

May 11, 2026

St. Lawrence County
Board of Legislators
Board Room and Live via www.stlawco.gov

Full Board
Monday, May 11, 2026
5:10 PM

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

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

Due to extenuating circumstances, Mr. Smithers may attend remotely from 250 Old Route 58 South, Gouverneur, NY.

Legislator Gennett is excused.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Ms. Curran moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Perkins and Ms. Haggard, and carried by a voice vote with nine (9) yes votes and five (5) absent (Smithers, Levato, Webster, Gennett, and Terminelli).

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 183-2026

PROCLAIMING MAY 5TH AS NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

By Ms. Haggard, District 10 and Ms. Curran, District 15

WHEREAS, Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people experience disproportionately high rates of violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and homicide, and

WHEREAS, cases involving missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls are often underreported, inadequately investigated, or unresolved, contributing to a lack of accountability and justice, and

WHEREAS, historical and ongoing systemic inequities, including jurisdictional challenges, lack of resources, and social and economic disparities, have exacerbated the vulnerability of Indigenous communities, and

WHEREAS, May 5th has been nationally recognized as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to honor the lives of those lost, support their families and communities, and raise awareness of this crisis, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is home to members of Indigenous communities, including the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, and recognizes the importance of working collaboratively with Tribal governments and organizations to promote safety, justice, and healing, and

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WHEREAS, according to United States Census data, approximately 1.2% of St. Lawrence County residents identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, representing over 1,000 individuals within the County, and

WHEREAS, the County is adjacent to the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, home to more than 3,600 residents, reflecting a significant and enduring Indigenous presence in the region, and

WHEREAS, increasing public awareness, strengthening intergovernmental cooperation, and supporting prevention and response efforts are critical to addressing this issue and ensuring the protection of Indigenous women and girls,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators hereby proclaims May 5th as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in St. Lawrence County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages residents, community organizations, and public agencies to participate in activities that raise awareness of this issue, support affected families, and promote policies and practices that advance justice and safety for Indigenous communities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Governor Kathy Hochul, Assemblyman Scott Gray, Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Senator Dan Stec, and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 183-2026, seconded by Ms. Haggard and Mr. Reagen, and carried by a voice vote with nine (9) yes votes and five (5) absent (Smithers, Levato, Webster, Gennett, and Terminelli).

RESOLUTION NO. 184-2026

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE NEW YORK
STATE OFFICE OF INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE PROVISION
OF INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES FUNDS FOR THE CONTRACT
PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2021 - DECEMBER 31, 2023**

By Ms. Curran, District 15

WHEREAS, 2021 was the eleventh year of the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services' five (5) year transition to competitive grant funding formula base for Indigent Legal Services Funding, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 53-2012 provided the transition process and authorized the rollover of funds until expended for the Indigent Legal Services Funds, and

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WHEREAS, this contract will provide additional funding for a total of \$511,305 over three (3) years (IA030255 56000) to St. Lawrence County above what has been received to provide funding to improve representation for the indigent population in St. Lawrence County that requests or is appointed counsel for legal matters that qualify, and

WHEREAS, the reimbursement funding for approved items will partially cover an Assistant Public Defender's salary and fringe, a clerical position, and the cost of the Assigned Counsel Administrator, and will provide revenue for expenses for the years identified in the Contract,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services for three (3) years, retroactive to January 1, 2021, for a total of \$511,305, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 184-2026, seconded by Mr. Perkins and Mr. Lightfoot, and carried by a voice vote with nine (9) yes votes and five (5) absent (Smithers, Levato, Webster, Gennett, and Terminelli).

RESOLUTION NO. 185-2026

**APPOINTING ALLAN ROBINSON TO THE VACATED SEAT OF THE
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS, DISTRICT 8**

By Mr. Reagen, District 1; Mr. Forsythe, District 2; Mr. Lightfoot, District 3;
Mr. Sheridan, District 4; Mr. Smithers, District 5; Mr. Denesha, District 6;
Mr. Perkins, District 7; Mr. Webster, District 11; Mr. Burke, District 12;
Mr. Gennett, District 13; and Ms. Curran, District 15

WHEREAS, former Legislator Benjamin Hull, having resigned his Position as Legislator on May 5, 2026, and by virtue thereof the seat from District 8 having been vacated, and

WHEREAS, an ad hoc committee of the remaining Republican Legislators has been appointed by the Chair of the Board of Legislators on May 4, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the ad hoc committee has submitted its recommendation to fill the vacancy created to this Board, and

WHEREAS, by the wording of Local Law 7 for the Year 1978, the Board of Legislators is bound to follow that recommendation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators, upon recommendation of the ad hoc committee, Allan Robinson is hereby appointed effective May 11, 2026, to fill the vacancy of the Legislator for District 8, and pursuant to Section 42 of the New York State Public Officers Law, that this appointment will expire on December 31, 2026.

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Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 185-2026, seconded by Mr. Perkins, Ms. Curran, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Reagen, and Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a voice vote with nine (9) yes votes and five (5) absent (Smithers, Levato, Webster, Gennett, and Terminelli).

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Forsythe adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 5:16 p.m., as there was no further business.

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SWEARING IN CEREMONY - JUDGE STORIE: Mr. Robinson was sworn in.

PHOTOS