

Chair Lightfoot called the Special Board Meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** All Legislators were present with the exception of Mr. Leader and Ms. Terminelli. Mr. Acres and Ms. Curran arrived at 5:16 p.m.; Mr. Sheridan arrived at 5:23 p.m.; and Ms. Arquiett arrived at 5:34 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Mr. Arquiett moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Fay, and carried by a voice vote with nine (9) yes votes, and six (6) absent (Acres, N. Arquiett, Curran, Leader, Sheridan, and Terminelli).

**PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

Operations Committee: 2-10-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 45-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN DOCUMENTS FOR THE  
CENSUS 2020 COMPLETE COUNT OUTREACH GRANT FUNDS  
AND MODIFYING THE 2020 BUDGET FOR THE PLANNING OFFICE**

By Mr. Denesha, Chair, Operations Committee

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 Census will take place in April of this year, and

**WHEREAS**, New York State has set aside funding for counties to ensure that a complete count can occur Statewide, and

**WHEREAS**, up to \$255,112 will be made available for St. Lawrence County to ensure that the hard-to-count populations in St. Lawrence County are made aware of the importance of being counted in the Census, and

**WHEREAS**, while the County is the recipient of the funds, seventy-five percent (75%) of the award amount must be distributed to and spent by State-approved, not-for-profit entities, and

**WHEREAS**, to receive these funds a grant application must be submitted by March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m., and the application requires the signature of the Chair of the Board of Legislators, and

**WHEREAS**, award announcements are anticipated on March 10<sup>th</sup> and once completed forty percent (40%) of the award amount will be advanced to counties,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign documents for the Census 2020 Complete Count Outreach Grant Funds, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2020 Budget for the Planning Office, as follows:

**INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:**

N1080204 460GP CEN                      N Census 2020                      \$255,112

**INCREASE REVENUE:**

N1049105 56000 CEN                      N Census 2020                      \$255,112

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any remaining funds will be rolled over to future budgets until fully expended.

\*\*\*

Ms. Curran and Mr. Acres arrived at 5:16 p.m.

Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 45-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Haggard, and Mr. Burke, and carried by a roll call vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (N. Arquiett, Leader, Sheridan, and Terminelli).

RESOLUTION NO. 46-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITH AREA ESTABLISHMENTS FOR HOUSING FOR VOLUNTARY ISOLATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE CORONAVIRUS**

By Mr. Acres, District 8

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health Department is in need of resources to assist in the isolation of individuals returning to the United States after travel from China who, for precautionary purposes, are being isolated on a voluntary basis, and

**WHEREAS**, area establishments have agreed to provide housing in the event accommodations are needed for individuals returning from China, or for those who may have been exposed to the recent 2019 Coronavirus (2019-nCOV) and are unable to return to their own residence, and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health Department is responsible for the daily cost of these accommodations (PP040104 43007 EP), and

**WHEREAS**, the need to have agreements with area establishments in place is important due to the present threat to the public health and safety of the residents of St. Lawrence County presented by the 2019 Coronavirus (2019-nCOV),

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign contracts with area establishments for housing for voluntary isolation of individuals who may have been exposed to the Coronavirus, upon approval of the County Attorney.

February 24, 2020

\*\*\*

Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 46-2020, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Forsythe, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (N. Arquiett, Leader, Sheridan, and Terminelli).

Mr. Sheridan arrived, via teleconference, to the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 47-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH VARIOUS EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES FOR THE MONITORING OF TRAVELERS AT BORDER CROSSINGS POINTS**

By Mr. Acres, District 8

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health Department is in need of resources to assist in the monitoring of travelers entering the United States at the various border entry points in northern St. Lawrence County and to assist in looking for symptoms of US Federally quarantinable communicable diseases as defined by the Presidential Executive Order, and

**WHEREAS**, emergency response services in the County and located within proximity to the borders have available staff and have agreed to assist, and

**WHEREAS**, emergency response services will evaluate individuals at the international borders for disease specific symptoms using temperature assessment as a screening tool, record the results, and provide ambulatory transport, if necessary, and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health Department is responsible for the cost of \$100 per trip (PP040104 43007) for temperature monitoring, and

**WHEREAS**, the need to commence services is immediate due to the present threat to public health and safety to the residents of St. Lawrence County presented by the novel coronavirus, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with various emergency response services for the monitoring of travelers at border crossing points, upon approval of the County Attorney.

\*\*\*

Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 47-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Perkins, and Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with twelve (12) yes votes, and three (3) absent (N. Arquiett, Leader, and Terminelli).

Ms. Arquiett arrived at 5:24 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 48-2020

**RECOMMENDING THE 2020 NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY AND REQUESTING TIMELY REIMBURSEMENT**

By Mr. Lightfoot, District 3

**WHEREAS**, St. Lawrence County is a \$253 million dollar municipal corporation doing business within and for New York State and much of the work of the County is directed by a combination of state and federal mandates and locally preferred services, which its constituents expect to be delivered in an efficient and cost-effective manner, and

**WHEREAS**, In 2016, St. Lawrence County began a new practice of preparing an annual Legislative Agenda for Representatives of the County in the Senate and the Assembly and these Agendas were adopted by the Board of Legislators in Resolution Nos. 149-2016, 192-2017, 121-2018, and 103-2019, and

**WHEREAS**, the importance of reviewing the agenda annually and updating the requests listed is critical to efficiently address current issues facing the County and to effectively measure the efforts of elected representatives in the Senate and Assembly on behalf of their districts in St. Lawrence County,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators recommends the 2020 New York State Legislative Agenda for St. Lawrence County that addresses the following areas in a beneficial way for the County:

- Provide a permanency option for Home Rule Legislation for Sales Tax Extenders;
- Increase the threshold for highway contracts for CHIPS from \$250,000 to \$750,000;
- Provide direct insurance reimbursement for volunteer ambulance services;
- Additional funding for assessment/treatment/transition services in correctional facilities to assist with the Opioid Epidemic while opposing the bill associated with medication assisted therapies and the solitary confinement requirements;
- Acknowledge the shortfalls of bail reform and work to amend the law;
- Work to provide a cost effective solution with Medicaid and keep the current cap in place;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the one of the main concerns on all mandates where funding is provided, is that New York State be cognizant of the importance of timely payment for reimbursements associated with expenses incurred to carry out the Programs required by New York State, this is a critical component in the St. Lawrence County average of \$10M in overdue payments would provide stability to counties implementing state programs, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators authorizes and directs staff to work on the narratives to include specific language, establish relevance and recommendations, and to develop a summary of related items that require action by New York State, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators would like to express their appreciation for successful continuing efforts from the first four New York State Legislative Agendas, the Senate and Assembly Representatives of St. Lawrence County were successful with requests made that include:

- True two percent for the tax cap or tax levy limit to include New York State;
- Support the ability to collect sales tax on purchases made on the internet;
- Funding commence for evaluations/treatment of the opioid epidemic in correctional facilities;
- Create a unified primary election date;
- Establish a commitment to Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding to allow for better local capital planning and investments;
- Increase the threshold for highway contracts for CHIPS from \$250,000 to \$550,000;
- Fund the demolition and restoration of the former J&L Steel site in Star Lake as a State project to eliminate a severe and long-term blighted site from the Adirondack Park;
- Structure permanent sources of funding for implementation of the Raise the Age Legislation;
- Assume the financial obligation for the provision of criminal indigent defense services and related expenses;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators is encouraged by the successful efforts made by the Senate and Assembly Representatives on behalf of St. Lawrence County and looks forward to continuing building on the success as issues related to funding local government continue to evolve, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that while State Representatives of St. Lawrence County have been successful in many key areas, there are some that remain and will require continued efforts including: funding for the recent changes to the Aid to Municipalities revenue source coming from county sales tax, administrative funding for the Septic Tank Program, shifting the cost of Preschool Programming to school districts, the consolidation of local courts, and expanding the weight limits for ATV registrations and creating the Trail Fund, as well as others identified in previous agendas, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to select a group of representatives from the County to travel to Albany and meet with appropriate State Representatives to deliver the 2020 Legislative Agenda and seek input on additional areas that would reduce the burden on the taxpayers in St. Lawrence County.

\*\*\*

Mr. Forsythe moved to adopt Resolution No. 48-2020, seconded by Mr. Denesha and Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Leader and Terminelli).

**V. ADJOURNMENT** – Chair Lightfoot adjourned the February Full Board Meeting at 5:25 p.m., as there was no further business.