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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Ms. Curran called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

It was announced that due to extenuating circumstances, Legislator Smithers will be attending remotely from 250 Old Route 58 South, Gouverneur, NY.

It was announced that Legislator Gennett is excused.

Mr. Forsythe moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Burke and Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Gennett).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - It was announced that the minutes from April 13th will be approved at the Operations Committee Meeting next month.

3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – RICK JOHNSON

A. Modifying the 2026 Budget for the Purchase of Audiovisual Equipment and Network Core Switch for Information Technology – Mr. Denesha moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe and Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Lightfoot requested a Roll Call vote.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with nine (9) yes votes, five (5) no votes (Curran, Lightfoot, Sheridan, Perkins, and Webster), and one (1) absent (Gennett).

4. PLANNING – JASON PFOTENHAUER

A. Adding Four Parcels to Agricultural District 1 Totaling 132 acres – Mr. Denesha moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe and Mr. Reagen, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Gennett).

5. PROBATION – TIM LEPAGE

A. Arming of Probation Officers Update (Discussion) – Mr. LePage

6. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – RUTH DOYLE

Ms. Doyle clarified the resolution "Authorization to Abolish a Keyboard Specialist Position and Create and Fill a Public Health Program Aide Position" from Public Health presented at the Services Committee Meeting.

Ms. Doyle expressed thanks to the Board for the approval of the Indigent Defense contract at the Special Board Meeting and updated the Board about the future of Indigent Defense in

St. Lawrence County. Ms. Doyle stated that a handout regarding the Hantavirus was put in legislators' mailboxes. Ms. Doyle congratulated Mr. Robinson on joining the Board. She reported that she met with Soil & Water regarding the Emerald Ashbore Tree Removal.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old 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 – Mr. Lightfoot moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha and Mr. Burke.

Ms. Doyle was recognized to speak about the penalties regarding exceeding the tax cap.

The motion carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Gennett).

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 – Mr. Webster moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Sheridan.

Mr. Smithers moved to table this resolution, seconded by Ms. Terminelli, and carried by a voice vote with ten (10) yes votes, four (4) no votes (Haggard, Levato, Forsythe, and Reagen), and one (1) absent (Gennett).

C. Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Address Rising Mandated Costs by Ensuring County Parity with Increased Municipal Aid – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Gennett).

D. Resolution Affirming Local Authority Over Data Center Siting – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Burke, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, one (1) no vote (Terminelli), and one (1) absent (Gennett).

E. Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Expedite the Release of Covered Lives Implementation Guidance and Funds to Counties – Ms. Haggard moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Burke and Mr. Forsythe, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Gennett).

F. Supporting State Fiscal Year 2026-27 Housing-Linked Water Infrastructure Funding and Ensuring County Access – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Burke.

Jason Pfotenhauer, Director of Planning, was recognized to add context to the resolution.

The motion carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Gennett).

G. Resolution Calling on the State to Increase the Salary Cap for Retired Public Employees Seeking Public Employment – Ms. Haggard moved to forward this resolution to Full Board, seconded by Mr. Burke.

Ms. Doyle was recognized to add context to the resolution.

Ms. Haggard called the question, seconded by Ms. Terminelli, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, one (1) no vote (Forsythe), and one (1) absent (Gennett).

The motion to forward the resolution to Full Board carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, three (3) no votes (Forsythe, Perkins, and Webster), and one (1) absent (Gennett).

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

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

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

E. Environmental Management Council (Terminelli) – Ms. Terminelli

F. Fire Advisory Board (Denesha) – Mr. Denesha

G. Jury Board (Sheridan) – No report

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

I. Planning Board (Hull) – No report

Mr. Burke was recognized to bring forward New Business regarding citizen difficulty accessing local mental health care services due to not having a referral from a primary care physician, and requested a resolution be drafted to address roadblocks preventing access to mental health care.

Ms. Haggard brought forward new business, stating that she knows many people who cannot find a primary care physician in the local area who is accepting patients.

Ms. Terminelli brought forward new business, stating that there may be options through health insurance for telehealth visits to get referrals to other healthcare providers.

Mr. Forsythe moved to go to Executive Session at 7:17 p.m., to discuss negotiations and appointments, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot and Mr. Webster, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Gennett).

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Haggard moved to go to Open Session at 7:38 p.m., seconded by Mr. Reagen, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Gennett).

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Forsythe moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Reagen, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Gennett).

Chair Curran adjourned the Operations Committee Meeting at 7:38 p.m., as there was no further business.