

****PURSUANT TO THE STATE OF EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 11, SUSPENSION OF LAW ALLOWING THE ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS TELEPHONICALLY OR OTHER SIMILAR SERVICE****

Members Attending: Ms. Curran, Mr. Acres, ~~Mr. Burke~~, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Fay, ~~Mr. Fiocco~~, Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Reagen, and Mr. Smithers

Members Attending via Video: Mr. Arquiett, Ms. Haggard, Mr. Sheridan, and Ms. Terminelli

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Ms. Curran called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Forsythe moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Fay, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Burke and Fiocco).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Forsythe moved to approve the February 14, 2022, meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Burke and Fiocco).

3. PROBATION – TIM LEPAGE

A. Declaring April Sexual Assault Awareness Month (Res) – Mr. Perkins moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Reagen and Mr. Fay, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Burke and Fiocco).

B. Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM) Grant Update (Discussion)

4. PLANNING – JASON PFOTENHAUER

A. Proclaiming Earth Day in St. Lawrence County (Res) – Mr. Reagen moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Perkins.

Mr. Acres said he would like to know what the position of the Environmental Management Council (EMC) is to nuclear energy as an alternative to solar and wind.

Mr. Smithers said he agreed as there is a growing demand for electricity, and nuclear power needs to be explored. He said technology has improved and it is a very clean form of energy.

Mr. Lightfoot said we need to look at what we are doing to our countryside with the solar panels. Nuclear plants can be built at a fraction of cost on less land.

Mr. Forsythe said he saw solar power everywhere across the Midwest last week and the biggest problem is the storage capacity.

Mr. Denesha said the problem is solar arrays are being put on prime farmland and forests are being cut to make room for the solar panels.

Ms. Terminelli asked to be added as a co-sponsor to this resolution.

Mr. Fay said St. Lawrence County is already a green county with all its hydropower and now prime farmland is being sacrificed for solar power.

Mr. Sheridan said he would like to have the EMC Advisory Board look into the life expectancy of the solar panels and what happens to them when the panels are no longer are in use.

Motion carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Burke and Fiacco).

B. Designating April 2022 as Fair Housing Month (Res) – Mr. Smithers moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Perkins.

Mr. Forsythe said age is not mentioned in the resolution. It was meant to be for the elderly and he thinks it is a shame that age is not a factor any longer.

Mr. Lightfoot said part of the issue is the closing of mental health facilities.

Motion carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Burke and Fiacco).

C. Authorizing the Chair to Sign an Agreement Establishing the Oswegatchie River Advisory Council (Res) – Mr. Lightfoot moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe.

Mr. Perkins moved to table this resolution to the April Operations Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Forsythe and Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a voice vote with twelve (12) yes votes, one (1) no vote (Lightfoot), and two (2) absent (Burke and Fiacco).

Mr. Pfothenauer discussed COVID-19 mapping that was previously used to show areas of positive case in the County, and why it is no longer relevant information.

5. HUMAN RESOURCES – JONNIE DOROTHY

A. Approving St. Lawrence County Affirmative Action/Equal Employment/Family Medical Leave Act/American's with Disabilities (AA/EEO/FMLA/ADA) Plan, as Amended (Res) (Info) – Mr. Denesha moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe.

Mr. Fay left the room at 7:52 p.m., and returned at 7:54 p.m.

Mr. Acres moved to table this resolution to the April Operations Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, and carried by a voice vote with twelve (12) yes votes, one (1) no vote (Haggard), and two (2) absent (Burke and Fiacco).

6. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE – RUTH DOYLE

A. Emergency Services – Mr. Denner requested to fill a Dispatcher, Position No. 612100006 in Emergency Services.

B. Sheriff – Sheriff Bigwarfe requested to restore a portion of Chief Civil Enforcement Officer, Position No. 601100001 in the Sheriff's Civil Office.

C. County Clerk – Ms. Friedel requested to create and fill a DMV Clerk, Position No. 0910000031 in the County Clerk’s Office.

D. Planning – Mr. Pfothenauer requested to abolish a Planner II and create and fill a Planner III, Position No. 400600002, in Planning.

7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with the Rural Law Center of New York for Indigent Appellate Representation (Res) – Mr. Lightfoot moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Burke and Fiacco).

Ms. Doyle said COVID-19 supplies have been distributed to towns, villages, and the City. There has been an extension of the Executive Order on remote attendance through April 15th. The COVID-19 admission per hundred thousand is 149.43.

The NYSAC Conference was attended by five (5) individuals, and a report will be provided to the Legislators.

The ARPA final rule does not go into effect until April 1st.

Total amount in the employee recognition fund is \$3,148.98.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet with the architect on the progress of the Public Safety Complex renovations, and a recommendation will be brought forward.

Ms. Doyle said the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was opened to meet the needs of the folks affected by the high-rise fire. An overwhelming amount of donations were received, and no challenge went unmet as many people were willing to help. John Miller was the site lead at Wadham’s Hall, and all residents were placed in temporary homes last Friday. It was a remarkable effort by all, and the County staff never left until the last person was placed.

Ms. Doyle said a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis on the Department of Social Services location in Ogdensburg will be provided at the upcoming Finance Committee meeting.

Season two of trail passes for the use of ATVs on the Multi-Use Recreational Trails is ramping up and the passes are being developed now. Online sales will begin mid-April.

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 – Ms. Terminelli

F. Fire Advisory Board – Mr. Denesha

G. Intercounty Legislative Committee – no report

H. Jury Board – no report

I. Planning Board – Mr. Fay

9. OLD/NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Perkins said he attended a meeting held by the Emergency Services Director, Matt Denner and Jonathan Mitchel regarding ambulatory services around the County. He recommended legislators attend one of the meetings as there is a serious shortage of volunteers. 2,700 calls went unanswered around the County last year, and one resulted in a death.

Mr. Denesha moved to go to Executive Session to discuss litigation, personnel, negotiations, and appointments at 8:47 p.m., seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Burke and Fiacco).

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A straw poll vote was taken regarding the request of the unions to meet with Labor Management Committee regarding ARPA funds being used for employees, and failed by a vote with seven (7) no votes, six (6) yes votes, and two (2) absent.

Mr. Perkins moved to go to Open Session at 10:05 p.m., seconded by Mr., Acres, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Burke and Fiacco).

11. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Curran adjourned the March Operations Committee meeting at 10:05 p.m., as there was no further business.