ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS AND LIVE VIA WWW.STLAWCO.GOV
6:00 PM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **ROLL CALL**

III. **PRAYER FOLLOWED BY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

IV. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES -** June 1, 2026 and July 6, 2026

VI. **COMMUNICATIONS**

VII. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** "Any citizen wanting to address the Board is asked to stand at the microphone and state their name before beginning their talk. The citizen participation will be in the form of an oral address directed to the members of the Board. This part of the Agenda is not a time for audio, visual, power point presentations, or performances. The address will be limited to a time of five minutes."

VIII. **PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

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2. Mr. Reagen Pg. 6	**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF SHIRLEY EVA (RISH) GARVEY**
3. Mr. Forsythe Pg. 8	**COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORISTS ACTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001**
4. Ms. Curran Pg. 9	**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN AN APPLICATION TO APPLY FOR NYS HOME FUNDING**
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RC	6. Ms. Curran Pg. 11	**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH TOKIO MARINE HCC FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE AND MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE LIABILITY AND CASUALTY RESERVE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
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	11. Mr. Webster Pg. 17	**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN AN INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION (CAI) EXTENDED FUNDING FOR NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS PROGRAM**
	12. Mr. Webster Pg. 18	**AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE JUUL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**
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RC	16.	Mr. Lightfoot Pg. 24	**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 4 FOR THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SNOW & ICE AGREEMENT (D014745) FOR THE 2025/2026 SEASON DUE TO INCREASED LABOR, MATERIAL, AND EQUIPMENT COSTS AND MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS**
RC	17.	Mr. Lightfoot Pg. 25	**MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE FOR ADVERTISING**
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RC	19.	Mr. Lightfoot Pg. 28	**MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE TO COMPLETE THE NECESSARY RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SURROGATE BUILDING**
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RC	21.	Mr. Lightfoot Pg. 30	**AUTHORIZING AN INTERFUND LOAN TO THE SOLID WASTE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT**
	22.	Mr. Lightfoot Pg. 32	**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH PATRIOT TOWERS, INC. FOR LAND AND SITE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS INCLUDING EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION FOR THE INTEROPERABILITY TOWER PROJECT IN COOPER HILL (NYPA) TOWER SITE IN PITCAIRN**

23.	Mr. Reagen Mr. Forsythe Ms. Terminelli Ms. Curran Pg. 33	**OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF LABOR AND DELIVERY, NUCLEAR MEDICINE, AND CERTAIN PRIMARY CARE SERVICES OPERATED BY NORTH STAR HEALTH ALLIANCE AT CLAXTON-HEPBURN MEDICAL CENTER AND ITS AFFILIATED HEALTH CENTERS, AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

IX. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIII. CHAIR'S APPOINTMENTS

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

August 3, 2026

Services Committee: 7-20-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

RECOGNIZING AUGUST AS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

By Mr. Webster, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, immunizations are one of the most effective public health interventions for preventing serious illness, disability, and death from vaccine-preventable diseases, and

WHEREAS, vaccines protect individuals across the lifespan and help safeguard communities by reducing the spread of infectious diseases, particularly among vulnerable populations, and

WHEREAS, maintaining strong immunization rates is essential to preventing outbreaks of certain diseases such as measles that were once common and, in some cases, deadly, and

WHEREAS, access to accurate, evidence-based information about vaccines is critical to supporting informed health decisions and public confidence in immunization programs, and

WHEREAS, National Immunization Awareness Month is observed each August to highlight the importance of staying up to date on recommended vaccinations for people of all ages, and

WHEREAS, this observance provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of healthcare professionals and public health workers who promote, administer, and support immunization efforts, and

WHEREAS, individuals who have concerns about vaccinations are encouraged to discuss their particular circumstances with their health care provider,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators recognizes August as National Immunization Awareness Month.

August 3, 2026

Full Board: 8-3-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF SHIRLEY EVA (RISH) GARVEY

By Mr. Reagen, District 1

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

WHEREAS, the County of St. Lawrence recognizes with great respect and admiration the contributions that all people, including older adults, give to our communities, and

WHEREAS, Shirley Eva (Rish) Garvey was born on July 31, 1926, in Ogdensburg, NY to her parents, Joe and Elizabeth (Bessie)(Miller) Rish, and

WHEREAS, the paternal grandparents of Shirley arrived in America from Calabria, Italy at Ellis Island, where her family name of Rosignuolo was changed at Ellis Island to Rish, and

WHEREAS, Shirley had two sisters; Rita and June and two brothers; Willard and Joe, and Shirley met Harry Garvey, and they wed on May 19, 1946, and

WHEREAS, they had seven (7) children; twins, Richard and Robert, Linda, Susan, Harry, Debra, and Cynthia, and made sure the children went to Notre Dame Church each week with her, where each child eventually was baptized, and

WHEREAS, Shirley is the matriarch of five (5) generations, with seven (7) children, nineteen (19) grandchildren, thirty-three (33) great-grandchildren and nine (9) great-great-grandchildren, and

WHEREAS, Shirley has a strong love for her family and children, and she owned a large collection of matching hats, gloves, and shoes, and

WHEREAS, Shirley loved to watch basketball and baseball games, and

WHEREAS, Shirley attended St. Mary's Academy in Ogdensburg, NY, and at the age of eighteen (18), she left school and began working at Loblaw's Grocery store, but left to work at Newberry's, beginning as a cashier and working her way into running the whole millinery department until the 1960s while raising her children, and then she went to work at the Diamond National Company making food containers and paper plates until the company closed in 1978, and

WHEREAS, after Diamond National Company closed, Shirley went to work for her brother, Joe Rish, as a cashier at the restaurant he owned with his brother-in-law Bud Philips, which is Philips Diner, and

WHEREAS, Shirley loved working the afternoon shift at Philip's Diner because she met so many people, and she became locally known to many, many people as "gram", and she worked at the diner until she retired at the age of seventy-five (75), and her family has enjoyed the Seaway Festival parade from the sidewalk in front of the diner for well over fifty (50) years, and

WHEREAS, Shirley spent her retirement years enjoying going to the casinos, bingo, shopping, going out to eat, and car rides in the country, because she never had a driver's license of her own, and on one of her later birthdays, the family arranged a surprise ride in a limousine to the casino for her, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators wishes to honor this St. Lawrence County Centenarian with the sincerest congratulations and best wishes for many more happy years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators recognizes the 100th birthday of Shirley Eva (Rish) Garvey.

August 3, 2026

Full Board: 8-3-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORISTS ACTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

By Mr. Forsythe, District 2

WHEREAS, twenty-five (25) years ago, on September 11, 2001, America was suddenly and brutally attacked by terrorists, and these terrorists hijacked and destroyed four (4) civilian aircraft, crashing two (2) of them into the World Trade Center in New York City, a third into the Pentagon outside of Washington, DC, and the fourth in a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and

WHEREAS, thousands of Americans were killed and/or injured as a result of these attacks, including passengers and crew of the four (4) aircraft, workers in the World Trade Center and in the Pentagon, first responders, rescue workers, and bystanders, and

WHEREAS, these cowardly acts were by far the deadliest terrorist attacks ever in the United States, and by targeting symbols of American strength and success, were intended to intimidate the nation and weaken its resolve, and

WHEREAS, these horrific events have affected Americans, and continue to take a toll as thousands of people, especially first responders, have developed and died from diseases and illnesses related to exposure to toxic dust, smoke, and debris at Ground Zero and in lower Manhattan, and

WHEREAS, the events of September 11, 2001 have not only affected the United States, but the entire world, impacting daily life today, including enhanced airport security measures, and

WHEREAS, it is important that we remember the September 11, 2001 attacks and the spirit of the American people, one of the best ways to show the world that the people of the United States will always stand tall and proud,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators commemorates the 25th anniversary of the terrorist events that occurred on September 11, 2001, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators calls upon all Americans, Americans of diverse religions, cultures, and nationalities, to come together once again to remember, reflect, and to “Never Forget” so that future generations will know that Americans can and will stand together against anyone attacking the United States.

August 3, 2026

Operations Committee: 7-13-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN AN APPLICATION TO APPLY FOR NYS HOME FUNDING

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, funds are available from the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR) to expand the supply of decent, safe, and affordable housing in New York State under the New York State HOME Program, and

WHEREAS, applicants for NYS HOME funds may be units of local government, including counties, that demonstrate the capacity to develop and operate a qualifying program/project, show local need, and have recent and relevant residential housing program experience, and

WHEREAS, the Planning Office has experience in the development, delivery, and administration of housing-related programs, but needs additional capacity to administer and deliver such programs, and

WHEREAS, New York State has designated Rural Preservation Companies (RPCs) to which it provides financial and technical assistance to provide safe, healthy, and affordable housing for families throughout New York State, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc. (CDP) is designated by New York State as the RPC serving St. Lawrence County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign an application to apply for NYS HOME funds, and the Chair to sign necessary documentation for application and administration, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon the grant being awarded, the Board of Legislators will consider a resolution to accept the grant, modify the budget, and authorize program delivery and grant administration services, both of which are reimbursable through the grant, and to close out the project when completed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon the grant being awarded, the Board of Legislators will consider a resolution authorizing the Chair to sign a subrecipient agreement with St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc. (CDP) for program delivery, and for partial grant administration services.

August 3, 2026

Operations Committee: 7-13-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

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, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2026

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, 2024 was the fourteenth (14th) year of the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services' transition to a 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

WHEREAS, the contract requested will provide additional funding for a total of $766,959 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 the compensation and benefits of one (1) Assistant Public Defender, one (1) clerical position, the cost of the contract for the Assigned Counsel Administrator, and the annual cost of the NYSDA Public Defender Case Management System user licenses, and will provide revenue for these items and other that would reduce county 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, 2024, for a total of $766,959, upon approval of the County Attorney.

August 3, 2026

Operations Committee: 7-13-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH TOKIO MARINE HCC FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE AND MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE LIABILITY AND CASUALTY RESERVE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, interest has been shown by the Board of Legislators for the vetting and evaluation for options related to the cybersecurity insurance environment, and

WHEREAS, public sector organizations, including local governments, faced a 65% year-over-year increase in targeted ransomware attacks, with the average breach costing millions to mitigate, and

WHEREAS, the adoption rate of insurance protecting against and planning for cybersecurity for U.S. local governments has increased almost forty percent (40%) since 2021, from 54% to 92%, and

WHEREAS, NYSAC recommended NFP Property & Casualty Services, Inc. (NFP) as the broker of choice for their experience providing such insurance to municipalities across the state and country, and

WHEREAS, a competitive process was undertaken to ensure the most competitive rates could be reviewed within the context of meeting the needs of the County and NFP approached insurance companies for proposals that could meet the scope requested by the County, and

WHEREAS, these proposals were reviewed and evaluated by the Director of Information Technology in concert with the broker, NFP and the virtual Chief Information Security Officer hired by the County to evaluate the proposals for the best value and appropriateness to meet the needs of the County, and

WHEREAS, the vendor recommended is Tokio Marine HCC (TMHCC) who has agreed to bond the County and provide $5 million coverage for all areas with reduced coverage for ransomware and cyber extortion loss pending security steps to be completed by the end of August, for a contract period of September 1, 2026 - August 31, 2027,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Tokio Marine HCC for cybersecurity insurance, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2026 Budget for the Liability & Casualty Reserve and Information Technology, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

LR019904 49700	Liab/Cas Contingency Account	$44,000

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

LR019894 41400	Liab Other Insurance	$44,000

August 3, 2026

Services Committee: 7-20-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A RENEWAL CONTRACT WITH ENSORA HEALTH (DBA, TEN ELEVEN GROUP, LLC) FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES' BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD AND BILLING SOFTWARE PLATFORM

By Mr. Webster, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 43-2021 authorized the Chair to sign a contract with Ten Eleven Group for a behavioral health electronic health record and billing system, and

WHEREAS, this software platform is used for clinical documentation, billing practices, scheduling, and also interfaces with the electronic prescribing module, call reminder system, Central Registry, and OASAS Client Data System, and

WHEREAS, when purchased, Therapy Brands was the parent company of Ten Eleven, LLC., known for providing software and services to mental and behavioral health therapists, subsequently, in April 2025, the company rebranded as Ensora Health, and

WHEREAS, the monthly fee for the electronic health record is split amongst the department programs based on the number of users (Account #'s A11, A13, A14, A31, A32, & A33 – 42004), and

WHEREAS, this renewal contract will be for a one-year period, effective June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a renewal contract with Ensora Health (DBA, Ten Eleven Group, LLC) for Community Services' behavioral health electronic health record and billing software platform, upon approval of the County Attorney.

August 3, 2026

Services Committee: 7-20-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT A STIPEND RELATED TO PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW YORK STATE 1115 WAIVER SESSION

By Mr. Webster, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the North Country Initiative is a partnership of hospitals, independent physicians and specialty care, behavioral health, and community-based organizations, working together to reform the healthcare system across northern New York in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties, and

WHEREAS, the New York State 1115 Waiver Program aims to improve access to health care for the Medicaid population, improve the quality of health services delivered, expand coverage to additional New Yorkers, and support the delivery of health-related social need services, and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department participated in a New York State 1115 Waiver session hosted by the North Country Initiative on May 7, 2026, intended to support collaboration, planning, and implementation efforts related to Medicaid transformation and public health initiatives, and

WHEREAS, as a result of this participation, the Public Health Department has been notified retroactively that the North Country Initiative is awarding the Department a stipend in the amount of five-hundred ($500) dollars, (PP027055 55000),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Public Health Department to accept a stipend related to participation in the New York State 1115 Waiver Session.

August 3, 2026

Services Committee: 7-20-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT WITH PANDADOC FOR E-SIGNATURE SOFTWARE FOR THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

By Mr. Webster, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Early Intervention Program supports and promotes the development of infants and toddlers (birth to 3 years of age) who have special needs related to developmental delays and enhances the capacity of families to meet these needs, and

WHEREAS, signatures from parents/guardians and service providers/caseworkers are required on multiple documents throughout the time period services are being provided, and

WHEREAS, use of E-Signature Software facilitates securing required parent/guardian signatures, saves staff time and money by reducing travel for the sole purpose of obtaining signatures on updated documents, and ensures services adhere to the strict guidelines of the program, and

WHEREAS, the Department has been successfully using PandaDoc to obtain e-signatures since October 15, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the term of the contract will be one (1) year, November 22, 2026, through November 22, 2027, at a total cost of $6,468 (PE040594 42004),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract for the Pubilc Health Department with PandaDoc for E-Signature Software for the Early Intervention Program, upon approval of the County Attorney.

August 3, 2026

Services Committee: 7-20-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING WITH RECIPIENTS OF ACCESSIBILITY EQUIPMENT AND/OR ENHANCEMENTS TO RECREATIONAL SPACES IN THE COMMUNITY THAT HAVE BEEN PURCHASED WITH THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS COMMUNITY ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION GRANT AWARD

By Mr. Webster, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health has renewed the Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Program (CYSHCN) Grant, and

WHEREAS, the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program provides resources and referrals for children in the community to ensure access to healthcare, insurance, information, and support services, and

WHEREAS, the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program Grant, with additional funding to support Community Accessibility and Inclusion (CAI) activities (PE044895 57000 CSHN), and

WHEREAS, Community Accessibility and Inclusion projects for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, implemented by Local Health Departments, should focus on one of both of the following: enhancement of physical spaces to support CYSHCN and their families; and/or creation of recreational or social support opportunities for CYSHCN, and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department has purchased and will continue to purchase accessibility equipment to distribute to and/or enhance community spaces to support CYSHCN and families utilizing the CAI funds awarded by the CYSHCN Program Grant,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign Memorandums of Understanding with recipients of accessibility equipment and/or enhancements to recreational spaces that have been purchased with the CYSHCN Community Accessibility and Inclusion Grant Award, upon approval of the County Attorney.

August 3, 2026

Services Committee: 7-20-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN AN INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION (CAI) EXTENDED FUNDING FOR NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS PROGRAM

By Mr. Webster, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN) provides resources and referrals for children and their families in the community to ensure access to healthcare, insurance, information, and support services, and

WHEREAS, as a participant in the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program for the 2025-2030 funding cycle, in year one, the Public Health Department was awarded an additional one-time funding of $38,945 (PE044895 57000 CSHN) under the newly developed Community Accessibility and Inclusion (CAI) for the CYSHCN Program, and

WHEREAS, funding is being extended for years two and three of the five-year cycle (10/1/2026 – 9/30/2028) for the CAI aspect of the CYSHCN Program, the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department will receive a projected award amount of $38,138 (PE044895 57000 CSHN), for grant year 10/01/2026 – 9/30/2027, or more as additional funds may become available,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign an Intent to Participate in Community Accessibility and Inclusion extended funding for New York State Department of Health Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program, upon approval of the County Attorney.

August 3, 2026

Services Committee: 7-20-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE JUUL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

By Mr. Webster, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is committed to supporting programs and initiatives that promote the health, safety, and well-being of county residents, and

WHEREAS, the Office of the New York State Attorney General entered into a settlement agreement with JUUL Labs, Inc. relating to the company's marketing, sale, and promotion of electronic nicotine delivery products, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the JUUL settlement agreement, funds have been allocated to counties and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to address the impacts of youth vaping and nicotine use through approved prevention, education, cessation, enforcement, and other allowable initiatives as specified by the New York State Attorney General's Office, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County has been awarded JUUL settlement funds in the total amount of $383,711.63, to be disbursed in eight (8) increments annually beginning in June of each year upon certification by the county that funds shall be used for the purposes of remediating the harm caused by JUUL consistent with the Attorney General's Approved Uses, and

WHEREAS, the distribution and expenditure of these settlement funds shall be administered in accordance with the requirements, restrictions, and allowable uses established by the New York State Attorney General's Office and the JUUL settlement agreement, including the allocation of funds toward approved activities, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County will utilize the funds in accordance with the settlement terms and applicable guidance provided by the Office of the New York State Attorney General, ensuring that expenditures align with the approved purposes and distribution requirements of the JUUL settlement agreement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the acceptance of funds from the Office of the New York State Attorney General for the JUUL Settlement Agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the distribution and use of said funds in accordance with the terms, conditions, and allowable uses established by the settlement agreement with additional resolutions to be presented for this purpose, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign the annual certifications to the Attorney General on behalf of St. Lawrence County, upon approval of the County Attorney.

August 3, 2026

Services Committee: 7-20-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

ACCEPTING FUNDS FROM THE WALMART SPARK GOOD LOCAL GRANT FOR THE "HUMANS DON'T HIBERNATE" CAMPAIGN

By Mr. Webster, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department is committed to promoting the health and wellness of county residents through community-based initiatives, and

WHEREAS, the "Humans Don't Hibernate" Campaign is a wellness initiative designed to engage residents in healthy activities during the last quarter of the year, encouraging physical activity, nutrition, and community involvement, and

WHEREAS, the Campaign will launch at the Nicandri Nature Center in Massena with the third annual 5K/Fun Day, an event open to people of all ages and abilities, and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department has been awarded Walmart Spark Good Local Grant funds in the amount of $500 (PP027055 55000) in support of this initiative, and

WHEREAS, the grant funds will be used to provide resources to enhance the event, including event staff lanyards, canvas tote bags, race bibs, printing costs, and other event-focused supplies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes accepting funds from the Walmart Spark Good Local Grant for the "Humans Don't Hibernate" Campaign.

August 3, 2026

Finance Committee: 7-27-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION SELF-INSURANCE APPORTIONMENT FOR THE YEAR 2027

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the budget for the St. Lawrence County Self-Insured Plan that manages the Workers' Compensation Program has been developed for the year 2027, and

WHEREAS, the allocation of costs is to be provided annually to plan participants by September 1, 2026,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the following apportionment of $3,650,000 for the Workers' Compensation Program for the year 2027 to be applied to the participating municipalities in St. Lawrence County:

	2026 Apportionment	2027 Apportionment	Increase/Decrease (-)
St. Lawrence County	$ 1,431,662	$ 1,414,716	$ 16,946 (-)
Soil and Water	$ 1,611	$ 1,004	$ 607 (-)
CITY:			
Ogdensburg	$ 326,759	$ 296,314	$ 30,445 (-)
TOWNS:			
Brasher	$ 36,824	$ 36,978	$ 154
Canton	$ 54,585	$ 52,001	$ 2,584 (-)
Clare	$ 7,060	$ 6,912	$ 148 (-)
Clifton	$ 34,522	$ 30,390	$ 4,132 (-)
DeKalb	$ 27,991	$ 27,870	$ 121 (-)
DePeyster	$ 13,490	$ 12,463	$ 1,027 (-)
Edwards	$ 25,904	$ 26,244	$ 340
Fine	$ 41,336	$ 38,481	$ 2,855 (-)
Fowler	$ 29,870	$ 36,277	$ 6,407
Gouverneur	$ 40,688	$ 39,951	$ 737 (-)
Hammond	$ 16,506	$ 16,387	$ 119 (-)
Hermon	$ 30,109	$ 32,155	$ 2,046
Hopkinton	$ 21,769	$ 25,849	$ 4,080
Lawrence	$ 29,158	$ 28,133	$ 1,025 (-)
Lisbon	$ 53,575	$ 58,816	$ 5,241
Louisville	$ 56,951	$ 57,565	$ 614
Macomb	$ 18,619	$ 17,191	$ 1,428 (-)
Madrid	$ 26,291	$ 26,528	$ 237
Massena	$ 133,449	$ 128,937	$ 4,512 (-)
Morristown	$ 40,132	$ 42,814	$ 2,682

Norfolk	$ 38,814	$ 47,786	$ 8,972
Oswegatchie	$ 38,760	$ 47,222	$ 8,462
Parishville	$ 44,078	$ 54,325	$ 10,247
Pierrepont	$ 43,347	$ 44,115	$ 768
Pitcairn	$ 14,865	$ 14,898	$ 33
Potsdam	$ 94,296	$ 85,732	$ 8,564 (-)
Rossie	$ 12,138	$ 13,527	$ 1,389
Russell	$ 35,689	$ 33,831	$ 1,858 (-)
Stockholm	$ 40,489	$ 37,107	$ 3,382 (-)
Waddington	$ 22,021	$ 22,700	$ 679
VILLAGES:			
Canton	$ 95,475	$ 138,192	$ 42,717
Gouverneur	$ 78,161	$ 84,313	$ 6,152
Hammond	$ 665	$ 982	$ 317
Heuvelton	$ 14,115	$ 13,931	$ 184 (-)
Massena	$ 331,205	$ 330,214	$ 991 (-)
Norwood	$ 32,641	$ 25,271	$ 7,370 (-)
Potsdam	$ 194,291	$ 187,372	$ 6,919 (-)
Rensselaer Falls	$ 526	$ 862	$ 336
Richville	$ 18	$ 790	$ 772
Waddington	$ 18,545	$ 12,805	$ 5,740 (-)
TOTAL:	$ 3,649,000	$ 3,649,951	$ 951

August 3, 2026

Finance Committee: 7-27-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO CONVEY POST-JUDGMENT TAX FORECLOSURE ACQUIRED PROPERTY BACK TO THE REDEEMING TAX DELINQUENT

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2024, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into law the New York State 2024-2025 Budget, and

WHEREAS, the enacted budget reformed the property tax enforcement laws of New York State to bring them into compliance with the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, Tyler v. Hennepin County, Minnesota, 598 U.S. 631 (2023), by providing that when tax-delinquent property is sold, any excess proceeds be returned to the former owner or owners, and where appropriate, to lienors, and

WHEREAS, this decision requires any surplus resulting from tax foreclosure sales to be distributed to the former owners and lienors, subject to claims incurred by the taxing authority for administrative costs and remediation, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Tyler Decision and the passage of the State Budget with modifications to Article 11 of the Real Property Tax Law, the Board of Legislators adopted Local Law No. 4 for the Year 2024, which amended the policy regarding disposition of acquired tax delinquent parcels and the date of last redemption, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators may permit redemption of tax delinquent parcels, after judgment has been obtained by the tax enforcing officer in the judicial tax foreclosure proceeding but prior to auction, by passage of a resolution authorizing the Chair and tax enforcing entity to execute any and all documents necessary to convey the foreclosed property back into possession of the redeeming tax delinquent, and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign all documents necessary to convey post-judgment tax foreclosure acquired property back to the redeeming tax delinquent, upon the approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prior owners who have made payment of delinquent taxes to redeem property acquired by St. Lawrence County in foreclosure for the year 2026 will be paid toward the amount of delinquent taxes, plus any assessed penalties, interests and fees, upon approval of the County Treasurer.

August 3, 2026

Finance Committee: 7-27-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 4 FOR THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SNOW & ICE AGREEMENT (D014745) FOR THE 2025/2026 SEASON DUE TO INCREASED LABOR, MATERIAL, AND EQUIPMENT COSTS AND MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 131-2025 authorized the Chair to execute a five (5) year Snow and Ice Agreement (Contract D014745) with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), and

WHEREAS, NYSDOT has presented Supplemental Agreement No. 4 to adjust the estimated expenditures for the 2025/2026 season, due to rising labor, material, and equipment costs, and

WHEREAS, estimated expenditures for the 2025/2026 winter season exceeded original estimates by an additional $1,147,070.90 (HS023025 55000), and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County to approve Supplemental Agreement No. 4 to ensure continued program participation and full reimbursement for services rendered, and

WHEREAS, the resulting excess revenue will be used to offset the corresponding increase in appropriations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign Supplemental Agreement No. 4 for the New York State Department of Transportation Snow & Ice Agreement (D014745) for the 2025/2026 season due to increased labor, material, and equipment costs, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2026 Budget for the Department of Highways, as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

HS023025 55000	H LR State Snow Removal	$1,147,071

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HS051444 40600	H Snow Machinery Rental	$150,000
HS051444 465CO	H Snow 50-59 Sub-contracts	700,000
HS051444 454WM	H Snow Winter Maintenance Mate	297,071
		$1,147,071

August 3, 2026

Finance Committee: 7-27-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE FOR ADVERTISING

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the County incurs costs for publishing local laws and advertising vacancies via newspapers and online, and

WHEREAS, according to McKinney's County Law § 214(2), the Clerk of the Board is required to publish the entirety of newly adopted local laws in the designated news publications, and

WHEREAS, the County has adopted two (2) local laws so far this year, one of the laws adopted includes the lengthy Local Law B, "The St. Lawrence County Room Occupancy Tax and Rescinding all Previous Hotel and Motel Occupancy Tax Local Laws", and

WHEREAS, additionally, there is a need to advertise for vacant Department Head positions when they occur, often unanticipated in the Budget, which may be advertised in multiple newspapers across the State, and

WHEREAS, the advertising costs for 2026 have exceeded the amount budgeted for the year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2026 Budget for the County Administrator's Office for advertising, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700	B SPEC Contingency Account	$20,000

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

BO010404 43005	B CLB Advertising Fees & Expenses	$20,000

August 3, 2026

Finance Committee: 7-27-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTING THE MISSION STATEMENT, THE VISION STATEMENT, AND VALUES FOR ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, for several years, there has been interest in working to define important principles that represent St. Lawrence County in one mission, clarify one vision, and identify the values held in high regard by County Government, and

WHEREAS, for the first time, the Board of Legislators encouraged staff to prepare recommendations for the adoption of these core principles to include a mission, a vision, and to focus on the values that will define the County, and

WHEREAS, this opportunity was embraced by the County Administrator and the Staff began working early in 2026 on preparing the recommendations that are included in this resolution, and

WHEREAS, the six (6) month process that was guided by a facilitator assisted staff in making determinations about where the County has been, what the aspirations are for the future, and what values are held dear to guide the path to successfully implementing these principles, and

WHEREAS, the recommendation for the County Mission Statement is, "Serve the people of St. Lawrence County by fostering safety, well-being, and quality of life through open, responsible government," and

WHEREAS, the recommended Vision Statement for the County is, "From the St. Lawrence River to the Adirondack Mountains, a safe, resilient community where people thrive and are valued," and

WHEREAS, the values identified as important by St. Lawrence County form the acronym, TRUST, and they include: Team(work), Responsibility, Unity, Service, and Transparency, and

WHEREAS, the value of **T**EAM is identified through the following statement, "We effectively work together celebrating progress that supports an evolving and resilient government," and

WHEREAS, the value of **R**ESPONSIBILITY is identified through the following statement, "We manage public resources through informed decisions and take ownership of our actions," and

WHEREAS, the value of **U**NITY is identified through the following statement, "We are all in this together, united by a common vision and a commitment to a collaborative process to achieve shared success," and

WHEREAS, the value of **S**ERVICE is defined as, "We provide responsive, compassionate, and quality support to our community," and

WHEREAS, the value of TRANSPARENCY is identified as "We communicate openly and are committed to clear, ethical decision-making," and

WHEREAS, working as twenty-four (24) departments or different business units, many of the individual departments have their own mission and vision, this approach is to unify all departments under one mission, one vision, and shared values for the County as a whole, and

WHEREAS, in an effort to keep these principles current and accurately representing County Government, it would be recommended to review, within the first year of each term to determine if the mission/vision and values to affirm or revise to represent the changes for the Board of Legislators,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the adoption of the Mission Statement, the Vision Statement, and the Values for St. Lawrence County Government as follows;

Mission: Serve the people of St. Lawrence County by fostering safety, well-being, and quality of life through open, responsible government;

Vision: From the St. Lawrence River to the Adirondack Mountains, a safe, resilient community where people thrive and are valued; and

Values: TRUST Acronym Meaning: Team(work), Responsibility, Unity, Service, and Transparency

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the adoption of the Mission, the Vision, and Values will immediately be put into use through creating and implementing new strategies for retention, given how fortunate the County is to have its workforce who has demonstrated dedication, success, and proficiency in their chosen fields of work, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that new strategies will be adopted as the platform for recruiting new employees with greater intention to develop their career interests and path to success from the day they begin work with St. Lawrence County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these principles will be reviewed every four (4) years, or in the first year of each new term of the Board of Legislators to confirm that it continues to accurately represent St. Lawrence County Government.

August 3, 2026

Finance Committee: 7-27-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE TO COMPLETE THE NECESSARY RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SURROGATE BUILDING

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, over the last two years, there have been department relocations that have provided an opportunity to review the needs of the Surrogate Building and assign work to complete updates and improvements to the space, and

WHEREAS, these improvements associated with this project have been a combination of deferred maintenance and important updates to allow staff to work efficiently in the building, and they include; the replacement of the boiler heating system, the front steps, the replacement of windows and doors, completion of asbestos abatement, and carpet and vinyl tile replacement/installation, and

WHEREAS, it is also recommended that the painting of all handrails on the handicap ramp to match the new steps, the exterior fascia and soffit be patched and painted, and the installation/replacement of ceiling tiles on the first floor take place as a part of this project, and

WHEREAS, quotes were obtained and as an addition to the Project, Northern Tier Contracting has quoted $52,880.44 to finalize these improvements,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2026 Budget for the County Administrator's Office, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700	B SPEC Contingency Account	$55,000

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

BG619974 43007 BDUP	BLDG Upgrades County Facilities	$55,000

August 3, 2026

Operations Committee: 7-27-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH PROCARPET FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF FLOORING AT THE HUMAN SERVICES CENTER FOR THE CARPET REPLACEMENT IN THE ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER AND MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the Canton Human Services Initiative, Inc. owns the Human Services Center at 80 State Highway 310, in Canton and St. Lawrence County is the lessee responsible for the care and maintenance of the facility until the debt service is paid, and

WHEREAS, at this point in time, the Human Services Center is twenty-five years old and over the past few years, some update work has been completed in areas while needs are growing in other areas, and

WHEREAS, a few years ago, flooring was replaced in Community Services and the Department of Motor Vehicles and the former suite that housed an outside tenant, and

WHEREAS, the current flooring in the One-Stop Career Center is original to the building and showing signs of wear and damage, or otherwise in need of replacement to ensure safety, accessibility, and a professional appearance for the space, and

WHEREAS, department relocations in this area and the assumption of additional meeting space in this area provide an opportunity to review the space and update areas in need, and

WHEREAS, the installation of new flooring will improve functionality and safety, demonstrating a benefit for the Public and Staff alike and a competitive process was undertaken for replacement, and the lowest responsible vendor was ProCarpet at a cost of $36,757,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with ProCarpet for purchase and installation of flooring at the Human Services Center for the One-Stop Career Center, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2026 Budget for the County Administrator's Office, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700	B SPEC Contingency Account	$40,000

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

BG016204 40800 HSC	BLDG HSC Bldg & Property Maintenance	$40,000

August 3, 2026

Finance Committee: 7-27-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING AN INTERFUND LOAN TO THE SOLID WASTE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND MODIFYING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County maintains various funds to account for its financial activities in accordance with applicable laws and accounting standards, and

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Department is operated as an Enterprise Fund and it will require financing to support the purchase of equipment necessary for its operations, and

WHEREAS, sufficient unencumbered cash is available in the General Fund to provide such financing without impairing the operations or obligations of that fund or the County, and

WHEREAS, the County is authorized to make interfund loans pursuant to the New York State Local Finance Law and related guidance issued by the New York State Comptroller's Office, and

WHEREAS, the County Treasurer has recommended an interfund loan in the principal amount of One Million Dollars ($1,000,000) from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for the purchase of equipment, and

WHEREAS, the proposed loan shall bear interest at a fixed annual rate of 3.25%, with repayment of all principal and accrued interest due no later than one (1) year from the date of disbursement, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators has determined that authorizing this interfund loan is in the best financial interest of the County, provides a cost-effective means of financing the equipment purchase, ensures that the lending fund receives a reasonable rate of return, and maintains adequate liquidity to support County operations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes an interfund loan in the principal amount of One Million Dollars ($1,000,000) from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for the purpose of purchasing equipment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the loan shall bear interest at the fixed annual rate of 3.25%, calculated on the outstanding principal balance, and shall mature one (1) year from the date the funds are advanced, at which time the Solid Waste Fund shall repay the full principal together with all accrued interest, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Treasurer is authorized and directed to transfer the funds, establish the appropriate accounting entries, execute any documents necessary to effectuate the loan, and take any actions necessary to administer and collect repayment of the loan in accordance with this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2026 Budget for the Solid Waste Department as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

WO081602 24000	W Oper Highway and Street Equipment	$1,000,000

DECREASE RETAINED EARNINGS:

05TG0909 50300	Retained Earnings	$1,000,000

INCREASE APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

05TG0599 50300	EL Fund Bal, Appropriated	$1,000,000

August 3, 2026

Finance Committee: 7-27-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH PATRIOT TOWERS, INC. FOR LAND AND SITE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS INCLUDING EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION FOR THE INTEROPERABILITY TOWER PROJECT IN COOPER HILL (NYPA) TOWER SITE IN PITCAIRN

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 222-2023 authorized the construction of new telecommunication towers in the Cranberry Lake Fire District, the Town of Fine, and the Village of Potsdam in order to enhance emergency communications through the County, as part of the 2023 Interoperability Tower project, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 251-2025 authorized the contract amendment with C&S Engineers, Inc. for an amount not to exceed $96,300 for for the development of the Cooper Hill (NYPA) tower site near Pitcairn, and

WHEREAS, the County issued a Request for Proposal for the land development and site construction of the Interoperability Tower Project site in Cooper Hill (NYPA) tower site in Pitcairn, and

WHEREAS, the proposal from Patriot Towers, Inc. was the lowest cost out of all the proposals received, totaling $344,029,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Patriot Towers, Inc. (X2Z36402 25000 21SI) for land and site development and construction costs including equipment installation at the Interoperability Tower Project in Cooper Hill (NYPA) Tower Site in Pitcairn, upon approval of the County Attorney.

August 3, 2026

Finance Committee: 7-27-2026

RESOLUTION NO.

OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF LABOR AND DELIVERY, NUCLEAR MEDICINE, AND CERTAIN PRIMARY CARE SERVICES OPERATED BY NORTH STAR HEALTH ALLIANCE AT CLAXTON-HEPBURN MEDICAL CENTER AND ITS AFFILIATED HEALTH CENTERS, AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

By Mr. Reagen, District 1 and Mr. Forsythe, District 2
Co-Sponsored by Ms. Terminelli, District 14 and Ms. Curran, District 15

WHEREAS, North Star Health Alliance has notified St. Lawrence County that it intends to submit a Closure Plan to the New York State Department of Health seeking approval to discontinue Labor and Delivery services and Nuclear Medicine services at Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center in the City of Ogdensburg, together with the closure of primary care practices located in the Towns of Madrid, Waddington, Hammond, and the Village of Heuvelton, and

WHEREAS, these facilities provide essential health care services to residents of St. Lawrence County and surrounding communities, including elderly residents, individuals with disabilities, veterans, Medicaid recipients, uninsured individuals, and residents living in geographically isolated rural communities, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators recognizes that access to timely medical care is an essential component of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, the proposed elimination of Labor and Delivery services would require expectant mothers to travel substantially greater distances to obtain obstetrical care, thereby increasing risks associated with emergency deliveries, severe weather events, transportation barriers, and delays in treatment, and

WHEREAS, the proposed closure of four (4) primary care practices threatens to reduce access to preventative medical care, chronic disease management, pediatric services, geriatric care, and routine medical treatment in several rural communities already experiencing shortages of primary care providers, and

WHEREAS, the proposed discontinuance of Nuclear Medicine services may substantially increase travel burdens for residents requiring diagnostic imaging and cancer-related medical services, and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of these proposed closures has the potential to significantly impair access to health care throughout northern St. Lawrence County, increase demands upon emergency medical services, delay treatment, adversely affect medically underserved populations, and negatively impact the economic vitality of the region, and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the New York State Department of Health should conduct a thorough and comprehensive review of the proposed Closure Plan, including the cumulative effect of all proposed service reductions upon the residents of St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that approval should not be granted unless the Department determines, based upon substantial evidence, that reasonable access to equivalent medical services will remain available without jeopardizing the public health, safety, and welfare of County residents,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators formally opposes the proposed Closure Plan submitted by North Star Health Alliance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board respectfully requests that the New York State Department of Health deny the proposed Closure Plan unless and until it determines that the applicant has demonstrated that the proposed closures will not materially diminish access to health care services for residents of St. Lawrence County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board requests the Department of Health require the applicant to provide comprehensive analyses concerning patient access, travel times, emergency medical service impacts, physician capacity, maternal health outcomes, continuity of care, transportation barriers, and the cumulative impact of the proposed closures before rendering any determination, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Board of Legislators, County Administrator, County Attorney, and Public Health Department are authorized and directed to submit comments, testimony, supporting documentation, expert analyses, and other materials on behalf of St. Lawrence County during the Department of Health review process, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be sent to **Congresswoman Elise Stefanik,** Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Commissioner of Health, Senator Dan Stec, Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Scott Gray, North Star Health Alliance, Rochester Regional Health, and such other officials as may be appropriate.

(Note: Changes made during Committee are reflected in bolds and strikeouts)