

*\*\*PURSUANT TO THE STATE OF EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.1 ARTICLE 7, SUSPENSION OF LAW ALLOWING THE ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS TELEPHONICALLY OR OTHER SIMILAR SERVICE\*\**

**Members Attending:** Ms. Curran, Mr. Acres, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Fay, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Perkins, ~~Mr. Reagen~~, Mr. Sheridan, and Mr. Smithers

**Members Attending via Videoconference:** Mr. Arquiatt, Mr. Burke, Ms. Fiacco, Mr. Forsythe, Ms. Haggard, and Ms. Terminelli

**Others Attending via Videoconference:** Ruth Doyle, Dylan Soper, Kelly Pearson, Stephen Button, Brooks Bigwarfe, and Jason Pfothenauer

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Chair Curran called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Acres moved to amend the agenda to include a presentation as 3A from Don Meissner following the COVID-19 Update, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Reagen).

Mr. Acres moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Reagen).

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Mr. Sheridan moved to approve the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Reagen).

**3. COVID-19 UPDATE** – Jolene Munger and Dr. Andrew Williams

**3A. PRESENTATION ON FISHING** – Don Meissner, Massena Fishing Director

**4. SHERIFF – BROOKS BIGWARFE**

A. Authorizing the Purchase of a Drone for Aerial Law Enforcement Deployment and Modifying the 2021 Budget for the Sheriff’s Office (Res) – Mr. Acres moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Reagen).

B. Authorizing the Sheriff to Acquire Training Services from a Master Instructor for the St. Lawrence County Instructor Development Course and Modifying the 2021 Budget for the Sheriff’s Office Criminal Division (Res) – Mr. Acres moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Reagen).

**5. PLANNING – JASON PFOTENHAUER**

A. 2021 Annual Review for Agriculture District 1 and 2 (Info) – Mr. Pfothenauer

B. Adding 13 Parcels Totaling 1,010.3 Acres to Agricultural District 2 (Res) – Mr. Denesha

moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Reagen).

C. Lead Grant Update (Discussion) – Mr. Pfothenauer

D. Broadband Survey Concluded (Discussion) – Mr. Pfothenauer

## **6. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

A. Summary – Ms. Doyle

B. Information Technology – Ms. Doyle requested to create and fill a Director of Information Technology, Position No. 202400001, in IT.

## **7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Ms. Doyle gave a COVID Update for County Government: Tomorrow will mark the two (2) week period of employees returning to 100% staffing in office. The County continues to monitor cases and there has not been an increase of cases due to the return of employees. The cleaning response is continuing as well as the office modification, such as distancing and Plexiglas partitions. Jefferson, Lewis, and Clinton Counties are open and back to full staffing.

Last week a local law was adopted re-establishing the St. Lawrence County Multi-Use Trails System. The work on trail passes is continuing, and the trails are set to open on Saturday and will remain open through September 15<sup>th</sup>. The passes should be available on May 20<sup>th</sup> and all information will be made available on the County website.

The Department of Treasury is proving funding in the amount of \$21 million through the American Rescue Plan to St. Lawrence County. The County has four (4) years to use these funds. Ms. Doyle is requesting a committee to be established.

The Town of Morristown is celebrating its bicentennial this year.

There will be a Special Board meeting held on May 24<sup>th</sup> for the REDI Project and the Highway Outpost Project. There will be a resolution on the Finance Committee Agenda regarding financing these projects. The Buildings & Grounds Committee will meet at 4 p.m., prior to Finance.

Ms. Doyle said a request from Legislator Perkins regarding moving a Veterans’ Memorial to a location on County property has been approved. A resolution will be forthcoming.

Mr. Forsythe requested a map of all County property.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board – no report

B. Alternatives to Incarceration Board – no report

C. Board of Trustees for Supreme Court Library – no report

D. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board – no report

E. Environmental Management Council – Ms. Terminelli

F. Fire Advisory Board – no report

G. Intercounty Legislative Committee – Ms. Curran

H. Jury Board – no report

I. Planning Board – no report

**9. OLD/NEW BUSINESS** – Legislator Burke asked for information regarding shared services with the City of Ogdensburg. Ms. Doyle said the City of Ogdensburg has requested the County take over dispatch services and there have been discussions on this item, although there are operational and equipment not yet in place. The Consolidation Committee recommended a pilot program with the City for a short period of time to assess the impact of taking on this role. Information will be gathered on the specifics of the \$300,000 grant from 2019. Ms. Doyle said a request for dispatch services was also received from the Villages of Massena and Gouverneur. Also there is a reluctance from the City of Ogdensburg to sign off on the terms agreed upon regarding the Hazardous Materials Response Team contract until the dispatch item is resolved.

Ms. Curran said she made a list of items the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce could offer to families traveling here for fishing tournaments, such as the Potsdam Children Museum. She asked the Legislators to email her any ideas of activities in their towns that might be added to the flyers.

Mr. Forsythe said he still has concerns with the water levels on the St. Lawrence River. Ms. Doyle said she will invite someone from the IJC to attend a meeting to discuss water levels.

Mr. Fay moved to go to Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss litigation, personnel, and appointments, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Reagen).

## **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A straw poll vote was taken during Executive Session regarding negotiations.

**11. ADJOURNMENT** – Chair Curran adjourned the May Operations Committee Meeting at 8:38 p.m., as there was no further business.

First Announcement:

Reappointments:

**Environmental Management Committee (Term to expire: 7-12-2023)**

- Tiernan Smith, 522 Crescent Street, Ogdensburg 13669; (315) 323-3344 (H); (315) 386-4578 (W); Email: [twsmith3344@gmail.com](mailto:twsmith3344@gmail.com)

**North Country HOME Consortium (Term to expire: 7-12-2025)** (*Note: Two seats available*)

- David B. Duff, 64 S. Woods Road, Hammond 13646; (315) 578-2431 (H); Email: [woodandduff@gmail.com](mailto:woodandduff@gmail.com)

**Planning Board (Term to expire: 7-12-2024)**

- Priscilla Darling, 216 Irish Hill Road, Oswegatchie 13670; (315) 848-7414 (H); (802) 274-8549 (W); Email: [Pdarling677@hotmail.com](mailto:Pdarling677@hotmail.com)