of the plans and programs established by the Labor-Management Committee,
4. Review incident investigations in order to make safety recommendations to plan participants,
5. Receive notice of delinquency of plan participants from the administrator and take such action as it deems proper, including a penalty authorized under Workers' Compensation Law §65(2); excepting where the proposed penalty is for the participant to be expelled from the plan, such action shall be submitted to the legislature for authorization. No penalty imposed by the Labor-Management Committee shall exceed the penalty that the Workers Compensation Board is authorized to impose upon the plan.

Participants in the plan shall cooperate with the administrator and the Labor Management Committee by promptly filing all required reports, by aiding in the investigation of claims or incidents whether or not any injury occurred, by developing and enforcing safety programs adopted by the Labor Management Committee and by furnishing any additional aid or information that may be required to carry out the provisions and intent of the Workers' Compensation Law.

I. Penalties:

For any violation of the provisions of the foregoing section or of the requirements of the Workers' Compensation Law the Administrator may recommend to the Board of Legislators a penalty against any participant which shall not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00). The Board of Legislators may upon resolution by a majority vote of the members present and voting upon roll call charge a penalty in excess of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or expel such member from the plan. Any expulsion from the Plan shall require the payment of the expelled participant's equitable share of unfunded liabilities of the Plan, as calculated by an actuarial reserve estimate without discounting for present value.

J. Catastrophe Insurance:

The Administrator, subject to the approval of the legislature, may purchase excess insurance, the cost of which shall be an administrative expense of the plan and apportioned to the participants pro rata. A

V. DEFINITIONS:

The terms as utilized in this local law shall have the meaning as set forth under Workers' Compensation Law §60 [Definitions] unless otherwise defined in this local law.

“Legislature” shall mean the legislature of the County of St. Lawrence.

VI. CONFLICTING LAWS

The provisions of this local law are intended to supersede the provisions of any other local law amending Local Law #2 of 1956 any conflicting provisions of such other amending local law notwithstanding.

The provisions of this local law are intended to be construed as consistent with the authorizing statutes as set forth in section 3 hereof and not in conflict therewith.

VII. SEVERABILITY

In the event any provision of this local law shall be determined to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable; the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions of this local law shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby and such provision shall be ineffective only to the extent of such invalidity, illegality and unenforceability.

VIII. EFFECTIVE DATES

This local law shall take effect January 1, 1957; except that subdivision C of section 1 shall take effect August 1, 1956 together with the effective dates of subsequent amendments being made hereto by local law. The effective date of the amendments and additions made by and through the provisions herein contained is upon the adoption of the same by the legislature and filing with the Secretary of State.

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 241-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Perkins, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Finance Committee: 7-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 242-2024

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION SELF-INSURANCE APPORTIONMENT FOR THE
YEAR 2025**

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Self-Insured Plan has developed its budget for the year 2025, and

WHEREAS, the participant allocation of the plan costs is to be provided to the participants by September 1, 2024,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes that the following apportionment of Workers' Compensation costs for the year 2025 be applied to the participating municipalities of St. Lawrence County:

	<u>2024 Apportionment</u>	<u>2025 Apportionment</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease (-)</u>
St. Lawrence County	\$1,330,348	\$1,364,685	\$34,337
Soil and Water	\$2,694	\$1,452	-\$1,242
<u>CITY:</u>			
Ogdensburg	\$288,924	\$353,957	\$65,033
<u>TOWNS:</u>			
Brasher	\$33,332	\$37,271	\$3,939
Canton	\$48,198	\$55,471	\$7,273
Clare	\$7,840	\$8,247	\$407
Clifton	\$37,565	\$34,079	-\$3,486
DeKalb	\$31,055	\$30,607	-\$448
DePeyster	\$11,240	\$12,941	\$1,701
Edwards	\$29,832	\$29,629	-\$203
Fine	\$43,461	\$41,278	-\$2,182
Fowler	\$28,995	\$28,636	-\$359
Gouverneur	\$37,971	\$33,640	-\$4,331
Hammond	\$14,862	\$16,112	\$1,250
Hermon	\$30,813	\$32,582	\$1,769
Hopkinton	\$26,825	\$25,195	-\$1,630
Lawrence	\$30,028	\$33,733	\$3,705
Lisbon	\$55,637	\$66,490	\$10,853
Louisville	\$56,758	\$55,616	-\$1,142
Macomb	\$17,314	\$18,514	\$1,200
Madrid	\$23,891	\$26,899	\$3,008
Massena	\$102,375	\$128,890	\$26,515
Morristown	\$36,095	\$35,457	-\$638
Norfolk	\$43,539	\$39,653	-\$3,886
Oswegatchie	\$34,282	\$32,891	-\$1,391
Parishville	\$56,659	\$60,052	\$3,393
Pierrepont	\$41,929	\$44,477	\$2,548
Pitcairn	\$14,019	\$15,889	\$1,870
Potsdam	\$87,939	\$80,158	-\$7,781
Rossie	\$13,446	\$12,942	-\$504
Russell	\$28,251	\$37,556	\$9,305
Stockholm	\$35,483	\$30,228	-\$5,255
Waddington	\$21,996	\$23,048	\$1,052

VILLAGES:

Canton	\$98,290	\$118,284	\$19,995
Gouverneur	\$81,118	\$74,800	-\$6,318
Hammond	\$1,166	\$997	-\$169
Heuvelton	\$15,375	\$7,844	-\$7,532
Massena	\$337,512	\$330,842	-\$6,670
Norwood	\$31,910	\$30,809	-\$1,101
Potsdam	\$210,599	\$174,519	-\$36,080
Rensselaer Falls	\$1,363	\$524	-\$839
Richville	\$17	\$16	-\$1
Waddington	\$19,055	\$13,090	-\$5,965

<u>TOTAL:</u>	\$3,500,000	\$3,600,000	\$100,000
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Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 242-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Fay, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Finance Committee: 7-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 243-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH JEDA
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES UNDER THE BLIGHTED PROPERTY PROGRAM
FOR THE DEMOLITION AND ABATEMENT OF A CONDEMNED STRUCTURE
LOCATED AT 209 RENSSELAER STREET, IN THE
VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS, NY**

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the Village of Rensselaer Falls, located in the Town of Canton, County of St. Lawrence, approached St. Lawrence County in 2023 in relation to a destroyed building located at 209 Rensselaer Street, Rensselaer Falls, NY 13617 with Tax Map No. 87.037-3-12.2, which is owned by Palazzo Nail Spas, Inc., and

WHEREAS, the building, a former residential apartment rental building, was destroyed in a fire on February 27, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Rensselaer Falls contacted St. Lawrence County to request that the County clean up the location and proceed with litigation against the owner for the tax delinquency and cleanup costs utilizing the Blighted Property Program established by the County, and

WHEREAS, the property is currently listed as tax delinquent based upon unpaid 2023 taxes with an amount of taxes due of \$173.88 along with interest, penalties, and fees of \$46.90 with the 2024 unpaid taxes having not been re-levied as of yet, and

WHEREAS, rather than commence a foreclosure action against Palazzo Nails Spa, Inc., the County Attorney approached Palazzo Nails Spa, Inc. about executing a transfer of the title to the property in lieu of foreclosure, and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2024, the Board of Legislators authorized the Chair to sign an agreement for the conveyance of 209 Rensselaer Street, in the Village of Rensselaer Falls, Town of Canton in lieu of foreclosure pursuant to Real Property Tax Law § 1170, Resolution No. 121-2024, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law § 1170, “Any tax district may, when authorized by resolution of its governing body and in lieu of prosecuting a proceeding to foreclose a tax lien on any parcel of real property pursuant to this article, accept a conveyance of the interest of any person having any right, title, interest, claim, lien or equity of redemption in or to such parcel,” and

WHEREAS, Palazzo Nails Spa, Inc. has provided a Quitclaim deed transferring the property in lieu of foreclosure to the County of St. Lawrence, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 121-2024 transferred 209 Rensselaer Street, in the Village of Rensselaer Falls, Town of Canton, in lieu of foreclosure on May 8, 2024, so the County could move forward and clean up the property on its own, which is the goal of the Village and the County, and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Board of Legislators authorized the creation of the “Blighted Property Program”, designed to tackle blighted residential structures and augment the approach to environmental clean-ups the county was already engaged in, and

WHEREAS, this property has been selected for demolition and bids have been solicited, and

WHEREAS, recommendations were made by the County Treasurer and County Attorney for the demolition and removal of the condemned structure known as 209 Rensselaer Street, Town of Canton with Tax Map No. 40220387.037-3-12.2, as well as the awarding of a contract for demolition and abatement services to JEDA Environmental Services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with JEDA Environmental Services under the Blighted Property

Program for the demolition and abatement of a condemned structure located at 209 Rensselaer Street, in the Village of Rensselaer Falls, NY, upon the approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 243-2024, seconded by Mr. Smithers and Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Finance Committee: 7-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 244-2024

APPROVAL OF BAD DEBT WRITE OFF FOR THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 87-2014, adopted on April 7, 2014, authorized the Chair to sign a contract with Falcon Recovery Systems, LLC, for St. Lawrence County to consolidate collections under one contract with Falcon, and

WHEREAS, 2024 bad debt accounts totaling \$59,483 are now uncollectible, and

WHEREAS, while the debt is owed and written off, the amount due is placed in the files of each customer in an effort to receive payment should they return for service in the future,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to adjust the bad debt write offs for the Solid Waste Department, as follows:

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 244-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

Finance Committee: 7-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 245-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR FUNDING RECEIVED FOR THE MULTI-USE
TRAIL AND MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE**

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency has awarded \$10,000 to St. Lawrence County Multi-Use Trail, and

WHEREAS, the additional funds will be used to hire a contractor with equipment to grade the ditch and prepare the road base for gravel,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with the Industrial Development Agency for funding received for the Multi-Use Trails, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to modify the 2024 Budget for the County Administrator's Budget, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

BF079894 40800 TRAIL	B Trail Property Maintenance	\$10,000
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INCREASE REVENUE:

BF027705 55000 TRAIL	B Trail Other Revenue	\$10,000
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Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 245-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Sheridan, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 246-2024

AUTHORIZING FILLING OF VACANCIES

By Ms. Haggard, District 10; Ms. Terminelli, District 14; and Mr. Perkins, District 7

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 369-2019 and Resolution No. 253-2020 authorized the continuance of the current vacancy review process with a recommendation that the vacancies continue to be deliberated at each jurisdictional committee, but one resolution be created for all approved positions to be considered at the Regular Board Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Vacancy Review Committee reviewed ten (10) positions in six (6) departments, and of those reviewed one (1) position was held,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the fill of each of the following vacancies which have been reviewed and recommended to be filled or created and filled by the Vacancy Review Committee:

Department/Unit:	Title:	Position	Type	Duration	Timeline
Public Defender	Keyboard Specialist	003100079	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Highway	Motor Equipment Operator	310000034	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Highway	Sign Fabricator	312800001	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Solid Waste	Site Crewleader	332300005	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Sheriff	Deputy Sheriff - Detective	605500002	FT	Contingent	Immediate
Sheriff	Deputy Sheriff	6050000xx	FT	Permanent	Immediate
District Attorney	Legal Secretary	005300012	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Information Technology	Computer Technician	202700002	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Information Technology	Senior Programmer/Analyst	203200001	FT	Permanent	Immedate

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED for any positions funded by grants, and the grant goes away, those positions will be abolished, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appointing authorities are authorized to fill the positions as provided for in the resolution.

Mr. Smithers moved to adopt Resolution No. 246-2024, seconded by Mr. Sheridan and Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 247-2024

APPOINTING A DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

By Mr. Hull, District 8; Mr. Burke, District 12; and Ms. Curran, District 15

WHEREAS, the Position of Director of Public Health for St. Lawrence County became vacant in October 2023, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 333-2023 appointed Deputy Director Carly Zimmermann to Interim Director of Public Health until such time a Search Committee could be appointed to undertake a recruitment process and make a recommendation for a permanent appointment to be considered by the Board of Legislators, and to be approved by New York State Department of Health,

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board of Legislators and the Board of Health appointed a Search Committee on September 11, 2023, inclusive of members of the Board of Health and the Board of Legislators, and

WHEREAS, the Search Committee had a difficult task in making a recommendation from a talented pool of applicants; however, one candidate was selected and has been credentialed and approved by the New York State Department of Health,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators hereby appoints Erin Streiff as the St. Lawrence County Director of Public Health effective no later than August 6, 2024, at a salary of \$130,219 (Band 8, Step 4), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators will consider a local law approving adjacent residency.

Mr. Burke moved to adopt Resolution No. 247-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Hull.

Mr. Forsythe announced that Erin Streiff was being appointed as the Director of Public Health effective no later than August 6, 2024, at a salary of \$130,219 (Band 8, Step 4). Mr. Forsythe thanked the search committee for their work.

Resolution No. 247-2024 was adopted unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 248-2024

MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

**FOR ENGINEERING, FINANCIAL, AND ACCESSIBILITY STUDY OF THE
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM**

By Mr. Perkins, District 7

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2024, the Board of Legislators adopted Resolution No. 165-2024, authorizing the Chair to sign a contract with Clarkson University for an engineering, financial, and accessibility study of the St. Lawrence County Multi-Use Trail, and

WHEREAS, a primary Economic Development Initiative for St Lawrence County is the development of a multi-use trail in an effort to increase tourism and promote economic growth for businesses in the County, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators supports this initiative and have worked collaboratively toward the timely completion of the project, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators determined that authorizing the development of a County-wide Multi-Use Recreational Trail System would capitalize on the open space and forestry assets of the County, and would provide quality outdoor recreation activities for visitors and residents, stimulate and support local businesses and regional economic development, and conserve the natural resources for future generations, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators determined that the preparation of a Multi-Use Recreational Trail Plan was necessary and appropriate to set forth the management goals and objectives as well as operational guidelines for the proposed county-wide trail system, and

WHEREAS, following years of activities, in 2021, the Board of Legislators passed a new local law designed to re-establish the St. Lawrence County Multi-Use Trail System and create a permitting process for all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts who use the trail system, and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2024, Clarkson University presented a proposal to the County that would capitalize on their academic strengths in the fields of engineering and finance, and

WHEREAS, Clarkson University is uniquely suited to assist the County with pre-professional engineering services with respect to the Multi-Use Trail System, and

WHEREAS, the proposal anticipates an \$83,630 investment by the County over the 2024-2025 fiscal period to cover the expenses of the performed study, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the County Administrator's Office for engineering, financial, and accessibility study of the St. Lawrence County Multi-use Trail System, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700

B SPEC Contingency Account

\$83,630

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1010404 43007

B Other Fees and Services

\$83,630

Mr. Perkins moved to adopt Resolution No. 248-2024, seconded by Mr. Denesha, Mr. Reagen, and Ms. Curran.

Mr. Reagen thanked Mr. Perkins, the County Attorney, and County Administrator for proposing this resolution. The Board has the opportunity to make St. Lawrence County a major destination for every season with the multi-use trail system. It began as a pilot project and St. Lawrence County has now set the standard of how to get a trail in place, and it is important at this time to make the investment to keep the trails growing and improved.

Mr. Forsythe said he was a little discouraged when you saw the dollar amount, but he realizes how important it is to have this engineering study in place and it is a crucial part of continuing. He said he will support this resolution.

Resolution No. 248-2024, was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) no vote (Gennett).

August 5, 2024

Full Board: 8-5-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 249-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR A
QUALIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) ASSESSMENT GRANT WRITING AND
IMPLEMENTATION**

By Mr. Perkins, District 7

WHEREAS, each year the County forecloses on, and sells at auction, properties that are acquired by the County for the failure of a taxpayer to make payment of their taxes, and

WHEREAS, periodically there are properties that are not turned over to a new owner through the auction process due to perceived deficiencies in the structures on the property, or the property itself, and

WHEREAS, properties that have been foreclosed upon that do not sell at the auction become a liability to the County and result in costs to maintain and continue to make local jurisdictions whole with respect to taxes assessed, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 11 of the Real Property Tax Law, the St. Lawrence County Treasurer (as Tax Enforcement Officer) and the St. Lawrence County Attorney are entrusted with protecting the interests of the County with respect to tax delinquent parcels,

WHEREAS, as a part of the annual review of parcels performed by the St. Lawrence County Tax Foreclosure Team, it has been determined that there is a number of active and abandoned parcels that are encumbered by the presence of structural deterioration sufficient to constitute a threat to human health, safety, and community welfare, and

WHEREAS, since 2015, the Team has already tackled 100 properties identified as environmentally contaminated in initial inspections, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the success of the Environmental Program, in 2022, the Board of Legislators established the Blighted Property Program to investigate and remediate residential blight, and

WHEREAS, recently, the County held discussions regarding a potential application for United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assessment Grants, and

WHEREAS, Assessment Grants provide funding for a grant recipient (Municipality, IDA, EDA, Land Bank, etc.) to inventory, assess, characterize, conduct a range of planning activities, develop site-specific cleanup plans, and conduct community engagement related to brownfield sites, and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Grant is to assess blighted, vacant, or otherwise underutilized sites and promote redevelopment or beneficial reuse for communities, and

WHEREAS, sites that are part of the EPA Assessment Grant Process can then be marketed to private redevelopers for NYSDEC Brownfield Cleanup Program tax credits, or be included in USEPA Cleanup Program Applications (municipally owned sites), and

WHEREAS, a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP – environmental consultant) can help with other grant requirements (quarterly reporting, site-specific reporting, community outreach, planning, coordination, etc.)

WHEREAS, in order to apply, the County would need to release a Request For Proposals (RFP) for EPA Assessment Grant writing and implementation and select a QEP who writes the grant application with a deadline for submission of October 1, 2024,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a qualified Environmental Professional for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assessment Grant Writing and Implementation, upon review of the County Attorney.

Mr. Perkins moved to adopt Resolution No. 249-2024, seconded by Mr. Denesha and Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

August 5, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 250-2024

**A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING AND RECOMMENDING THE TOWN OF
POTSDAM CENSURING TOWN COUNCILOR CHRISTINE PAIGE AND CALLING
FOR HER RESIGNATION FOR DISGRACING PUBLIC OFFICE**

By Mr. Webster, District 11

WHEREAS, civil discourse among citizens is an important part of American Democracy that allows a healthy debate to reach important decisions that benefit the general public, and

WHEREAS, the public is best served when all points of view are encouraged to be heard, allowing public officials to make informed decisions about the issues facing their communities, states, and nation, and

WHEREAS, extremism in the form of support for political assassination and terrorism in any of its forms cannot be tolerated, and especially by elected officials at the local, state, and national levels, and

WHEREAS, those who suggest, or excuse those who suggest, that the assassination and murder of candidates for political office or elected officials should be tolerated as part of public discussions need to be condemned in the strongest terms by all political parties, all office holders, and all Americans of any political persuasion, and

WHEREAS, elected officials at every level have a responsibility to their constituents and their community to set an example for others, and those who would dehumanize or applaud the murder or attempted murder of elected officials should not be excused, applauded, or tolerated, and

WHEREAS, Potsdam Town Councilor Christine Paige has made public comments meant to dehumanize a candidate for the presidency of the United States of America in remarks that could be interpreted to incite political violence and terrorism, and even compared an assassination attempt on a former President of the United States as nothing more than “putting down a rabid dog,” and

WHEREAS, when confronted with her remarks, she did not apologize or even acknowledge that there is no place for such extremism and public support for political terrorism in our nation’s discourse, especially at a time when elected officials at all levels should be urging citizens to reject calls for violence against those with whom they may disagree,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators condemns and recommends the Town of Potsdam censure Councilor Christine Paige and calls for her resignation for disgracing public office, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators calls on Christine Paige to resign her position for disgracing public office as an elected member of the Potsdam Town Council.

Mr. Webster moved to adopt Resolution No. 250-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran.

Ms. Haggard said she is conflicted. Political violence and hate speech is a threat to democracy and it promotes division and harm. The first amendment protects freedom of speech, but this does not excuse or justify actions that site violence or spread hate. Responsible use of free speech requires fostering respectful dialogue. She said she deplores some of the things going on, but believes the Potsdam Town Board should take care of their members and she is reluctant to have this Board ask someone from another board to resign. She does not care what political side someone is on, she said hate speech is ruining the Country.

Mr. Lightfoot said he personally agrees with the thrust of this resolution, but he does not feel it is his responsibility to urge the Potsdam Town Board to take action. The person who uttered these disgraceful remarks is going to have to bear the burden of her actions for a long time. He said he was shocked at the language and demeanor of this person, but does not feel it is his place as a County Legislator to insert himself into matters of another Board, and he will be voting against this resolution.

Mr. Burke said he agrees with Legislator Lightfoot and Legislator Haggard. This type of vitriol is dangerous and as public officials, we should be held to a higher standards. He said he agrees with the resolution except the part of recommending the Town Board to take action. He hopes it will be her constituents that holds her accountable.

Ms. Curran said in May of 2019, the Town of Potsdam did issue a resolution asking for one of the County Legislators to resign. The language the Counselor used is very dangerous as she is essentially asking someone to kill a former president. Ms. Curran supports this resolution.

Mr. Webster said what would happen if someone here suggested he was shot in the head or put down like a rabid dog. This resolution is not telling the Potsdam Town Board what to do, but is asking them to do something. He compares the behavior of Counselor Paige to a child who is performing bad behavior, and if there is no consequence, the behavior will continue. Mr. Webster is asking for support for this resolution and is asking the Potsdam Town Board to do what is right. He is asking for support to hold someone accountable for what they did.

Mr. Denesha said he is in an uncomfortable position. He finds it hard to believe that someone would say those things and have no remorse for saying them. People from the Town of Potsdam elected her and hopefully the people of Potsdam will hold her accountable.

Mr. Perkins said there have been censures of individuals on this Board, but he has never voted for any of them as he did not think it was his place to do so. He agrees with most of the resolution but does not feel as if he can censure her, as he feels it is the voters' choice.

Mr. Perkins moved of offer a friendly amendment in the title by striking the words, "and recommend the Town of Potsdam censure" and "calling for her resignation" and the be it further resolved should read as follows, "that the Board of Legislators condemns Christine Paige for disgracing public office as an elected member of the Potsdam Town Counsel, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot.

County Attorney Button stated that the "now, therefore, be it resolved" needs to be added to the resolution.

Mr. Smithers proposed a friendly amendment to change to wording as referred to by the County Attorney. Friendly amendment was agreed on by all.

Mr. Burke said it is very important to condemn the speech and not the person saying it.

Mr. Hull said he is shocked the Board is discussing the appropriate way to water-down this condemnation or rebuke. The word “censure” is not an infringement on first amendment right of a person, it is a formal rebuke. He said he struggles to think of something more deserving to be rebuked than an unapologetic advocacy for the cold blooded extradition killing of a person, much less a former president. He feels it is appropriate for the highest elected officials of the County to comment on such aberrant actions of a town official. Earlier this evening, the Board urged the Governor to take action on a matter, although this Board does not police or control the Governor. It is appropriate for this Board to comment on matters that are important to the citizens of the County. It is not the choice of the voters to censure an elected official, it is the elected bodies to handle that responsibility, and to take action. He said in his opinion, it is not inappropriate for this Body to censure someone when deserved. He said it is right and good that this Board speaks up to what is right and condemns what is clearly an inarguably evil.

Mr. Smithers said he agrees with Legislator Burke and he said he is comfortable condemning the speech but not the person.

Mr. Hull said the proposal that a speech of a person can be condemned but the person doing the speaking can somehow be insulated from that condemnation boggles his mind. He finds that proposal strange.

Mr. Reagen said he agrees with Mr. Hull. The notion of an elected official supporting the assassination attempt of a candidate running for public office or anyone for that matter is repugnant and it political extremism. He said he has no problem condemning it, and the Board needs to draw the line on this. It is this extremism that is poisoning civic discord. He applauds Legislator Webster to bring the resolution forward. He does not see a problem with standing up for common decency.

Mr. Forsythe said he has never censored anyone, but said he is going to enjoy his first amendment right and said this is ridiculous. This woman has gone above and beyond any imagination of what this world is coming to. He said he watched the election results of Venezuela and that may be happening here before long. This is a disgrace and Potsdam should be disgraced. Mr. Forsythe said Ms. Paige should step down immediately and the Town of Potsdam should insist that she does. She cannot take back what she said.

The amendment failed by a roll call vote with nine (9) no votes (Burke, Gennett, Curran, Reagen, Forsythe, Sheridan, Smithers, Hull, Haggard), and six (6) yes votes.

Resolution No. 250-2024 was adopted by a roll call vote with ten (10) yes votes, and five (5) no votes (Lightfoot, Denesha, Haggard, Burke, and Terminelli).

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Doyle said it was another successful meeting at the Gouverneur/St. Lawrence County Fair last Monday and she thanked all those in attendance.

The Vacancy Review Committee will meet tomorrow at 2 p.m. to consider nineteen (19) positions. The Annual Vacancy update review and recommendations will be discussed soon.

The 2023 audit results will be presented on the August Operations Committee agenda.

The Committee on the Active Shooter drill will meet tomorrow to discuss the drill scheduled for next week.

Budget reviews continue.

Bassmasters is in town this week.

An update was given on the Public Safety Complex, old jail, and Harold B. Smith Building projects.

Ms. Doyle thanked the Public Health Director Search Committee and Chair Hull for their work on selecting the new Public Health Director, and is happy to announce that Erin Streiff will begin work tomorrow. On behalf of herself, the Board of Legislators, and the Board of Health, she extended an enormous thank you to Deputy Director of Public Health, Carly Zimmerman, for stepping up during this time.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: There was no old/new business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no committee reports.

Mr. Smithers moved to go to Executive Session at 7:29 p.m., to discuss litigation, negotiations, personnel, and appointments, seconded by Mr. Perkins, Ms. Curran and Mr. Lightfoot, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Perkins moved to go to Open Session at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Ms. Haggard moved to appoint the following individual to the St. Lawrence County Trails Advisory Board (Term to expire 8-5-2027), seconded by Mr. Burke, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes:

Jacob R. Gilmour, 3373 County Route 6, Hammond 13646

CHAIR'S APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Forsythe appointed the following ad hoc committee: Norther Border Safety Committee: Mr. Lightfoot (Chair), Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Perkins and Mr. Denesha.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Forsythe moved to adjourn the Full Board Meeting at 7:52 p.m., as there was no further business.