

****PURSUANT TO THE STATE OF EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 11, IN EFFECT UNTIL JANUARY 15, 2022, SUSPENSION OF LAW ALLOWING THE ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS TELEPHONICALLY OR OTHER SIMILAR SERVICE****

Mr. Sheridan called the Special Board Meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES: Mr. Smithers moved to suspend the Rules of Procedure to allow the attendance of Legislators telephonically, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot and Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Curran).

ROLL CALL: All Legislators were present. Mr. Arquiett, Mr. Burke, Ms. Curran arrived at 5:31 p.m., Ms. Haggard, Ms. Fiacco, and Ms. Terminelli attended via Zoom

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. Perkins moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Curran).

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 394-2021

**DESIGNATING THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS
THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TOURISM PROMOTION AGENCY**

By Ms. Haggard, District 10

WHEREAS, it is requested that each County appoint a Tourism Promotion Agency in order to participate in the Empire State Development Division of Tourism Matching Funds Program, and

WHEREAS, participation in this program doubles the earmarked Tourism Promotion Funds by St. Lawrence County through I Love New York Funds, and

WHEREAS, according to the NYS Tourism Economics Report (2020), visitor expenditure accounted for more than \$101.8 million in St. Lawrence County, and \$8.5 million in local taxes in 2020, and

WHEREAS, according to the NYS Tourism Economics Report tourism spending has increased year to year, with a slight dip in 2020 due to the pandemic by -22.5% in spending, local taxes by -4.1% from 2019 to 2020, supporting the importance of investing in the recovery of the tourism industry post-pandemic, and

WHEREAS, according to the NYS Tourism Economics Report an estimated 1,350 jobs in the County (2020) were supported by visitors, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce represents the County as its Tourism Promotion Agent by creating a comprehensive marketing and advertising campaign, consisting of events, attractions, and recreational opportunities throughout the County, and

WHEREAS, tourism marketing and the opportunity to leverage state grant opportunities operate in a two year cycle and require a digital marketing presence,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators designates the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce as the St. Lawrence County Tourism Promotion Agency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022 contract with the Chamber of Commerce continues the funding mechanism through a formula that incentivizes the Chamber to work diligently to improve tourism in St. Lawrence County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the formula will provide forty (45%) of the occupancy tax revenue as an appropriation to the Chamber for 2022, and a fifty percent (50%) appropriation for year 2023, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the percentage of occupancy tax to be shared shall be based on a rolling five (5) year average and every dollar above the average will be shared at seventy-five percent (75%) to the Chamber of Commerce and twenty-five percent (25%) to St. Lawrence County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County recommends that the Chamber of Commerce continue to improve its financial position and bring measurable successes to the Board of Legislators annually for review.

Ms. Haggard moved to adopt Resolution No. 394-2021, seconded by Mr. Acres.

Ms. Curran arrived at 5:21 p.m.

Resolution No. 394-2021 was adopted by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 395-2022

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A REMOTE NET METERING AGREEMENT
RELATED TO THE POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY AND GRAVITY RENEWABLES, INC.**

By Ms. Curran, District 15

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 274-2014 authorized a nonbinding Letter Of Intent (LOI) with Gravity Renewables, Inc. of Boulder, Colorado to develop a micro-hydroelectric project that will provide a long-term, price-certain supply of electric energy from renewable sources under New York State Public Service Law Section 66-j, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 86-2015 authorized the Chair to execute all necessary documents related to a Power Purchase Agreement between the County and Gravity Renewables, Inc., Boulder, Colorado, and

WHEREAS, the Power Purchase Agreement provides credits on the County National Grid energy bills based on power generation at a hydroelectric power plant located in Glenfield, NY, which is measured by a County-owned meter at the location, and

WHEREAS, the value of the credits are dependent on current energy prices and water flows at the Glenfield facility, and

WHEREAS, due to increase in value of credits when energy prices rise, the credits provide the County with a hedge to unpredictable swings in electricity costs, and

WHEREAS, 2021 has seen a drastic rise in energy prices, and combined with a greater than normal rainfall year, the credits due to the County have been accumulating at a greater rate than can be offset by the current National Grid accounts in which the credits are applied,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a Remote Net Metering Agreement related to the power purchase agreement between St. Lawrence County and Gravity Renewables, Inc.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 395-2021, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 396-2021

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH LOT 21 FOR SPACE LOCATED AT 206 FORD STREET, OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK, FOR PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION AND MODIFYING THE 2022 BUDGET FOR THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

By Mr. Acres, District 8

WHEREAS, property taxes due to St. Lawrence County for property located within the City of Ogdensburg has historically been collected by the City and remitted to the County, and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg has taken formal action to cease collection of property taxes due to St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for short-term office space within the City of Ogdensburg to provide a location for citizens to pay property tax due to St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, additional space is available at 206 Ford Street, Ogdensburg, that would provide a centralized location with other County services, currently occupied by the Department of Motor Vehicles, Probation, and Community Services' Addiction Services Clinic, and

WHEREAS, the terms of the agreement will be for five (5) months for approximately 350 square feet of space, and will commence on January 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the rental rate per square foot will be \$1.01 per square foot per month (T3012154 40700),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a lease agreement with Lot 21 for space located at 206 Ford Street, Ogdensburg, New York, for property tax collection, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rental rate will be \$1.01 per square foot per month, for a term to commence on January 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2022 budget for the Treasurer's Office as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------|
| B1019904 49700 | B SPEC Contingency Account | \$2,000 |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------|

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

| | | |
|--------------------|--|------------|
| T3013254 40700 OGD | Rent Expense/Ogdensburg Tax | \$1,800 |
| T3013254 42000 OGD | T Office Supplies & Expense/Ogdensburg | <u>200</u> |
| | | \$2,000 |

Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 396-2021, seconded by Mr. Denesha and Mr. Smithers, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 397-2021

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH COLIN MACKEY FOR ASSISTANCE AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

By Mr. Acres, District 8

WHEREAS, Position No. 101200001, Fiscal Manager, will be vacated on December 17, 2021, due to a resignation, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 388-2021 authorized creating and filling an Accounting Supervisor in Social Services, Accounting Unit, to replace the Fiscal Manager Position, and

WHEREAS, this position will be responsible for all of the fiscal operations for the Department of Social Services, including staff who handle all payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and financial analysis for the agency,

WHEREAS, if training were not provided, the provision of direct supervision, leadership, and preparation of the budget for the Department of Social Services could be compromised and may result in very serious claiming problems and revenue losses, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services needs additional help during the transition to a new Account Supervisor Position and the person currently in the Fiscal Manager position, who is vacating the position, is available to be paid contractually at his current rate for a period not to exceed three (3) months to help with the transition in January 2022 (DAA60101 12000),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Colin Mackey for assistance and additional training in the Department of Social Services, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 397-2021, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 398-2021

**ESTABLISHING A DATE AND TIME FOR THE
ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING**

By Mr. Acres, District 8

BE IT RESOLVED that the Organizational Meeting of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators shall be held on Monday, January 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators' Chambers, Court House, Canton, New York for the purpose of electing a Chair of the Board of Legislators and transacting any other business that may come before the Board.

Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 398-2021, seconded by Mr. Denesha and Mr. Smithers, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 399-2021

**AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A LANDOWNER SOLAR GENERATION
FACILITY PERMIT APPLICATION JOINTLY WITH NYSERDA TO THE
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY**

By Mr. Denesha, District 6

WHEREAS, the County of St. Lawrence is the record title owner of 54+ acres of land in the Town of Clifton formerly owned by the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company and commonly referred to as the 'J&L Site' having taken title through tax foreclosure proceeding in 2014, and

WHEREAS, the County of St. Lawrence, along with the Town of Clifton and Town of Fine, wants to see this Adirondack Park industrial classified property returned to productive use, and

WHEREAS, the County of St. Lawrence subdivided the original single lot into four (4) separate and distinct lots, and

WHEREAS, National Grid, an electric utility provider, servicing both the Town of Fine and the Town of Clifton, maintains an electric substation on one of the proposed separate and distinct lots (Parcel 'C') as a part of the site referred to as the J&L site, and

WHEREAS, in 2015, St. Lawrence County granted a permanent easement to National Grid to continue to operate their substation on Parcel 'C' indefinitely, and

WHEREAS, the Build-Ready Program of NYSERDA is pursuing development activities and seeking permits associated with its proposed solar energy project at the mine tailings pile property owned by Benson Mines, Inc. in Clifton, New York, and

WHEREAS, as part of its permitting requirements, the Build-Ready development team is preparing to submit the Solar Generation Facility Permit Application (Application) to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) in the coming weeks, and

WHEREAS, for purposes of the APA conducting site investigations, examinations, tests and site evaluations, all landowners whose property is included in the project boundary are required to sign the Application to deem it complete and ready for APA review, and

WHEREAS, specific to St. Lawrence County and for purposes of connecting to the utility grid, the boundaries of the project extend on to the J&L Site, and

WHEREAS, because of the impact to St. Lawrence County owned land, the Build-Ready development team seeks the signature of St. Lawrence County, as landowner, to its APA Application, and

WHEREAS, as the interconnection process advances with the New York Independent System Operator and National Grid, the Build-Ready development team anticipates requesting an easement to support the occupation of interconnection facilities on that same parcel in a location and manner to be agreed upon by the parties, and in consideration of fair market value,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the submission of a Landowner Solar Generation Facility Permit Application jointly with NYSERDA to the Adirondack Park Agency, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair is authorized to sign the landowner portion of the Solar Generation Facility Permit Application on the J&L Site, and to execute all documents necessary with expectation of granting an easement in the future for the purpose of attracting further economic development at the location.

Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 399-2021, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

CHAIR'S APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Sheridan made the following appointments:

A. Family Court Judge Committee: Ms. Terminelli (Chair), Ms. Fiacco, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Smithers, and Mr. Sheridan (Ex Officio)

B. Heating Fuel Committee: No appointment made at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Sheridan adjourned the December Special Board Meeting at 5:29 p.m., as there was no further business.