

Mr. Healey noted that Title II participants are restricted to 18 months and so they wouldn't be here the second year, and it isn't the position but the advancement of step that is required, is it not?

Mr. Doane said yes.

Mr. Rishe asked if we should create CETA positions that might possibly go beyond \$10,000 with negotiated increases; \$255 doesn't sound like much money, but how many CETA employees do we have at the present time — 800 or 900?

Mr. Doane replied that within the County government in the neighborhood of 15-18.

Mr. Collins then pointed out that concerning the overtime, we could have resolutions similar to this in the near future.

Resolution No. 104—78 was carried unanimously.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 105—78

**RESOLUTION SETTING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON  
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 6 FOR THE YEAR 1978,  
ENTITLED, "A LOCAL LAW CREATING THE OFFICE OF  
MEDICAL EXAMINER IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY"**

**By Mr. Marscher, Chairman, Health Committee**

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Health Committee, on March 30, 1978 heard a presentation of the Central New York Health Systems Agency staff concerning the comparison of a medical examiner system in St. Lawrence County with that of the existing coroner system in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, such study indicated the possible appropriateness of a medical examiner system in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, the committee was informed that to consider the possibility of a change to the medical examiner system in St. Lawrence County would require a local law to be introduced at the April meeting because of time constraints in the law,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached local law is proposed for a public hearing to be held on May 8, 1978 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Legislators' Chambers, St. Lawrence County, Court House, Canton, New York before the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that prior to the date of the public hearing, the Central New York Health Systems Agency will provide information to the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators as to the availability of an individual in St. Lawrence County to perform the duties of a medical examiner and the exact cost of such program will be available at the time of the public hearing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Lawrence County Health Committee will meet in its regular session prior to the public hearing on the proposed local law for the purpose of obtaining additional information from the Central New York Health Systems Agency in order to make a recommendation to the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators at the regularly scheduled meeting on May 8, 1978, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Legislators is hereby directed to prepare a notice of said public hearing, to cause the publication of a copy of said notice in each of the two newspapers which have been officially designated by the Board to publish "local laws", and to post a notice on the bulletin board of the Clerk's office in the County Court House at Canton, New York, both publication and posting to be made at least five days before said hearing.

On a motion made by Mr. Marscher, seconded by Mr. Burns, Resolution No. 105—78 was carried unanimously.

LOCAL LAW NO. 6 FOR THE YEAR 1978

A LOCAL LAW CREATING THE OFFICE OF  
MEDICAL EXAMINER IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

Be it enacted by the Board of Legislators of St. Lawrence County as follows:

**Section 1.** There is hereby created the *Office of Medical Examiner* in St. Lawrence County.

**Section 2.** On the first day of the year 1979 following the effective date of this local law, all the powers and the duties of the coroners of St. Lawrence County shall be exercised by the Office of Medical Examiner.

**Section 3.** This local law shall take effect on the first day of 1979 following the effective date of the passage of this local law.

RESOLUTION NO. 57—78

(AS AMENDED)

LEASING COUNTY FARM

By Mr. Peters, Chairman, Buildings & Grounds Committee

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Buildings & Grounds Committee that the County Farm should be leased for agricultural operation rather than remain idle, and

WHEREAS, on the recommendation of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, the Purchasing Agent has asked for bids after public advertisement according to Section 215 of the County Law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairman is authorized to execute a lease in the name of the County after approval of the Buildings & Grounds Committee and the County Attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the contract shall afford the Fire Department right-of-way to the river and the contract shall be for five years.

Mr. Peters moved that Resolution No. 57—78 be removed from the table and he moved for its adoption, seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mrs. Bradley said she had moved to table this resolution specifically to have information brought back, what land and what the Fire Training School required for their training.

Mr. Peters said it was tabled to clear up two specific items, one being the Fire Training Center and the other being the possibility of using land for the County Jail. The new contract clarifies these.

of Director of Real Property Tax Services and that interviews would take place soon. They also agreed to a Grade 28 for the Youth Bureau Director. He also described the process for the selection of a Fire Coordinator.

Mr. Thompson reported for the Planning & Conservation Committee. He advised the Board that at that meeting, Dr. Hughes gave an excellent presentation concerning energy sources.

Mr. Cooke reported for the Public Safety Committee.

Mr. Viskovich reported that since there had been no business to attend to, the Social Services Committee had not met since the last Board meeting.

Mr. Moore reported for the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Lemieux reported for the Insurance Committee. He advised the Board that the Insurance Committee had voted to accept the bid of Drew Agency Inc. (the only bid received) for County insurance with a few modifications recommended by Independent Risk Management Group. He noted there was approximately 10 percent increase in cost over last year which resulted from increased values of the buildings, etc.

Chairman Abrams, in Mr. Herzog's absence, reported that the Audit Committee had not met since the last Board meeting and had nothing to report.

Chairman Abrams recognized Mr. Marscher.

Mr. Marscher announced that the Health Committee will be looking over medical scholarship applications at their next meeting; he also announced there were two vacancies in the St. Lawrence County Laboratory, one for a physician and one for at-large, and if anyone knows of persons interested in serving on the Laboratory Board of Managers, they should contact either Mr. Collins or Mr. Marscher, or any member of the Health Committee.

Chairman Abrams recognized Mr. Healey.

Mr. Healey, too, had an announcement, to seek support from everyone, perhaps by writing to their congressmen and senators, urging their support for increased appropriations in subsidizing Section 8 housing.

Chairman Abrams requested the presentation of resolutions.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 112—78

##### ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 6 FOR THE YEAR 1978

By Mr. Marscher, Chairman, Health Committee

WHEREAS, Local Law No. 6 for the Year 1978 was introduced at the meeting of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators on April 10, 1978, and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was conducted by the Chairman of the Board of Legislators on May 8, 1978,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Local Law No. 6 for the Year 1978 is hereby adopted.

Mr. Marscher moved that Resolution No. 112—78 be adopted, seconded by Mrs. Bradley.

Mr. Marscher said he felt that most sides of the argument and most things pertaining to both systems have been printed in the local newspapers as well as discussed by the legislators. He went on to say the main reason this is on the agenda is that policy of the County should be determined by the Board of Legislators, not by committee. He went on to say that the committee should develop all the information for a decision by the entire Board. He noted that the medical examiner system might cost more money than the coroner system but there is no guarantee that the coroner system will not cost more also. The Health Committee, by a vote of 3 to 2 recommended the adoption of Local Law No. 6.

Mr. Cooke said he had worked over the past 27 years with both medical examiner system and coroner system and that he was not against the medical examiner system but in a county the size of St. Lawrence County, he didn't think it would work because of the miles it would be necessary to travel; if the population was more centralized, he would not be against the medical examiner system. He said he felt the county was too large for one medical examiner to travel, and he would vote against it for that reason.

Mr. Thompson said that he was chairman of the Health Committee when this study was instigated, and since it was known that the medical examiner system was working in other counties, it was thought we ought to at least take a look at it. He said he thought that when the present Health Committee came up with a local law to present, they also would present a package proposal for staffing; perhaps, they are unable to do so, but if they are unable to do so, he didn't think the Board should enact this law, for if it is enacted it means no coroners will be elected and the medical examiner system must be ready to go January 1979. He also said he didn't think the Board can adopt this local law without some concrete ways as to how to implement it. He also noted that the Health Committee had a 3-2 vote and there should be a minority report.

Mr. Marscher replied that as far as adopting a local law with a complete package of salaries, personnel, etc. he wasn't sure this had always been done to set up something like this; as for staffing pattern, there was a study by the Central New York Health Systems Agency in which a proposed budget was presented to the Health Committee with various plans ranging from \$22,000 to \$60,000 depending upon the system we would like to have. He said it was felt to go into a package with a proposed number of persons would be very difficult since the jobs had not been created; we don't know yet what the budget for next year will be for the coroners.

Mr. Healey said that in the Health Committee meeting he did support this proposal because he felt that even if there was some small additional cost, there would not be a great deal of additional cost comparing what the future budget of the coroner office might be, which seem to go up every year, even without our approving all their requests. As far as setting up an exact budget, first we have to find out if the Board will support this local law; if they don't, there is no point in going into detail as to how the office would function. If, he said, the Board does support this, there would be ample time between now and budget time to study alternate proposals as to the implementation of this local law; the medical examiner would have to have assistants in various locations throughout the County, but he would have the responsibility of seeing the tasks are carried out. Obviously, he said, there is some question whether or not our present system is giving proper services throughout the County.

Mr. LaBaff said he was not certain how he would vote on this but asked what is wrong with the present system and why would going to a medical examiner system be more efficient.

Mr. Marscher replied that the present Health Committee first got into the medical examiner position because of certain things in regard to autopsies. At the December meeting of the Health Committee, they decided to fund the coroner system for the year 1978 due to insufficient time for a possible change and left it up to the new committee to decide on the kind of system needed or desired. They had made a study in, he thought, April 1977 which was a very narrow study. The new committee had a new study made by CYNHSA in which specific questions were asked including comparisons of costs of the coroner system in 1970 and 1978 (projected). Mr. Marscher said he felt personally the medical system would be better, one reason being we are paying \$200 for an autopsy with no written contract and thus, the cost could go up, and another reason, there would be one person in charge. Dr. Dodds' letter has valid criticisms and there is mention of a drop in the number of autopsies which were not done because the County has no method for getting them done according to many people.

Mr. Cooke replied that autopsies are required only for suspicious deaths and this may be the cause for the drop in autopsies.

Mr. Lemieux said he liked the concept but he was not sure how he would vote this evening.

Mr. Healey pointed out that if it was going to be done in 1979, the local law would have to be passed now because of the timing. If the local law is not enacted tonight, then it will have to be put off another year.

Mr. Marscher, in reply to Mr. Cooke's statement concerning autopsies, then read from Dr. Dodds' letter, "...we have done fewer autopsies in the last year or so; this is not because they weren't needed, it is because we do not have the pathologists to perform them. Ideally, more autopsies should have been done."

Mr. Thompson said Mr. Jim Jackson had been asked to send questionnaires to all the counties in the State of New York with a medical examiner system; the responses were that every county that had shifted to the medical examiner system would not go back to the coroner system. However, he said, he didn't believe St. Lawrence County could afford a full-time medical examiner, and that he had hoped the Health Committee would come up with a plan for a part-time medical examiner with a position of part-time pathologist.

Mrs. Bradley said that if this local law is adopted tonight and the Health Committee does set up an office with supportive staff and medical examiner, this will have to be brought back before the entire Board for funding. She also asked, if it was found impractical or impossible (such as lack of a medical examiner, etc.) to go forward with the setting up of the medical examiner system after enactment of this local law, what would the time schedule be for repealing this local law in order to continue with the coroners system.

Mr. Palm said he didn't have the answer this minute but petitions would have to be filed, he understood, for the primary in mid-July and so you would have to repeal the local law by June, if in fact, it could be done with the 45-day waiting period for it to become effective.

Mrs. Bradley asked how many coroners are up for election this year.

Mr. Palm replied he thought Dr. Dodds is due for re-election.

Mr. Smith said as a member of last year's Health Committee, he had supported the study of the medical examiner system, and also supported the program of \$200 per autopsy. He assumed that the autopsies were being done as necessary.

Chairman Abrams asked the Clerk of the Board if any communications had been received on this matter.

Mr. Collins replied that the only letter received was that from Dr. Dodds.

Chairman Abrams then called for a Roll Call Vote.

Resolution No. 112—78 was declared defeated by Chairman Abrams following the Roll Call vote which resulted as follows: 8 Yes votes; 13 No votes (Messrs. Smith, Kilcoyne, Lemieux, Peters, Moore, Greco, Livingston, Cooke, Bell, LaBaff, Bixby, Burns, and Abrams); 1 Absent (Mr. Herzog).

**RESOLUTION NO. 113—78**

**ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 7 FOR THE YEAR 1978  
By Mr. Moore, Chairman, Transportation Committee**

WHEREAS, Local Law No. 7 for the Year 1978 was introduced at the meeting of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators on April 10, 1978, and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was conducted by the Chairman of the Board of Legislators on May 8, 1978,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Local Law No. 7 for the Year 1978 is hereby adopted.

Mr. Moore moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 113—78, seconded by Mr. Peters.

Chairman Abrams asked County Attorney Palm to explain the necessity of this local law to the general public.

Mr. Palm explained that an amended section of the General Municipal Law, approximately a year ago, put in a provision that on notice of claim against a municipality you could have no condition precedent to liability for certain defects; and then a clause was also inserted that if you have a local law that requires actual notice that becomes the condition precedent to suit. This local law is just another safety precaution to cut down on suits against the County.

Chairman Abrams declared Resolution No. 113—78 carried after a Roll Call Vote resulting as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
District 1 Legislator Thompson	x			
District 2 Legislator Smith	x			