

****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****

Members Attending: Ms. Curran, Mr. Acres, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Fay, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Reagen, and Mr. Smithers

Members Attending via Video: Mr. Arquiett, Mr. Burke, Ms. Haggard, Ms. Fiacco, Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Sheridan, and Ms. Terminelli

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chair Curran called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Denesha moved to amend the agenda to move Item 9A, the “Feasibility of Senate Bill S4378A “Pollution Justice Act of 2021”” discussion to the first item of business, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes. Mr. Reagen moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Feasibility of Senate Bill S4378A “Pollution Justice Act of 2021” – Walter Relling

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Denesha moved to approve the November 8th and December 13th meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Reagen, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

3. PLANNING – JASON PFOTENHAUER

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with New York State Office of Community Renewal for Community Development Block Grant Funds and Modifying the 2022 Budget for the Planning Office (Res) – Mr. Perkins moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY – GARY PASQUA

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Federal Equitable Sharing Program Agreement and Annual Certification Report (Res) – Mr. Perkins moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

5. LEGISLATOR RITA CURRAN

A. Recognizing January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month (Res) – Mr. Acres moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Reagen, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

6. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE – RUTH DOYLE

A. Vacancy Review Summary (Info) – Ms. Doyle
B. Conflict Defender – Ms. Dona requested to create and fill a Legal Secretary, Position No. 005300017, in the Conflict Defender’s Office

7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Doyle said the full vaccination rate for the County is 58.7%, and with boosters is 45.9%. Public Health continues to hold vaccination clinics around the County for all vaccines including boosters. Approximately 1% of County Departments reported employees were prevented from coming to work related to school testing that began over the weekend, 10% were previously scheduled off, 4% relative to positive COVID-19 cases, 2% in quarantine, and 5% calling in sick or for other reasons.

There are no updates on the amendment to the Open Meeting Law at this time, and this will expire on January 15th.

The 2022 Adopted Budget Books are printed and available. The Legislators books are on their desks.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee will meet Wednesday afternoon.

Family Court Judge Committee will meet Wednesday afternoon.

Ms. Doyle said last week she and Legislator Acres met with the IDA to discuss ARPA Funds. Also the IDA is finalizing their report on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and this will be shared with the Board at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

Mr. Acres said he would like more information made available regarding COVID-19 positive cases on vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Ms. Doyle said Public Health will be providing a new look to the statistics this week.

Mr. Acres asked what the results were of the investigation he requested about private information being shared at the Department of Social Services. Ms. Doyle said she thought the information requested had been provided to the Board, so she will have a full explanation at Services Committee next week.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board – no report
- B. Alternative 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 – no report
- F. Fire Advisory Board – no report
- G. Intercounty Legislative Committee – no report
- H. Jury Board – no report
- I. Planning Board – Mr. Fay

9. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Perkins said he received a phone call from a constituent that kids were being sent home from school due to COVID-19 reasons, and then the school called the Department of Social Services saying kids were missing too many days of school. He thought the schools needed to keep better track of reasons for absences and not put more burden on Social Services and families.

Ms. Terminelli said she would like additional information to be able to make a determination for the annual newspapers for 2022. She also said a letter was received from the St. Lawrence County Suicide Awareness Coalition about limiting statistics from the coroners' offices from one time per year to one time per month, and asked for more information on this. Ms. Doyle said she would send information on both these matters.

Mr. Acres moved to go to Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. to discuss litigation, seconded by Mr. Fay, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Perkins moved to go to Open Session at 7:54 p.m., seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

11. ADJOURNMENT – Ms. Curran adjourned the January Operations Committee Meeting at 7:55 p.m., as there was no further business.