

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

Members Attending via Video: Mr. Arquiett, Ms. Fiacco, and Mr. Forsythe

Others Attending in Person or via Video: Ruth Doyle, Dylan Soper, Kelly Pearson, Steve Button, Brooks Bigwarfe, Jason Pfothauer, Jonnie Dorothy, and press representative Mike Gagliardi of Watertown Daily Times

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chair Curran called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. Ms. Haggard moved to amend the agenda to include 6B, Broadband ad hoc committee update discussion and Item 6A to the agenda, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Terminelli).

2. SHERIFF – BROOKS BIGWARFE

A. Accepting an FY21 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office Hiring Program Grant from the Department of Justice and Modifying the 2022 Budget for the Sheriff's Office (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Terminelli).

B. Modifying the 2021 Budget for the Sheriff's Office Budget for Overtime (Res) – Mr. Denesha moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Burke, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Terminelli).

C. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Federal Equitable Sharing Program Agreement and Annual Certification Report for the Sheriff's Office for the Year 2021 (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Terminelli).

D. Authorizing the Chair to Sign Contracts and Establishing a School Resource Officer (SRO) Program for School Districts in St. Lawrence County (Res) – Mr. Denesha 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 (Terminelli).

3. PLANNING – JASON PFOTENHAUER

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Volunteer Transportation Center, Inc., for First Mile, Last Mile Services (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Terminelli).

B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a One-Year Contract Extension with Volunteer Transportation Center, Inc. for Transportation Services to COVID-19 Vaccine Sites (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Terminelli).

4. HUMAN RESOURCES – JONNIE DOROTHY

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with OptiMed Health Partners for Infusion Therapy Services (Res) – Mr. Lightfoot 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 (Terminelli).

B. Adoption of a Revised Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Policy for St. Lawrence County (Res) – Mr. Acres moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Terminelli).

5. LEGISLATOR LARRY DENESHA

A. Proclamation Recognizing the 100th Birthday of Mrs. Agnes Emma Blandin Woodrow (Res) – Mr. Denesha moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Acres, Mr. Lightfoot, Ms. Haggard, Mr. Fay, Mr. Burke, and Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Terminelli).

6. LEGISLATOR MARGARET HAGGARD

A. Supporting the Expansion of Broadband Infrastructure in St. Lawrence County (Res) – Ms. Acres moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers and Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Terminelli).

Ms. Haggard said Ms. Terminelli sent a message that she would like to be added as a co-sponsor to this resolution.

Mr. Burke and Ms. Fiacco asked to be added as co-sponsors to this resolution.

B. Broadband Ad hoc Committee Update (Discussion) – Ms. Haggard and Jason Pfothenauer

7. LEGISLATOR RITA CURRAN

A. Opposing the Adoption of the New York Wage Board Recommendation Decreasing the Overtime Threshold for Farm Workers from Sixty (60) Hours to Forty (40) Hours per Week (Res) – Mr. Acres moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha.

Mr. Acres asked to be added as a co-sponsor to this resolution.

Motion carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Terminelli).

8. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE – RUTH DOYLE

A. Sheriff – Sheriff Bigwarfe requested to fill a Correction Officer, Position No. 603000050, in the Jail.

B. Information Technology – Mr. Johnson requested to fill a Microcomputer System Coordinator, Position No. 203000002, and fill a Computer Technician, Position No. 202700002, in the IT Department.

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Ms. Doyle said 207 cases of COVID have been reported through the weekend and today. There has been an increase in testing. 61.1% percentage of citizens are vaccinated in St. Lawrence County. Tomorrow the County will be going out to the farms to administer boosters for farm workers. Pfizer clinics continue at the Public Health Department. Community pods may be held in January. There will be a COVID leadership call tomorrow with NYSAC. The Reopening Task Force will be reconvening to help businesses adhere to the new mandates.

1,174 without power due to the storm on Saturday. 1 family displaced. EMS dispatch worked tirelessly, Sheriff’s department, Highway, OFA staff stepped up.

EMS was going to present a plan to the advisory board first. Make amendments before . going to schedule district meetings to present the plan to bring back to the Board in February.

Medicaid redesign team and will get guidance from NYSAC. Received a response back \$4,

There will be a special board meeting at 5:15 p.m. prior to Finance Committee. Jonnie and Jody will present training.

SRO Program next step will be budget modifications. Temp positions for people to go to academy.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board – Mr. Denesha
- B. Alternative to Incarceration Board – no report
- C. Board of Trustees for Supreme Court Library – no report
- D. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board – Ms. Curran
- E. Environmental Management Council – no report
- F. Fire Advisory Board – Mr. Denesha
- G. Intercounty Legislative Committee – Ms. Curran
- H. Jury Board – Mr. Sheridan
- I. Planning Board – Mr. Fay and Jason Pfothenhauer

11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Burke said he spoke with the County Attorney today about removing tax on home heating fuel and it appears there is an extending protocol that has to be done before this can be done. It would be the first of April which would put it past the heating season. Mr. Burke suggested we look for other ways to assist as this does not seem to be expedient.

Mr. Denesha said maybe we could put money towards weatherization. Mr. Reagen said could we ask CDP and DSS and NCHC if money were made available for weatherization to expand the

number of household to get assistance to get an idea of what their capability would be to help more people.

Mr. Acres said the mortality rate is .00925.

Mr. Perkins said we have over 8,000 individuals on HEAP right now, and he thought it would be better to increase the income threshold for the working poor.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mr. Smithers moved to go to executive session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss litigation, personnel, negotiations, and appointments, seconded by Mr. Perkins

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

Mr. Arquiett left executive session at 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Lightfoot moved to go to Open Session at 9:31 p.m., seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried.

Mr. Sheridan said he will appoint a committee to seek a new Judge for family Court: Terminelli (Chair), Reagen, Fiacco, Smithers, Perkins, and Sheridan as ex-officio

13. ADJOURNMENT – Ms. Curran adjourned the December Operations Committee Meeting at 9:32 p.m., as there is no further business.