



**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA
MS. RITA CURRAN, CHAIR
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026
BOARD ROOM AND LIVE VIA
WWW.STLAWCO.GOV
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING**



RUTH A. DOYLE
County Administrator

DAVID FORSYTHE
Chair, Board of Legislators

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 13, 2026

3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – RICK JOHNSON

- A. Modifying the 2026 Budget for the Purchase of Audiovisual Equipment and Network Core Switch for Information Technology (Res)

4. PLANNING – JASON PFOTENHAUER

- A. Adding Four Parcels to Agricultural District 1 Totaling 132 acres (Res)

5. PROBATION – TIM LEPAGE

- A. Arming of Probation Officers Update (Discussion)

6. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – RUTH DOYLE

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution Urging Governor Hochul and the State Legislature to Exempt Emergency Medical Services from the Real Property Tax Cap, Provide Dedicated State Funding to Support County EMS Plans, and Enact Additional Reforms to Strengthen Emergency Medical Services (Res)
- B. Resolution in Support of Enabling Volunteer Fire Districts and Companies to Provide Stipends to Volunteer Firefighters and EMS Personnel from Existing Fire District Tax Funds (Res)
- C. Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Address Rising Mandated Costs by Ensuring County Parity with Increased Municipal Aid (Res)
- D. Resolution Affirming Local Authority Over Data Center Siting (Res)
- E. Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Expedite the Release of Covered Lives Implementation Guidance and Funds to Counties (Res)
- F. Supporting State Fiscal Year 2026-27 Housing-Linked Water Infrastructure Funding and Ensuring County Access (Res)

- G. Resolution Calling on the State to Increase the Salary Cap for Retired Public Employees Seeking Public Employment (Res)

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 10. ADJOURNMENT** – If there is no further business.

June 1, 2026

Operations Committee: 5-11-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

**MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE PURCHASE OF AUDIOVISUAL
EQUIPMENT AND NETWORK CORE SWITCH FOR INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the audiovisual equipment donated by the Seaway Valley Prevention Council in 2025 was successful in broadcasting the Board meeting from the Gouverneur & St. Lawrence County Fair, and

WHEREAS, this audiovisual equipment was since permanently installed in the main conference room at the Human Services Center and there continues to be a need for quality sound and video in mobile meetings such as the annual board meeting at the Fair, and

WHEREAS, the current "core switch," which is responsible for central support and management of all county network connections, is outdated and seriously underpowered given the growth of the network and increased dependence on the internet, and

WHEREAS, the cost for the new technology is \$8,000 for the audiovisual equipment and \$42,000 for the network core switch,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2026 Budget for the Information Technology Department for the purchase of audiovisual equipment and network core switch, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700	B SPEC Contingency Account	\$50,000
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

CD016802 22001	C Computer Hardware	\$50,000
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June 1, 2026

Operations Committee: 5-11-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

ADDING FOUR PARCELS TO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 1 TOTALING 132 ACRES

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Agricultural Districts are established in the County to help protect and enhance its agricultural resources, and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the County consolidated the Agricultural Districts into one (1) district called Agricultural District 1, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 260-2013 established March 1st to March 30th as the annual 30-day review period to receive requests to add land to this district, and

WHEREAS, in 2026, the County received requests to add four (4) parcels, totaling 132.3 acres, to Agricultural District 1, and

WHEREAS, based on criteria specified in Agriculture and Markets Law, the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board reviewed each request at its meeting on April 2, 2026 and recommends adding all requested parcels to Agricultural District 1, and

WHEREAS, no public comments were received at or before the County's April 15, 2026 public hearing about the recommended additions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes adding four parcels to Agricultural District 1 totaling 132 acres, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Planning Office to submit the appropriate documentation to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets as required by law.

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD**

Courthouse, 48 Court Street,
Canton, New York 13617-1169
Tel: (315) 379-2292 ▪ Fax: (315) 379-2252

To: St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators
From: Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
Date: April 23, 2026
Re: 2026 Annual Review for Agricultural District 1

Each year, St. Lawrence County accepts requests to add agricultural land to Agricultural District. In 2024, the two Agricultural Districts were combined into one district called Agricultural District 1. This year, the County received requests from four property owners to add land to the district. Under Ag and Markets Law, the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board reviews these requests and makes a recommendation to the Board of Legislators that is based on two factors:

1. Whether the land is comprised of predominantly viable agricultural land, and
2. Whether the inclusion of such land would serve the public interest by assisting in maintaining a viable agricultural industry in the district.

To answer these two criteria, staff reviewed: information provided by the property owner, real property classifications, soil information, aerial imagery, and whether the requested addition was consistent with local land use regulations. This analysis helps avoid conflict between home rule law which allows towns and villages to determine land use regulations in their communities, and the protection of sound agricultural activities from unreasonable land use regulations under Ag and Markets Law.

The Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board recommends to the Board of Legislators to accept all parcels that requested to be added.

A public hearing was held April 15th 5 p.m. at the One Stop Career Center Classroom A in the Human Service Center, 80 State Highway 310 Canton, NY. No one from the public attended and no comments were submitted.

We've Got Room to Grow!

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 1												
No.	Name	Municipality	No. of Parcels	Tax Map No.	Acres	Parcel Location	Prop Class	Use	Ag Assessment ?	Prime Soils?	Zoning	Ag Allowed?
1	Vaughn N. Aldrich II	Massena	1	11.001-1-16	61.9	67 Hall Rd. SH 37C	321	Abandon Ag, woods	no	Prime, Prime if Drained, & Not Prime	RA: Residential Agriculture	Yes
2	Jennifer Brady	Depeyster	1	86.003-5-1	1.1	204 Mt Alone Rd	210	Single Family Residence	no	not prime	no zoning	Yes
3	Andy Hurlbut	Canton	1	117.001-2-6.1	68.3	North Woods Rd	270	Manufactured House, Sugarbush	no but wants to	not prime and statewide importance	hamlet and RA	Yes
4	Robert Kelly	Fowler	1	174.001-4-18	1.0	359 Island Branch Rd	270	Residential	no	not prime	RA: Residential Agriculture	Yes

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD

County Courthouse, 48 Court Street, Canton, NY 13617-1169
Tel: (315) 379-2292 • Fax: (315) 379-2252 • www.sicfarms.com

Alondy M

FORM 2: REQUEST TO ADD PARCEL(S) TO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 1 OR 2

Owner Name(s): VAUGHAN N. ALDRICH II Parcel Address/Location: 67 HALL ROAD
Mailing Address: 67 HALL ROAD Town: MASSENA
City and Zip: MASSENA 13662
Phone: (518) 651-7937

Parcel Number:	Tax Map Identification Number:	Total Acreage of Land:	Number & Type of Structure(s) on Parcel:	Primary Use of Land:	Any Prominent Physical Features on Parcel (e.g. streams, wetlands, forests, ravines, etc.):
1	11.001-1-27	34.1	4 RESIDENCE GARAGES	RESIDENCE, CROPS, LIVESTOCK	
2	11.001-1-24.11	47.2	2 SHEDS	CROPS, LIVESTOCK, TREE FARM	NYPA POWERLINE RIGHT OF WAY
3	11.001-1-16				
4					

(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

John N. Aldrich II
Property Owner Signature:

03/25/2026
Date:

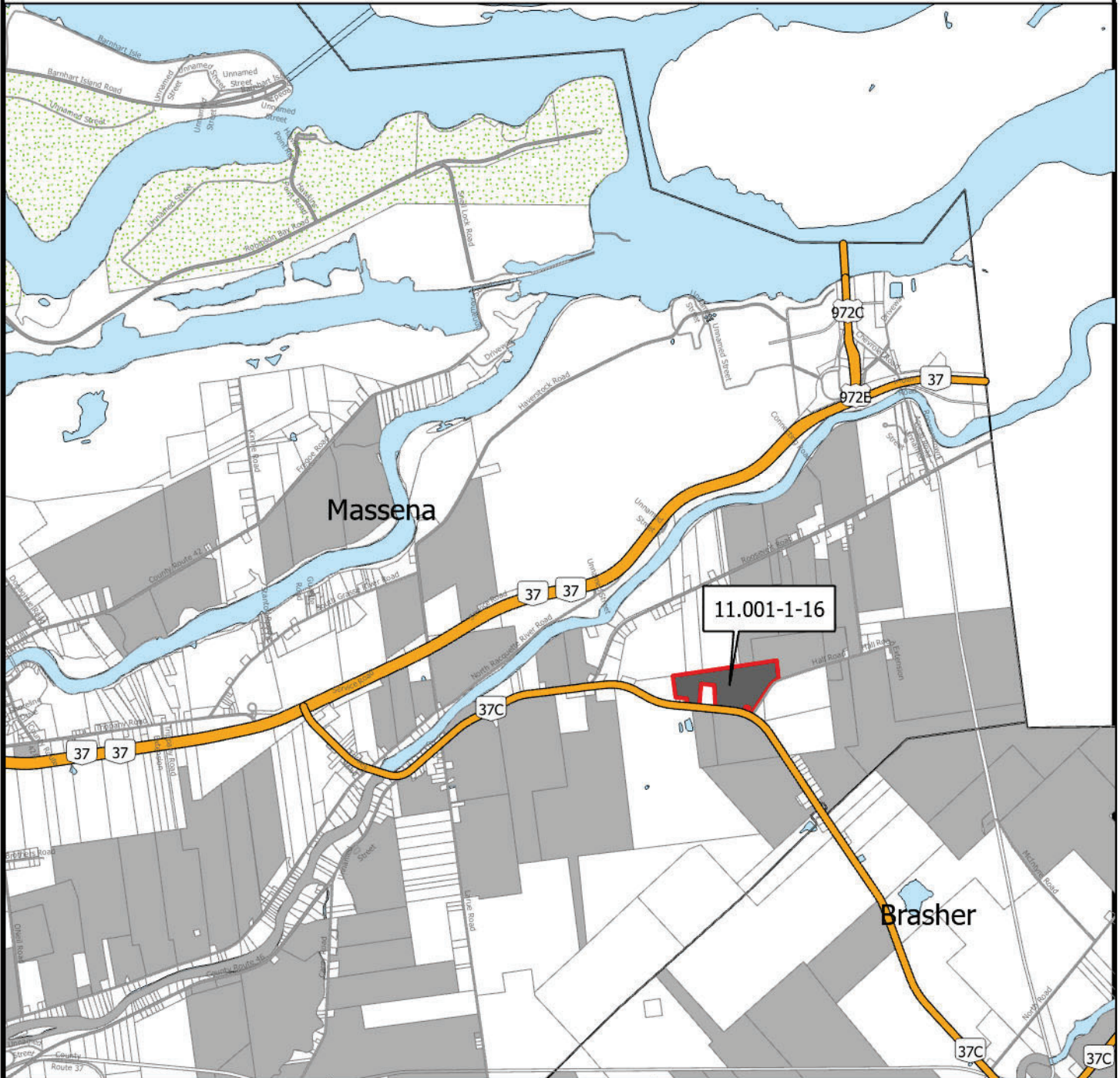
Property Owner Signature:

Date:

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Requested Additions to Ag District 2026 St. Lawrence County, NY



This map displays requested additions to Agricultural District during annual review 2026

Map created by St. Lawrence County Planning Office

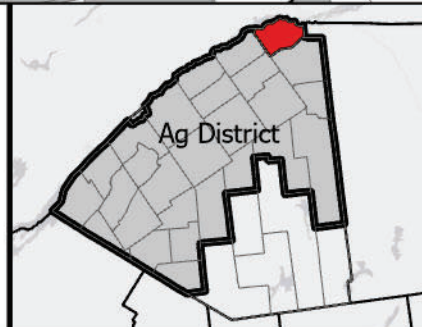
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Coordinate System: NAD83

Projection: NY State Plane East (2011) 3101

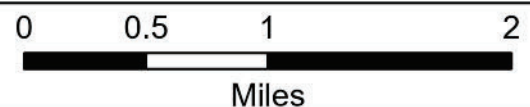
US Feet

Data Sources: SLC Real Properties, SLC Planning Office, NYS GIS Clearinghouse



Legend

- Requested Additions
- Property Boundaries
- Town Border
- SLC_AgDistrict_2025
- Lake or River
- Park or Forest
- Federal Highway
- State Highway
- County Route





Requested Additions to Ag District 2026 St. Lawrence County, NY



This map displays requested additions to Agricultural District during annual review 2026

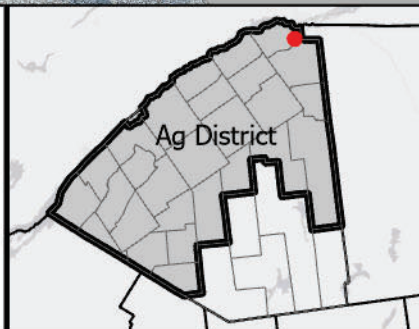
Map created by St. Lawrence County Planning Office

Date: April 2026

Coordinate System: NAD83

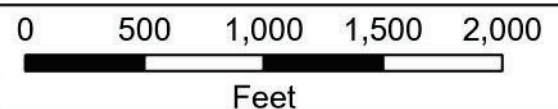
Projection: NY State Plane East (2011) 3101 US Feet

Data Sources: SLC Real Properties, SLC Planning Office, NYS GIS Clearinghouse



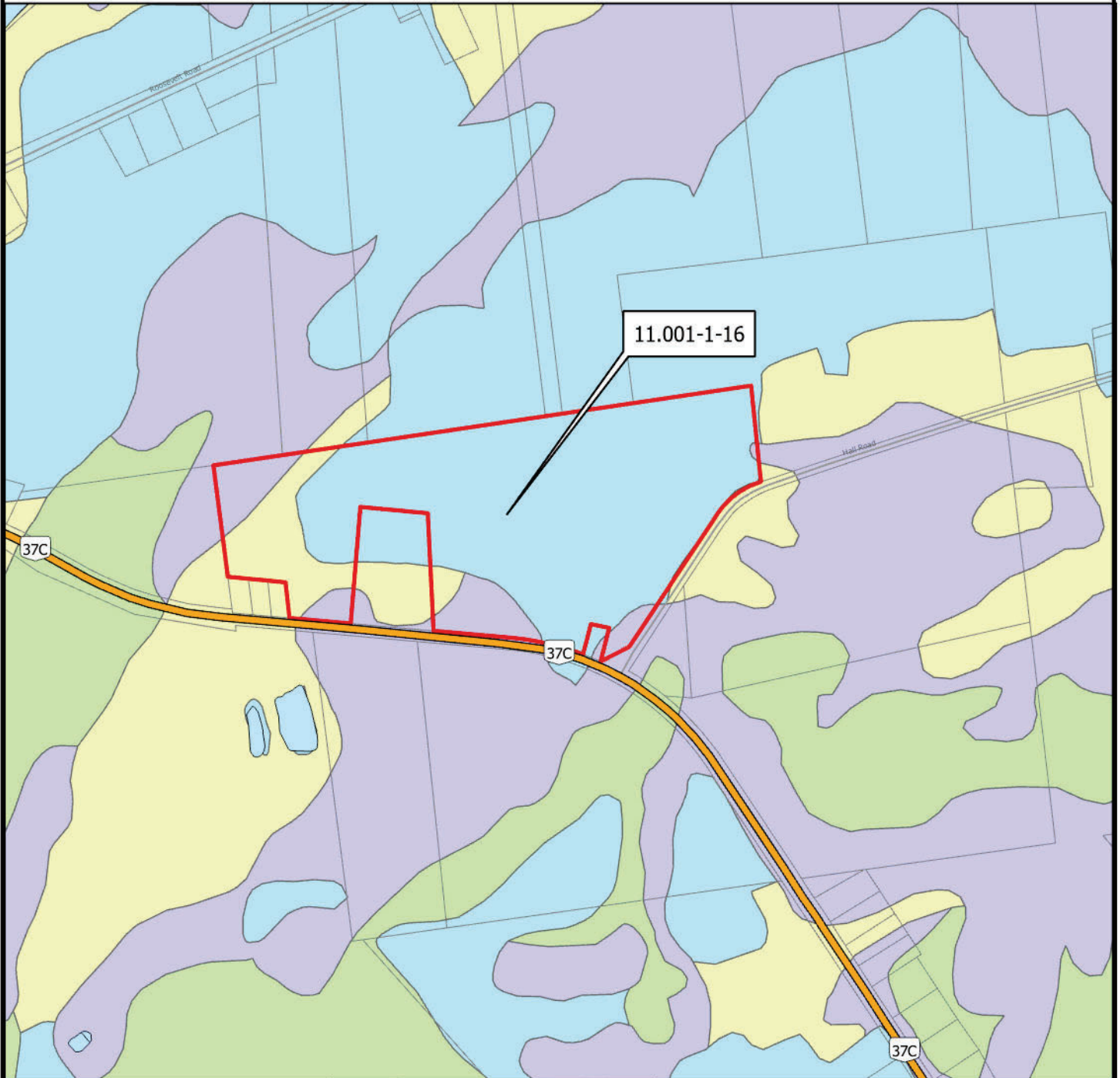
Legend

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Requested Additions | Park or Forest |
| Property Boundaries | Federal Highway |
| Town Border | State Highway |
| SLC_AgDistrict_2025 | County Route |
| Lake or River | |





Requested Additions to Ag District 2026 St. Lawrence County, NY



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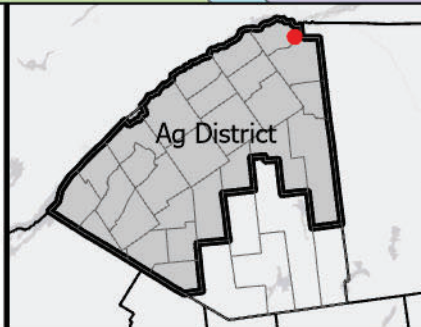
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Date: April 2026

Coordinate System: NAD83

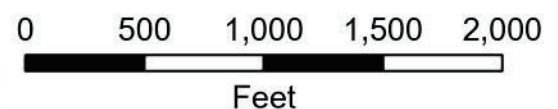
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Data Sources: SLC Real Properties, SLC Planning Office, NYS GIS Clearinghouse

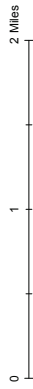


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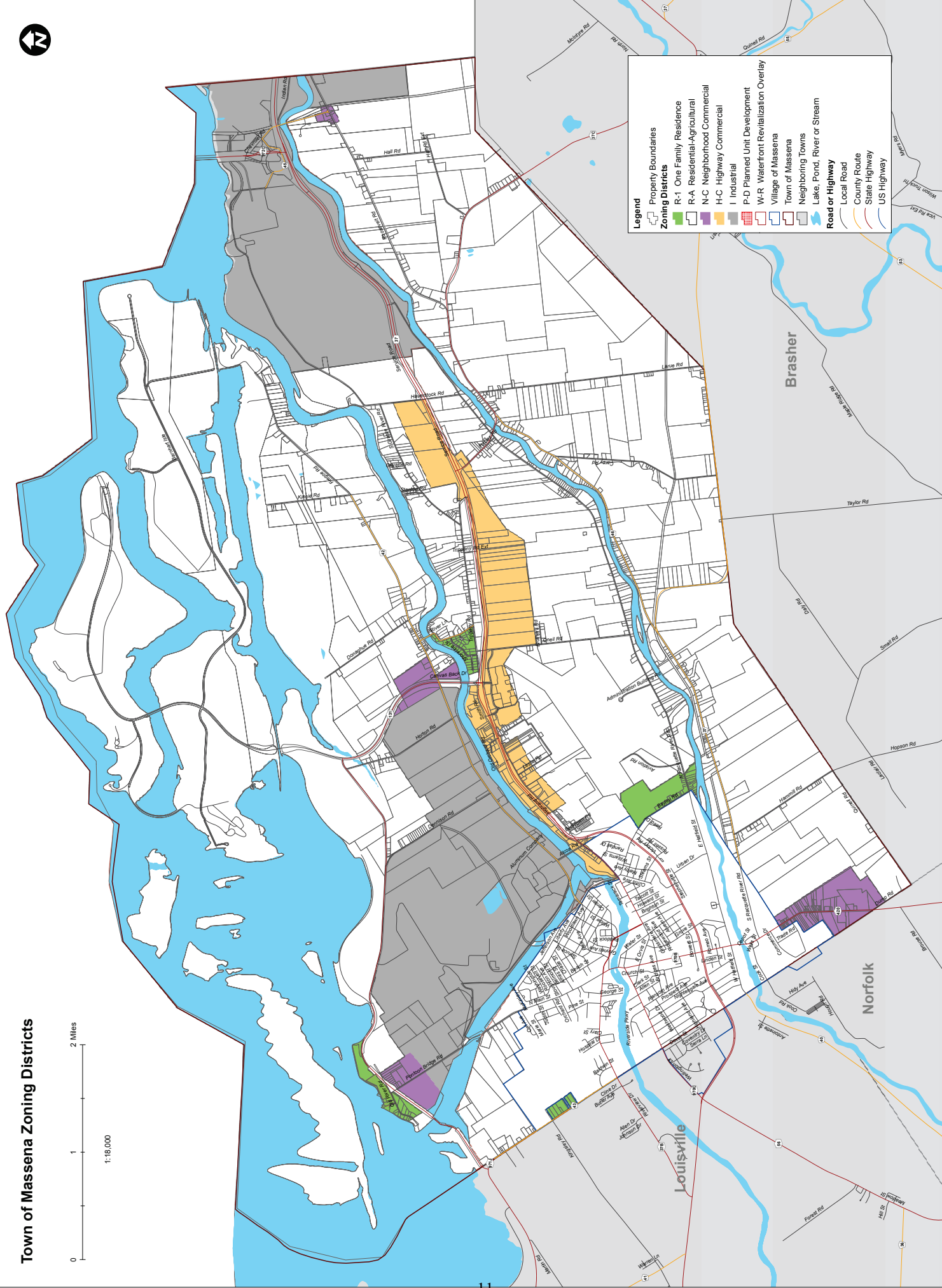
- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Requested Additions | Prime if Drained |
| Property Boundaries | Not Prime Soil |
| Town Border | Statewide Importance |
| Prime Soil | |



Town of Massena Zoning Districts



1:18,000



Property Boundaries

Zoning Districts

R-1 One Family Residence

R-2 Residential-Agricultural

N-C Neighborhood Commercial

H-C Highway Commercial

I Industrial

P-D Planned Unit Development

W-R Waterfront Revitalization Overlay

Village of Massena

Town of Massena

Neighboring Towns

Lake, Pond, River or Stream

Road or Highway

Local Road

County Route

State Highway

US Highway

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD**

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PLEASE CIRCLE: ADD OR REMOVE PARCEL(S) TO/FROM AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 1 OR 2

Owner Name(s): Jennifer M Brady Phone: 315-528-0088
Mailing Address: 204 Mt Alene Rd Email: JMBRADY21@hotmail.com
City and Zip: Hauveltan 13654

Parcel Number:	Tax Map Identification Number:	Parcel Address:	Town:	Primary Use of Land:
1	86.003-5-1	204 Mt Alene Rd DePoyster NY	DePoyster	Residence
2				
3				
4				

(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Jennifer Brady Garante
Property Owner Signature:

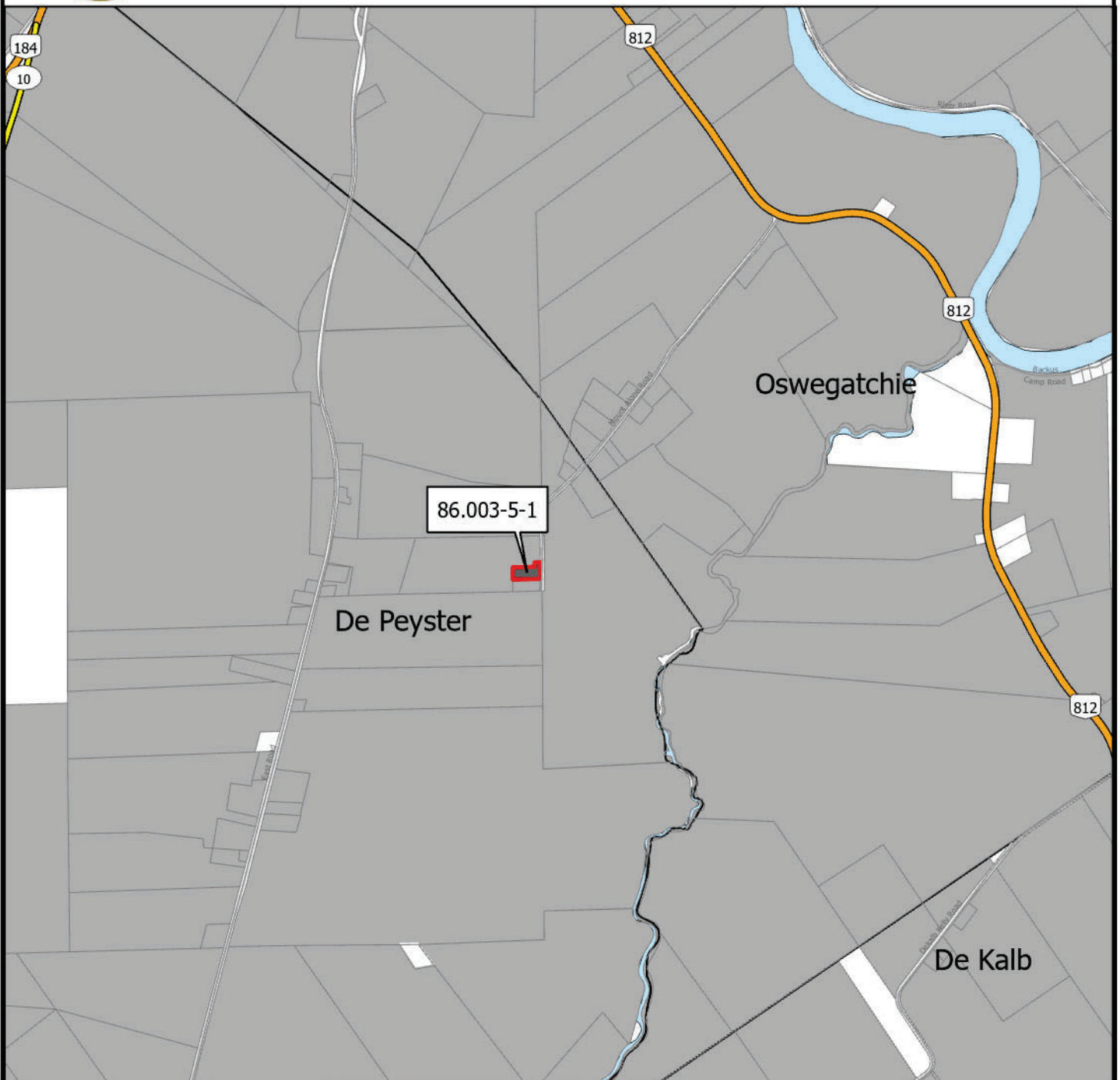
3/4/26
Date:

Property Owner Signature: _____

Date: _____



Requested Additions to Ag District 2026 St. Lawrence County, NY



This map displays requested additions to Agricultural District during annual review 2026

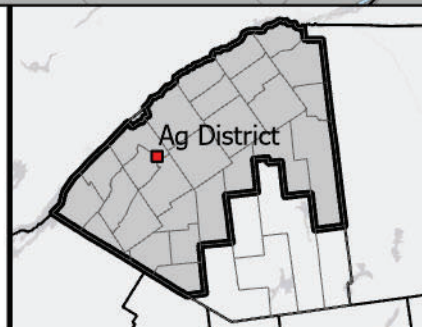
Map created by St. Lawrence County Planning Office

Date: April 2026

Coordinate System: NAD83

Projection: NY State Plane East (2011) 3101 US Feet

Data Sources: SLC Real Properties, SLC Planning Office, NYS GIS Clearinghouse



Legend

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Requested Additions | Park or Forest |
| Property Boundaries | Federal Highway |
| Town Border | State Highway |
| SLC_AgDistrict_2025 | County Route |
| Lake or River | |

0 0.25 0.5 0.75

Miles



Requested Additions to Ag District 2026 St. Lawrence County, NY



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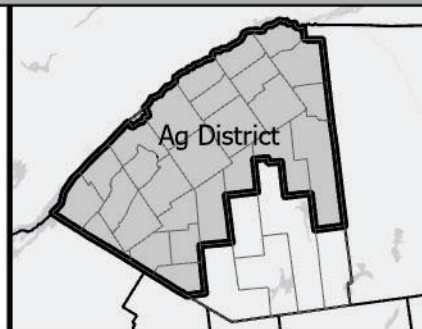
Map created by St. Lawrence County Planning Office

Date: April 2026

Coordinate System: NAD83

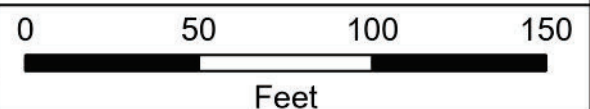
Projection: NY State Plane East (2011) 3101 US Feet

Data Sources: SLC Real Properties, SLC Planning Office, NYS GIS Clearinghouse



Legend

- Requested Additions
- Property Boundaries
- Town Border
- SLC_AgDistrict_2025
- Lake or River
- Park or Forest
- Federal Highway
- State Highway
- County Route



ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD

Human Service Center, 48 Court Street, Canton, NY 13617-1169
(315) 379-2292 • www.stlawco.gov • planning@stlawco.gov

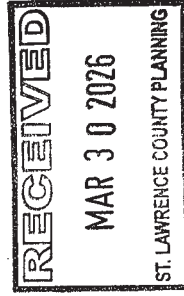
ADD TO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 1

Owner Name(s): Andy + Elisha Harlburt Phone: (315) 854-5381
Mailing Address: 3003 CR 21 Email: andy@harlburt'smaple.com
City and Zip: Canton, NY 13617

Parcel Number:	Tax Map Identification Number:	Parcel Address:	Town:	Primary Use of Land:
1	117.001-2-6.1	North Woods Rd	Canton	Sugarbush - Ag
2	89.004-3- 7 ⁵	Mende Rd	Canton	Field crops } may already
3	102.004-2-5.12	OFF CR 21	Canton	Sugarbush - Ag } be in ag district
4				

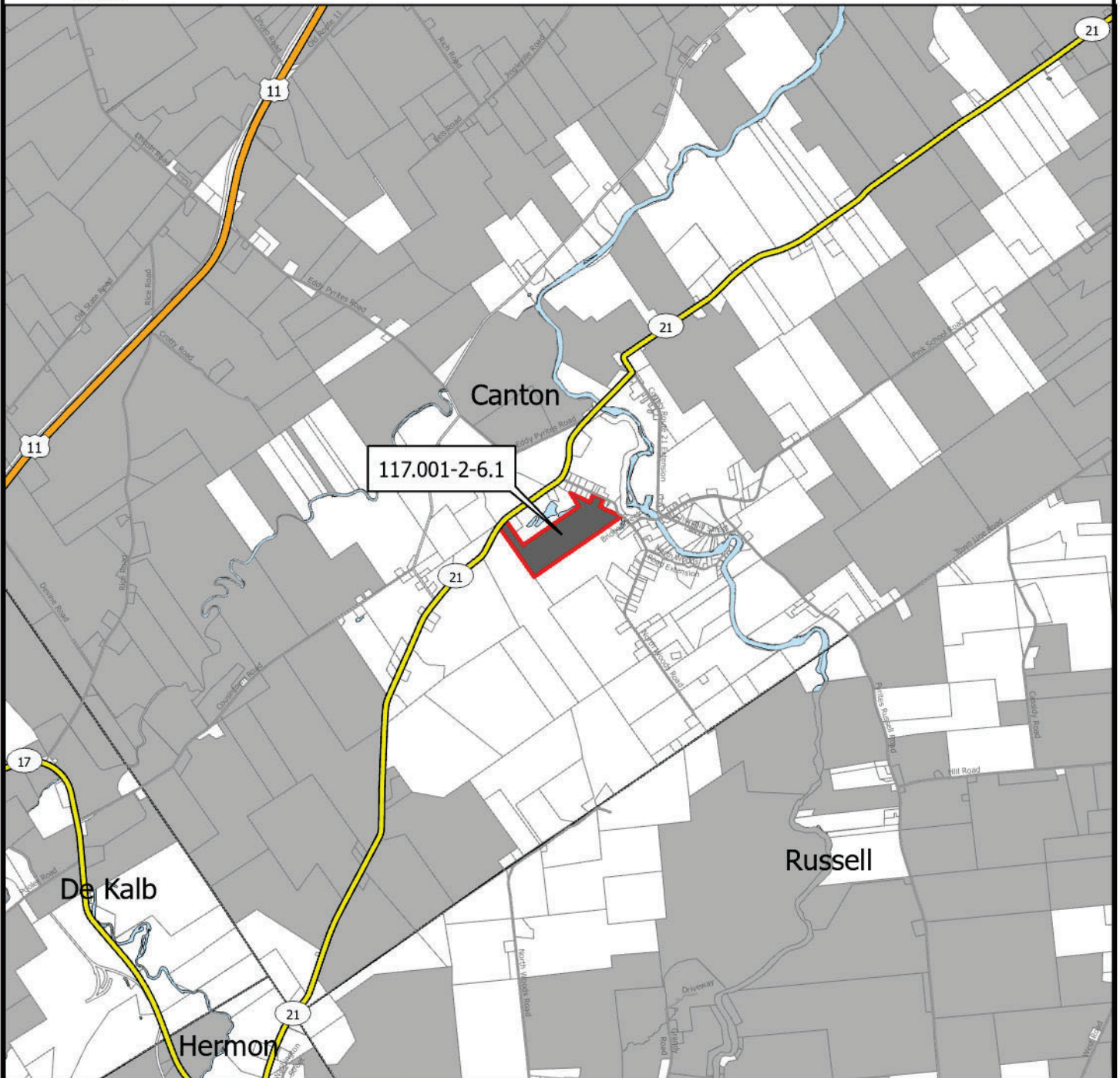
(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Andrew Harlburt Date: 3/23/26
Property Owner Signature: _____
Elisha Harlburt Date: 3/23/26
Property Owner Signature: _____





Requested Additions to Ag District 2026 St. Lawrence County, NY



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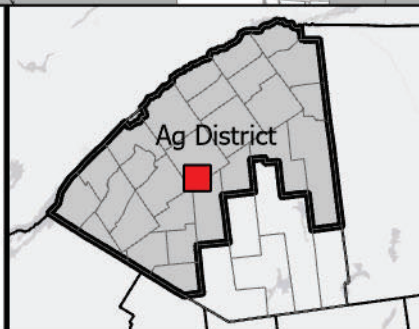
Map created by St. Lawrence County Planning Office

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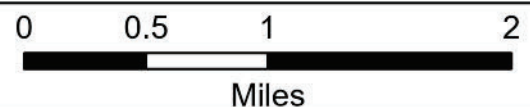
Projection: NY State Plane East (2011) 3101 US Feet

Data Sources: SLC Real Properties, SLC Planning Office, NYS GIS Clearinghouse



Legend

- Requested Additions
- Property Boundaries
- Town Border
- SLC_AgDistrict_2025
- Lake or River
- Park or Forest
- Federal Highway
- State Highway
- County Route





Requested Additions to Ag District 2026 St. Lawrence County, NY



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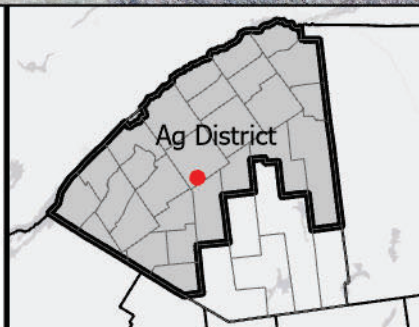
Map created by St. Lawrence County Planning Office

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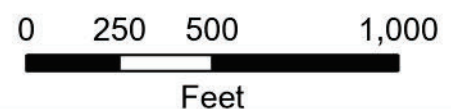
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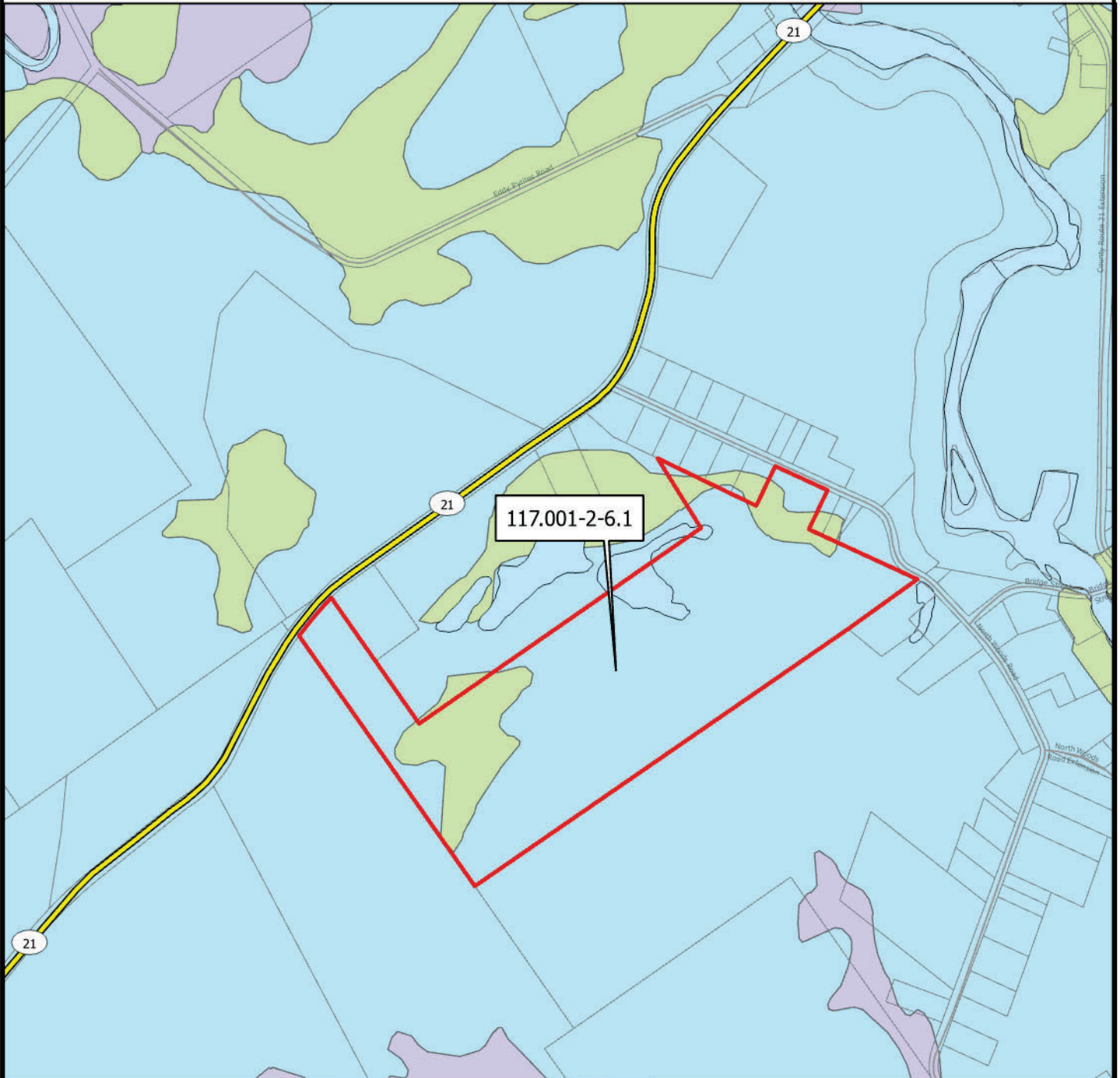
- Requested Additions
- Property Boundaries
- Town Border

- Federal Highway
- State Highway
- County Route





Requested Additions to Ag District 2026 St. Lawrence County, NY



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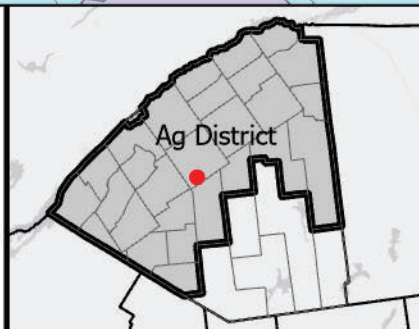
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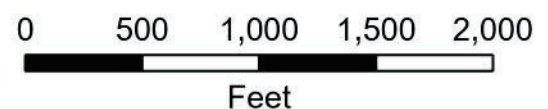
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Data Sources: SLC Real Properties, SLC Planning Office, NYS GIS Clearinghouse



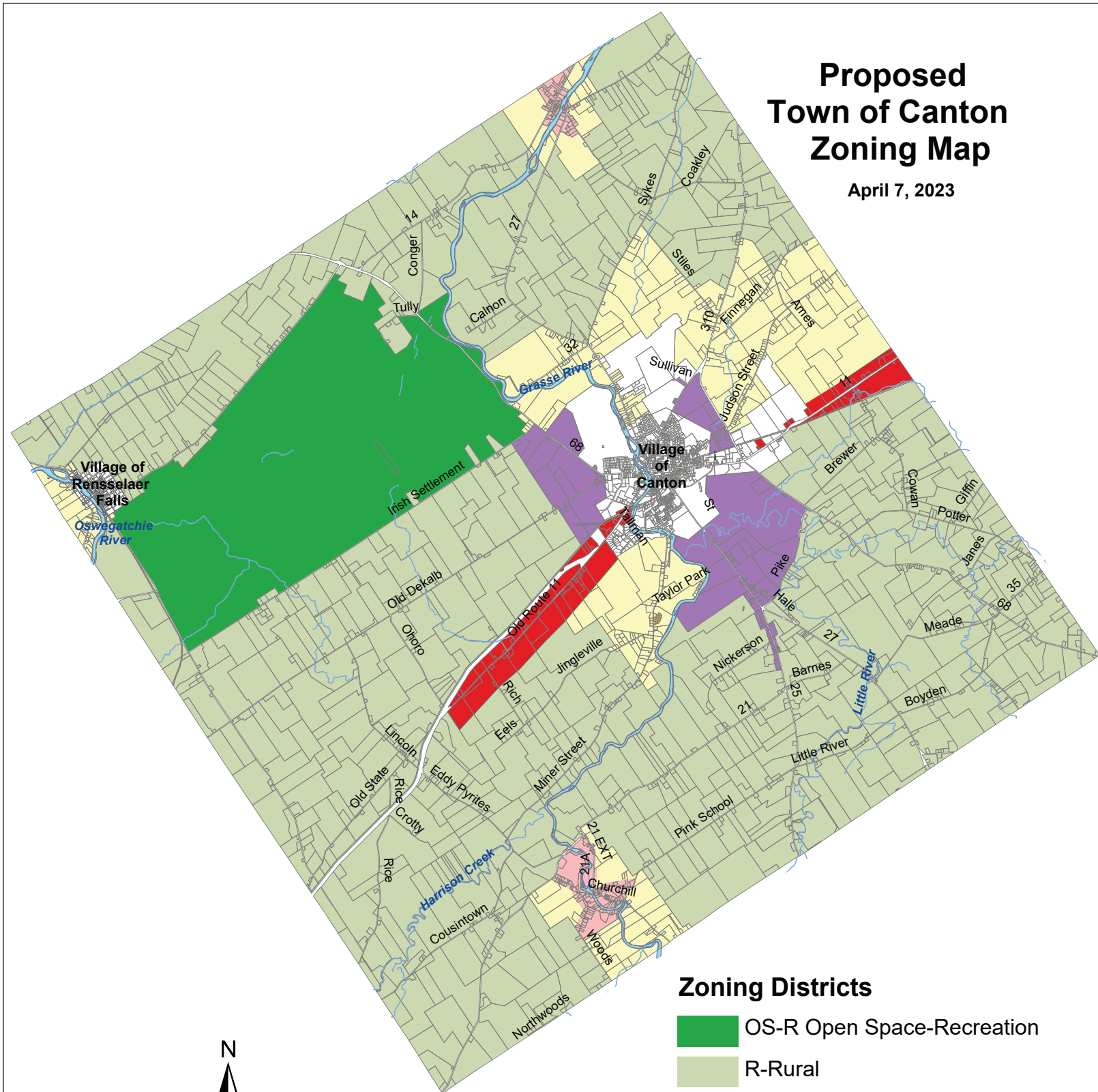
Legend

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Requested Additions | Prime if Drained |
| Property Boundaries | Not Prime Soil |
| Town Border | Statewide Importance |
| Prime Soil | |



Proposed Town of Canton Zoning Map

April 7, 2023



Zoning Districts

- OS-R Open Space-Recreation
- R-Rural
- RA-Residential-Agriculture
- H-Hamlet
- MU-Mixed Use
- C-Commercial*
- Existing Planned Unit Development
- Rivers and Streams **

February 2023

* See Chapter 70, Section 70-25.A for boundary description

** Watercourse Protection Overlay standards may apply per Chapter 70, Article V.

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD

Public Safety Complex – 2nd Floor, 48 Court Street, Canton, NY 13617-1169
(315) 379-2292 • www.agdistricts.stlawco.org

PLEASE CIRCLE: ADD OR REMOVE PARCEL(S) TO/FROM AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 1 OR 2

Owner Name(s): ROBERT P. KELLY Phone: 315 212 7899
Mailing Address: 359 ISLAND BRANCH ROAD Email: _____
City and Zip: Gouverneur, NY 13642

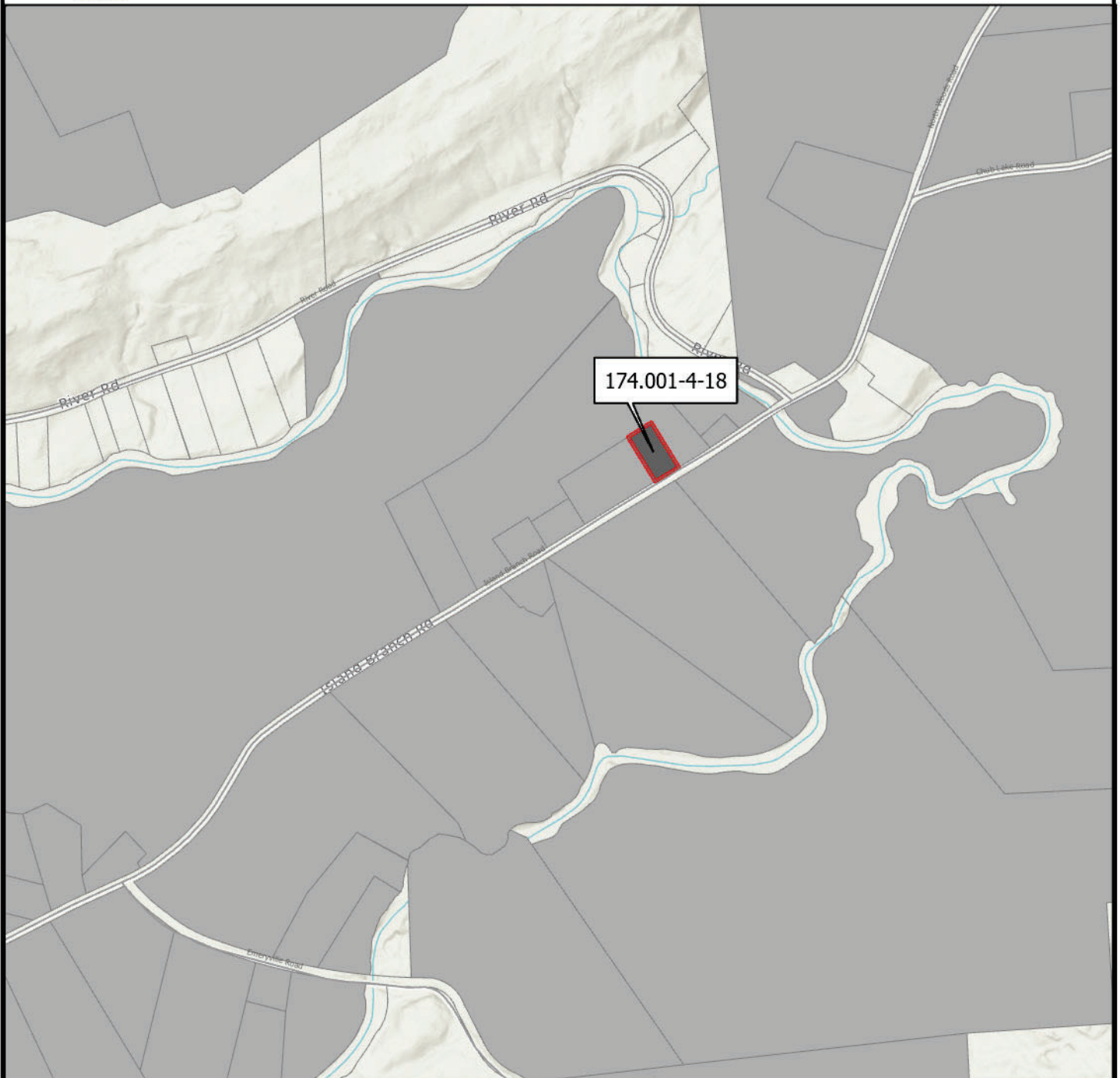
Parcel Number:	Tax Map Identification Number:	Parcel Address:	Town:	Primary Use of Land:
1	174.001-4-18	385 ISLAND BRANCH RD	FOWLER	RESIDENTIAL
2				
3				
4				

(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

[Signature] Date: 10/07/2025
Property Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____
Property Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____



Requested Additions to Ag District 2026 St. Lawrence County, NY



This map displays requested additions to Agricultural District during annual review 2026

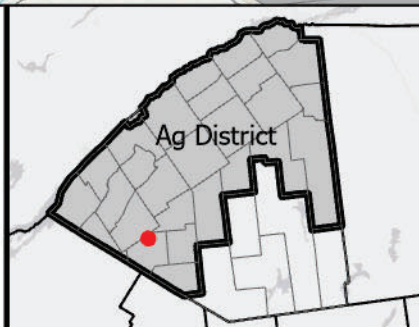
Map created by St. Lawrence County Planning Office

Date: April 2026

Coordinate System: NAD83

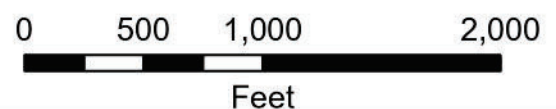
Projection: NY State Plane East (2011) 3101 US Feet

Data Sources: SLC Real Properties, SLC Planning Office, NYS GIS Clearinghouse



Legend

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Requested Additions | Federal Highway |
| Property Boundaries | State Highway |
| Town Border | County Route |
| Ag District 2025 | |





Requested Additions to Ag District 2026 St. Lawrence County, NY



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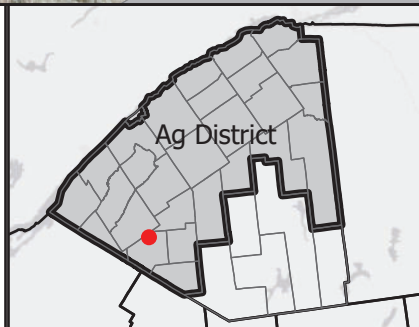
Map created by St. Lawrence County Planning Office

Date: April 2026

Coordinate System: NAD83

Projection: NY State Plane East (2011) 3101 US Feet

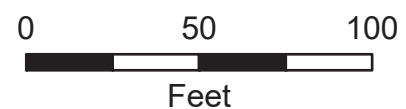
Data Sources: SLC Real Properties, SLC Planning Office, NYS GIS Clearinghouse



Legend

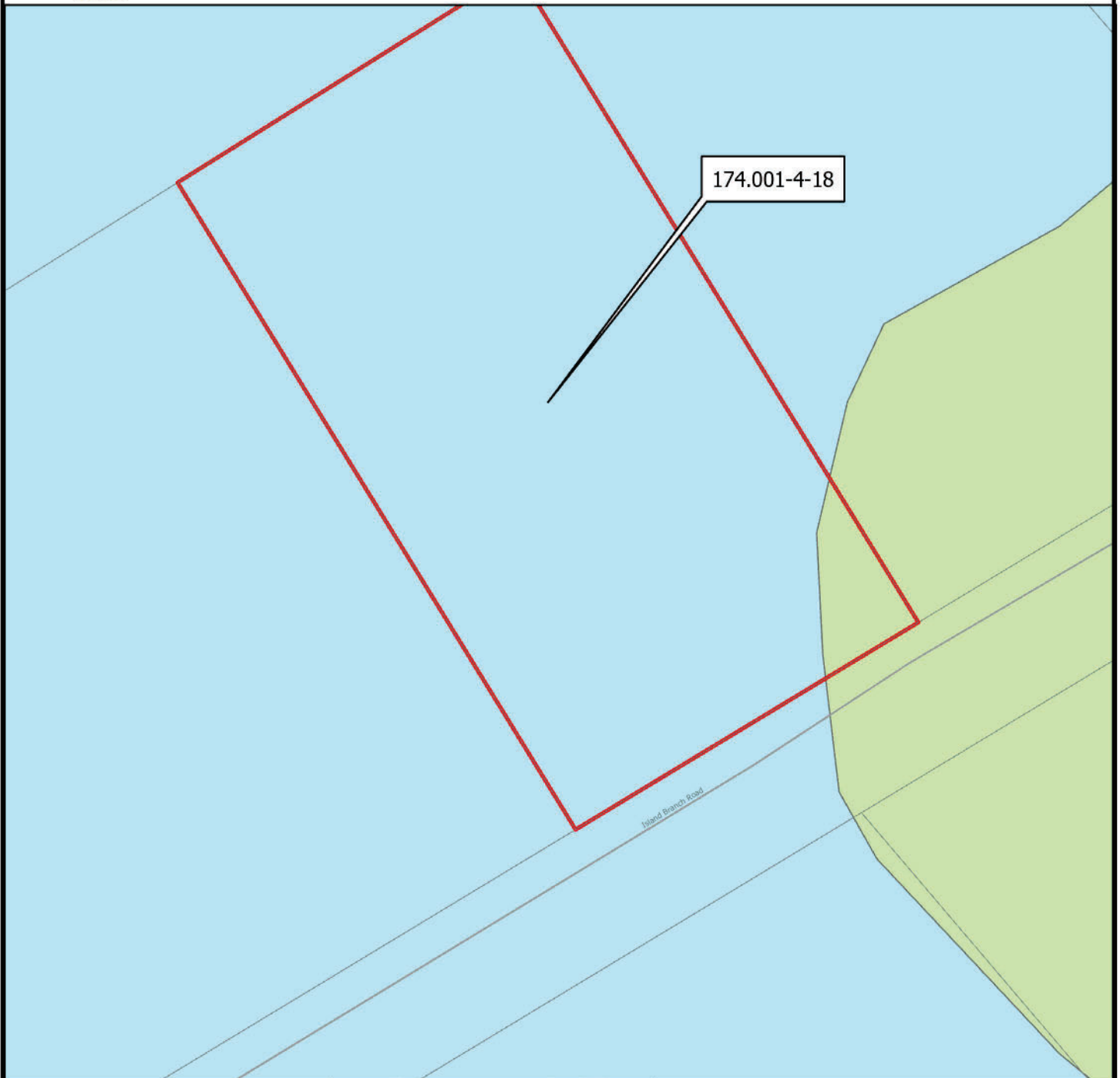
- Requested Additions
- Property Boundaries
- Town Border
- Ag District 2025

- Federal Highway
- State Highway
- County Route





Requested Additions to Ag District 2026 St. Lawrence County, NY



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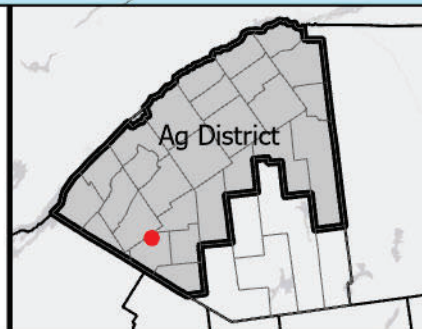
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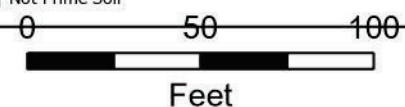
Data Sources: SLC Real Properties, SLC Planning Office, NYS GIS Clearinghouse



Legend

- Requested Additions
- Property Boundaries
- Town Border
- Prime Soil
- Prime if Drained
- Not Prime Soil

- Statewide Importance
- Federal Highway
- State Highway
- County Route



June 1, 2026

Operations Committee: 5-11-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR HOCHUL AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO EXEMPT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FROM THE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP, PROVIDE DEDICATED STATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT COUNTY EMS PLANS, AND ENACT ADDITIONAL REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the lack of timely and reliable access to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) poses an emerging and imminent threat to public health by delaying or preventing hospital care, resulting in preventable loss of life, increased morbidity, and poorer outcomes for New Yorkers experiencing time sensitive emergencies where minutes matter, such as cardiac arrest, stroke, trauma, overdose, and sepsis, and

WHEREAS, EMS is a critical component of public health, supporting emergency preparedness and response through early situational awareness, serving as trusted frontline partners in health promotion and prevention, and strengthening coordination across the emergency care continuum, and

WHEREAS, the erosion of EMS capacity eliminates key opportunities to improve access to care and deliver coordinated, innovative frontline interventions, and

WHEREAS, the EMS crisis disproportionately impacts rural and underserved communities, where transportation gaps, aging populations, high non-emergent call volume, workforce shortages, and reliance on volunteer or mixed workforce models strain limited resources, increase mutual aid and municipal financial burdens, delay emergency and hospital care, and divert resources from other public health and safety priorities, further weakening the healthcare, emergency response, and public health and public safety infrastructures and worsening downstream health outcomes, and

WHEREAS, rising operational costs, inadequate insurance reimbursement rates, and acute staffing shortages are pushing local EMS systems to the brink of collapse, forcing counties and municipalities to make increasingly difficult fiscal decisions between sustaining life-saving services and remaining within the constraints of the real property tax cap, and

WHEREAS, the real property tax cap, as currently structured, prevents counties and municipalities from raising the revenue necessary to adequately fund EMS operations, effectively imposing an artificial ceiling on communities' ability to respond to a genuine public health emergency, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul vetoed legislation in 2025 that would have exempted EMS from the real property tax cap, leaving counties and municipalities without the fiscal tools needed to stabilize their EMS systems, and

WHEREAS, the State has enacted a new requirement directing counties to convene a comprehensive EMS planning process with cities, towns, and villages within their jurisdictions—a mandate that counties will undertake in good faith as committed partners in improving EMS delivery, but one that imposes significant new administrative and financial responsibilities on county governments that are already stretched thin by growing federal and state mandates in social services, public safety, and other areas where the State relies on counties as its primary implementation partners, and

WHEREAS, the success of any county-level EMS planning framework depends on the State making parallel commitments to provide meaningful fiscal relief, dedicated funding, and the legislative reforms necessary for counties and municipalities to act on the plans they develop, and

WHEREAS, EMS vehicles transporting patients across the New York State Thruway are currently required to pay tolls, creating an inequitable and operationally burdensome distinction between EMS and fire vehicles, which are already exempt through emergency services permits issued by the Thruway Authority, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul vetoed legislation in 2025 that would have required the Thruway Authority to issue emergency services permits to EMS vehicles, exempting them from tolls while transporting patients—a commonsense reform that would reduce costs and remove an unnecessary obstacle to timely emergency care,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to enact legislation exempting Emergency Medical Services from the real property tax cap, providing counties and municipalities with the fiscal flexibility needed to fund reliable, sustainable EMS systems, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges the Governor and the Legislature to provide dedicated state funding to support counties in developing, implementing, and sustaining the comprehensive county EMS plans required under state law, recognizing that a planning mandate without commensurate state resources and fiscal relief constitutes yet another unfunded burden on county governments that already bear the cost of delivering a wide range of state-mandated programs and services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges the Governor and the Legislature to enact legislation requiring the Thruway Authority to issue emergency services permits to EMS vehicles, exempting them from tolls while transporting patients on the New York State Thruway, consistent with the treatment already afforded to fire vehicles, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the Department of Health, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

June 1, 2026

Operations Committee: 5-11-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENABLING VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICTS AND COMPANIES TO PROVIDE STIPENDS TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMS PERSONNEL FROM EXISTING FIRE DISTRICT TAX FUNDS

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighter and EMS staffing levels in New York State have reached an all-time low, with many fire districts struggling to maintain adequate response capabilities due to declining recruitment and retention, and

WHEREAS, under current provisions of the New York State Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law § 30, volunteer fire districts and companies are prohibited from providing stipends to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel, and

WHEREAS, these volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel provide invaluable service to their communities, risking their lives daily to protect lives, property, and public safety across urban, suburban, and rural areas, and

WHEREAS, nominal stipend drawn funds from already collected or small increases in existing fire district taxes or fire department contracts, can meaningfully aid workforce recruitment and retention, while preserving the fundamentally volunteer nature of these essential services, which stands apart from the paid, career-staffed models of larger city fire departments, and

WHEREAS, maintaining the volunteer character of fire districts, fire protection districts (contract fire departments) and village fire departments is vital to their sustainability, affordability, and community-rooted effectiveness, ensuring broad access to emergency services without shifting to costlier professionalized structures, and

WHEREAS, the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Fire Coordinators Association of the State of New York are in full support of authorizing such nominal stipends,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators strongly urges the Governor and the New York State Legislature to enact legislation within the 2026-27 State Budget amending Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law § 30 to authorize volunteer fire districts and companies to provide nominal stipends to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel from existing and future fire tax revenues, and

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

June 1, 2026

Operations Committee: 5-11-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

**RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO
ADDRESS RISING MANDATED COSTS BY ENSURING COUNTY PARITY WITH
INCREASED MUNICIPAL AID**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the 57 counties in New York serve as the primary administrators of state and federally mandated programs—including Medicaid, child welfare, public safety, public health, election administration, and indigent legal defense—delivering services that reach every resident of the State, and

WHEREAS, counties fund these essential services in partnership with the state and federal government, yet exercise little control over the policies that drive their costs, leaving county property taxpayers as the payers of last resort when state or federal aid is reduced or fails to keep pace with program demands, and

WHEREAS, the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program provides unrestricted general purpose aid to New York State’s cities (excluding New York City), towns, and villages—currently funded at \$715.2 million annually—and has not included county governments as eligible recipients since 1990, and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s SFY 2026-27 Executive Budget proposed to maintain AIM at \$715.2 million and continue \$50 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance—both programs available exclusively to cities, towns, and villages—with no new unrestricted aid for counties, and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s 30-day amendments to the SFY 2026-27 Executive Budget proposed an increase of \$100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance for cities, towns, and villages, and additional unrestricted aid to New York City—representing a significant new investment in other local government partners—while providing no equivalent relief for counties, and

WHEREAS, the Senate one-house budget proposes \$302 million per year in additional AIM funding for New York City over two fiscal years—a total of \$604 million in new municipal assistance—without a corresponding increase in direct aid to counties, and

WHEREAS, the Senate one-house budget further proposes \$250,000 to establish an AIM Redesign Task Force charged with making recommendations on the expansion of AIM to New York City, with no comparable directive to examine or expand aid to county governments, and

WHEREAS, the Assembly one-house budget proposes \$1.5 billion in additional Temporary Municipal Assistance over three years—including \$1 billion for New York City and \$500 million for cities, towns, and villages—again with no parallel investment in county fiscal relief, and

WHEREAS, increasing state investment in AIM and Temporary Municipal Assistance while counties receive no analogous unrestricted aid creates a growing disparity in the State’s partnership with its local government units, and

WHEREAS, counties are simultaneously absorbing significant and growing cost pressures that are largely outside their control, including: rising assigned counsel costs under County Law Article 18-B; escalating preschool special education expenditures; costs associated with CPL § 730 competency restoration confinements, which have increased by more than 6,000 percent in some counties between 2019 and 2024, and anticipated cost shifts resulting from federal policy changes to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which will increase county administrative costs beginning in October 2026, and

WHEREAS, the number of local governments in fiscal stress, as identified by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC)’s Fiscal Stress Monitoring System, is rising, and a dozen counties exceeded the property tax cap in their 2026 budgets—the most in a decade, and

WHEREAS, counties are constrained by the state-imposed property tax cap, limiting their ability to independently raise revenues to offset growing costs, and

WHEREAS, NYSAC has called upon the Governor and Legislature to provide \$100 million in targeted county fiscal relief in the enacted SFY 2026-27 budget, which could be structured through the County Infrastructure Grant Program, relief from assigned counsel costs, relief from preschool special education costs, or support for competency restoration expenses—representing a fraction of the new investment proposed for municipalities and New York City in the current budget cycle, and

WHEREAS, such relief can be structured in a manner that addresses the most pressing cost drivers facing counties, including but not limited to assigned counsel under Article 18-B, preschool special education, Safety Net, and CPL § 730 competency restoration, or through direct unrestricted aid, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges the Governor and the Legislature to provide parity with the proposed increases for other municipalities through direct fiscal relief for county governments in the enacted SFY 2026-27 State Budget, commensurate with the significant new investments in municipalities proposed through the 30-day amendments and one-house budget resolutions, and

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

June 1, 2026

Operations Committee: 5-11-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING LOCAL AUTHORITY OVER DATA CENTER SITING

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence infrastructure has accelerated the construction of large-scale data centers across the United States, with New York State increasingly identified as a target market for such development, and

WHEREAS, according to the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), large load projects—many of which are associated with data centers and other energy-intensive industries—grew from approximately 6,800 megawatts in the interconnection queue in September 2025 to approximately 12,000 megawatts by January 2026, representing a near-doubling in just four months, and

WHEREAS, modern hyperscale data centers are among the most energy-intensive land uses in existence, capable of consuming electricity comparable to mid-sized cities, and data centers already account for an estimated 4.4 percent of annual U.S. electricity consumption—a figure projected to rise substantially by 2030, and

WHEREAS, the addition of large data center loads to the electrical grid has been found to increase electricity costs for all ratepayers, including residential customers, small businesses, and local governments, and

WHEREAS, data centers are also significant consumers of water, with large facilities in some cases using millions of gallons per day for cooling, and

WHEREAS, many New York counties include agricultural lands, rural communities, and watersheds where the land use, water, and energy impacts of large-scale data center development would be particularly consequential, and

WHEREAS, data centers have also generated significant community opposition in localities across the political spectrum, with residents raising concerns about noise from cooling systems, visual impacts, impacts to agricultural and rural landscapes, rising utility costs, impacts on local taxes, and the pace and opacity of approval processes, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy has directed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to finalize a rule—with a deadline of April 30, 2026—that would assert federal jurisdiction over the interconnection of large electrical loads greater than 20 megawatts, an area traditionally regulated by states and localities, and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has taken an increasingly aggressive posture toward state and local regulatory authority, including through an Executive Order directing the establishment of a federal AI Litigation Task Force to challenge state AI laws deemed inconsistent with federal policy and directing agencies to consider conditioning certain discretionary funding on states' regulatory approaches to artificial intelligence, and

WHEREAS, county governments are best positioned to evaluate how data center development interacts with local land use plans, community priorities, infrastructure capacity, long-term economic goals, and must retain meaningful authority to approve, condition, or decline such proposals, and

WHEREAS, local governments must retain meaningful authority over land use decisions affecting data center siting, and counties must have a meaningful role in any state review process affecting county infrastructure, water systems, tax base, and public services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators calls on the Governor and the State Legislature to ensure that any state permitting, environmental review, or approval process for new data center development includes a meaningful and timely role for county governments, and that counties are not preempted from exercising their land use, taxation, and zoning authority with respect to such facilities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators calls on New York's Congressional delegation to oppose federal rulemaking or legislation that would preempt state and local authority over the interconnection, siting, or permitting of large electrical load projects, including data centers, and to ensure that any federal framework preserves meaningful state and local oversight of energy infrastructure decisions affecting New York ratepayers and communities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators supports legislation to require the Office of the State Comptroller to assess and report the cost impacts of data center electrical load on all ratepayers in New York State, and to establish standards ensuring that the costs of grid infrastructure upgrades attributable to data centers are borne by data center operators rather than shifted to residential and commercial ratepayers, and

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

June 1, 2026

Operations Committee: 5-11-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

**RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO
EXPEDITE THE RELEASE OF COVERED LIVES IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE
AND FUNDS TO COUNTIES**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, Chapter 820 of the Laws of 2021 established an Early Intervention Program (EIP) Covered Lives pool funded by an assessment on insurance plans in the amount of \$40 million annually, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this law was to relieve the EIP's heavy fiscal burden on the state and counties from high rates of commercial insurance denials for EI service claims, to improve the EIP for children and families, and to assist providers by relieving some of their administrative duties during service delivery, and

WHEREAS, prior to Covered Lives going into effect, Early Intervention (EI) service claims were paid through three (3) revenue streams—commercial insurance, Medicaid, or out of escrow, depending on the child receiving the service's insurance coverage, and

WHEREAS, counties were responsible for paying 100 percent of the upfront costs of EIP services, not covered by Medicaid or commercial insurance, out of county escrow, with State reimbursement for 49 percent of escrow costs provided later, and

WHEREAS, since Covered Lives went into effect, providers are no longer billing commercial insurance for services provided, and

WHEREAS, the SFY 2027 Executive Budget amends the New York State Health Care Reform Act (HCRA) to make covered lives funding available annually from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2029, and

WHEREAS, counties are now responsible for paying upfront costs for all EIP services not covered by Medicaid out of county escrow, including for services provided to children with commercial insurance and for children who are dually insured by Medicaid and private insurance, and

WHEREAS, the EIP pool funding is intended to offset both the municipal and state share of EIP services not covered by Medicaid, and

WHEREAS, since the inception of Covered Lives payments, counties have not received the full amount expected, with only \$15.4 million of the expected \$20.4 million released to counties annually since Fiscal Year 2023, and

WHEREAS, counties have received limited guidance on the methodology by which Covered Lives funds are distributed, and

WHEREAS, the delay in distributing Covered Lives funds to counties has caused increases to their upfront escrow costs, and

WHEREAS, since the implementation of Covered Lives, the amount of Medicaid reimbursement has significantly decreased, and

WHEREAS, based on the average percent of total EI costs that counties paid from 2014 to 2021, without any Covered Lives funding to offset the loss of commercial insurance reimbursement, counties will be paying an estimated two percent (2%) more in total EI costs in 2027, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Health Care Reform Act (HCRA) designating the Early Intervention Covered Lives Fund requires renewal,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges New York State continue its commitment to this critical program being a shared cost between the state and local governments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to specify that the disbursement methodology of the Covered Lives funding be consistent with the current reimbursement methodology for Early Intervention services, with counties receiving 49 percent of the total Covered Lives amount and New York State receiving 51 percent, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to take measures to expedite the release of the delayed Covered Lives funds owed to counties and municipalities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Bureau of Early Intervention consider amending county escrow agreements to change the payment process so the state provides counties with their Covered Lives share at the beginning of the state fiscal year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NYSDOH Bureau of Early Intervention provide information on how insurance, service claim, and cost data will be maintained at the child level to ensure funds are being applied fairly across municipalities/counties, and

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

June 1, 2026

Operations Committee: 5-11-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

**SUPPORTING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 HOUSING-LINKED WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AND ENSURING COUNTY ACCESS**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, New York faces an acute housing affordability crisis, and adequate water and sewer infrastructure capacity is essential to unlock housing development and redevelopment across the state, and

WHEREAS, counties own and operate regional water and wastewater systems, provide regulatory oversight of drinking water supplies through local health departments, coordinate intermunicipal infrastructure planning, and finance major infrastructure investments, making them indispensable partners in addressing the state's infrastructure challenges, and

WHEREAS, state investment in water infrastructure enables local governments to modernize aging systems, meet evolving federal and state water quality standards, address emerging contaminants, replace lead service lines, and ensure safe, reliable water service for current and future generations, and

WHEREAS, the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027 Executive Budget proposes a five-year, \$3.75 billion commitment to clean water infrastructure, including:

- \$500 million for projects authorized by the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 (CWIA), including the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) and the Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant Program, and
- \$200 million for water infrastructure projects that promote housing preservation and development statewide, and
- \$50 million specifically targeted to water infrastructure projects that promote housing preservation in rural communities, and

WHEREAS, these investments will support municipal wastewater treatment, stormwater management, green infrastructure, nonpoint source abatement, lead service line replacement, septic system upgrades, emerging contaminant remediation, and other critical water quality programs, and

WHEREAS, the \$250 million investment linking water infrastructure to housing preservation and development recognizes that adequate infrastructure capacity is essential to addressing the state's housing challenges, and

WHEREAS, counties are uniquely positioned to leverage these funds for regional projects that serve multiple municipalities and maximize housing development opportunities, yet program eligibility and design details will determine whether counties can effectively access this funding, and

WHEREAS, water infrastructure investments directly support statewide housing goals by removing infrastructure barriers to residential construction, enabling infill development, facilitating brownfield redevelopment, and supporting both urban revitalization and rural community growth, and

WHEREAS, the two percent (2%) property tax cap severely constrains the ability of local governments to self-finance infrastructure improvements, making state investment critical to enabling housing development without unsustainable increases in local taxes and user fees, and

WHEREAS, climate change is intensifying storms and flooding events, requiring resilient water infrastructure that can support both current populations and future housing growth, and

WHEREAS, many rural and fiscally constrained counties face unique challenges in meeting match requirements and navigating competitive grant processes, yet these communities have critical housing and infrastructure needs that must be addressed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators strongly supports the SFY 2027 Executive Budget's \$750 million annual investment in clean water infrastructure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators calls on the Governor and New York State Legislature to explicitly provide that counties are eligible applicants for all water infrastructure funding programs, including the \$250 million for housing-related water infrastructure funding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators strongly supports making the housing-related water infrastructure investment a permanent annual appropriation and urges continued multi-year state commitment to water infrastructure investment at levels sufficient to support the state's housing goals, protect public health, enable economic growth, and meet environmental obligations, and

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

June 1, 2026

Operations Committee: 5-11-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE TO INCREASE THE SALARY CAP FOR
RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES SEEKING PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, under current state law, a retired public employee may only earn up to \$35,000 annually when retained/rehired to a state or local government position without this salary impacting their retirement benefits, and

WHEREAS, any retired public employee salary amount over \$35,000 will result in a decrease in pension payments for the employee, and

WHEREAS, this \$35,000 earnings cap for retired public employees seeking to return to government service has become a significant barrier to addressing staffing shortages, and

WHEREAS, local governments across New York State are grappling with significant workforce challenges across all areas of public service, and

WHEREAS, the ability to recruit and retain qualified employees for positions ranging from public health nurses to assessors and municipal finance officers has become increasingly difficult, particularly in rural areas where specialized expertise is at a premium, and

WHEREAS, this salary cap limitation has been adjusted only once since 2007 and has not kept pace with inflation percentage growth, and

WHEREAS, S.6956-B (Ryan)/A.8720-A (Stirpe) would increase the earnings limitation from \$35,000 to \$50,000, providing local governments with the flexibility to address urgent staffing needs while ensuring that seasoned professionals can afford to return to public service roles without devastating impacts to their retirement benefits, and

WHEREAS, the importance of this reform was demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, when an Executive Order temporarily removed the earnings cap to support staffing continuity and this temporary measure proved vital to maintaining essential services, and

WHEREAS, other public positions have increased this cap for the same reason, such as the State Legislature suspending the cap for retirees working in schools and BOCES through 2027—recognizing the urgent need to expand the public workforce,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators supports S.6956-B (Ryan)/A.8720-A (Stirpe) as it represents more than just a salary adjustment—it is an essential step toward addressing local government staffing challenges that will enable counties, cities, towns, and villages to recruit experienced professionals for hard-to-fill positions in specialized fields like public health, finance, corrections, and social services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators hereby calls on the Governor and the State Legislature to enact legislation supporting an increase in this earnings rate as part of their SFY 2027 state budget negotiations, and

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