

Chair Lightfoot called the Special Board Meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** All Legislators were present. Ms. Terminelli attended via teleconference.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Mr. Burke moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Chair Lightfoot said the first, second, third, and fifth resolution will be voted on together. The fourth resolution will be voted on separately.

**PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

RESOLUTION NO. 88-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITH COUNTY NOT-FOR-PROFITS, FILL TEMPORARY POSITIONS IN THE PLANNING OFFICE TO ASSIST IN THE 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT OUTREACH, AND MODIFYING THE 2020 BUDGET FOR ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY**

By Mr. Burke, District 12

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 Census will take place in April of this year, and New York State has set aside funding for counties to ensure that a Census Complete Count can occur statewide, and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, Community Development Program (CDP), and The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence have registered with the State as a not-for-profit agencies willing to assist with Census 2020 promotion, and

**WHEREAS**, the Census 2020 Complete Count Outreach Grant application for the County specified funding allotments for each of the registered not-for-profits identified above as: up to \$88,000 to The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence; up to \$51,667 to the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce; up to \$51,667 to the Community Development Program, and

**WHEREAS**, the remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of the allotted funds can be retained by the County and will be used to hire temporary, part-time staff, acquire promotional materials and be used for grant administration, and

**WHEREAS**, to assist in the efforts, the Planning Office will hire three (3) temporary, part-time staff who will be tasked with conducting informational sessions about the census, writing press releases, attending census promotional events, purchasing and distributing census related materials, establishing portable census response hotspots, organizing staffing at various events, and establishing networks among hard to count populations, and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 45-2020, adopted February 24, 2020, accepted Complete Count Outreach Grand Funds in the amount of \$255,112 to be used to ensure that hard-to-count



March 16, 2020

Mr. Burke moved to adopt Resolution No. 88-2020, seconded by Mr. Haggard, Ms. Arquiatt and Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 89-2020

**MODIFYING THE 2019 BUDGET FOR SOCIAL SERVICES  
FOR CHILD CARE AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION**

By Mr. Acres, District 8

**WHEREAS**, due to higher than anticipated costs in Child Care and Training Administration, and higher than anticipated revenue in Services Administration it is necessary to modify the 2019 Social Services Budget,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2019 Budget for Social Services, as follows:

**INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:**

DSC61194 465IT	D CSE Institutions	\$117,000
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**INCREASE REVENUE:**

DAS36105 560CW	D SA Child Welfare Funding	\$117,000
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Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 89-2020, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Perkins, and carried by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 90-2020

**APPOINTING AN INTERIM COMMISSIONER OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

By Mr. Lightfoot, District 3

**WHEREAS**, the retirement of the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services on March 30, 2020 will leave St. Lawrence County without a Commissioner for a period of time, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Legislators deems it in the best interest of the County to fill the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services Position on an interim basis pending a permanent appointment,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators hereby appoints Heather Wentzel to be appointed to the position of Interim St. Lawrence County Commissioner of the Department of Social Services with a salary of \$93,227 (Band VII, Base), effective March 31, 2020, and

March 16, 2020

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this appointment shall be effective until a permanent appointment is made.

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Mr. Forsythe moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-2020, seconded by Mr. Perkins, Mr. Arquiett, Ms. Arquiett, and Mr. Burke, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) recuse (Haggard).

Finance Committee: 3-30-2020

**RESOLUTION NO. 91-2020**

**MODIFYING THE 2020 PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET TO ACCEPT COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING FROM NEW YORK STATE FOR THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM**

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health Department is responsible for the Emergency Preparedness Program, and

**WHEREAS**, local health departments are currently being proactive in dealing with the threat of COVID-19 (coronavirus) global pandemic in their areas, and

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Department of Health, with the COVID-19 Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement, is awarding local health departments funding to use for their greatest response needs, and

**WHEREAS**, St. Lawrence County Public Health Department has been awarded \$31,197,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2020 Public Health Department Budget to accept COVID-19 Crisis Response funding for the Emergency Preparedness program as follows:

**INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:**

PP040104 43007 EP	P EP Other Fees & Services	\$31,197
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**INCREASE REVENUE:**

PP044895 57000 EP	P FA EP Grant	\$31,197
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Mr. Acres moved to adopt Resolution No. 91-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe.

Mr. Haggard moved to increase funding to \$31,197, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Resolution No. 91-2020 carried by a roll call vote with fifteen (15) yes votes

March 16, 2020

RESOLUTION NO. 92-2020

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS CALLING UPON  
GOVERNOR CUOMO TO REMEMBER HOW HELPFUL THE PEOPLE OF  
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HAVE BEEN IN TIMES OF CRISES  
WITH SOLUTIONS FOR CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

By Mr. Reagen, District 1

Co-Sponsored by: Mr. Forsythe, District 2; Mr. Lightfoot, District 3; Mr. Sheridan, District 4;  
Mr. Leader, District 5; Mr. Denesha, District 6; Mr. Perkins, District 7;  
Mr. Acres, District 8; Mr. Haggard, District 10;  
Mr. Burke, District 12; and Ms. Terminelli, District 14

**WHEREAS**, New York State prisons in Ogdensburg and Gouverneur provide outstanding careers for members of over 1,000 families across St. Lawrence County, and

**WHEREAS**, the correctional facilities provide more than a \$100 million in payrolls, benefit the citizens of the entire state of New York, while improving the quality of life and providing quality jobs for citizens in Northern New York, and

**WHEREAS**, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo personally told the citizens of Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County in the summer of 2010 while he was marching in the Seaway Festival Parade that he felt the State of New York owed a special debt of gratitude to the citizens of the Maple City for that community's historic decision in the early 1980s to accept a prison at a time when other communities across the state were protesting, and objecting to the location of prisons in New York City, Long Island and elsewhere, and

**WHEREAS**, the example made by Ogdensburg led the Department of Corrections to change its policy so that only communities that specifically asked for a prison became home to a correctional facility, ending the long-time adversarial relationship between the state and municipalities across the state, and

**WHEREAS**, the then candidate Cuomo promised that if he was elected governor, he would keep the Correctional Facilities in Ogdensburg open because the community had set an important example for other communities across the State of New York by working hand in hand with the Department of Corrections to provide a place where inmates could be treated with dignity and respect while they serve their sentences, and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Ogdensburg again helped the State of New York in the late 1980s when New York City faced a severe jail crisis when Ogdensburg agreed to accept the construction of Riverview Correctional Facility at a time when the citizens of the largest in City in the State, again were refusing to allow the construction of a jail to house their own citizens who were facing dangerous conditions in the overcrowded and dangerous city-run metropolitan area jail system, and

**WHEREAS**, in 1989, the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators voted unanimously to offer financial assistance in the amount of \$50,000 to assist the State of New York for land acquisition, infrastructure, and other costs to encourage the construction of an additional prison, and the offer helped lead to the choice to build the Gouverneur Correctional Facility, and

March 16, 2020

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Gouverneur stepped forward and agreed in 1990 to accept a medium security prison, and later agreed to help the State of New York provide facilities for some of its most troubled inmates by agreeing to accept the construction of a Secure Housing Unit, within the facility, to provide a safe place where people could serve their sentences, and

**WHEREAS**, Northern New York's Correctional Facilities have repeatedly demonstrated they are less costly to operate than downstate prisons, result in fewer injuries to staff and inmates, and are more efficient in terms of their operation,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Legislators calls upon Governor Andrew Cuomo to remember how the people of St. Lawrence County have a long history of helping the people of the State of New York and the City of New York when they have faced a crisis and needed a helping hand by continuing to operate these facilities.

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Mr. Reagen moved to adopt Resolution No. 92-2020, seconded by Mr. Perkins, Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Burke, Mr. Leader, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Arquiett and Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) recused (N. Arquiett).

**CHAIR'S APPOINTMENTS:**

Chair Lightfoot appointed the following people to the Coronavirus Response Work Group: Dana McGuire (Chair), Ruth Doyle, Jolene Munger, Mary Farley, Matt Denner, Andrea Montgomery, Brooks Bigwarfe, Sean O'Brien, Steve Button, Rita Curran, Ken Gardener, Tanya Burnett, Tom Tromboli, Dr. Andrew Williams, and Joe Lightfoot

RESOLUTION NO. 93-2020

**REQUESTING AN EXTENSION FOR THE CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT  
EFFORTS AND RESPONSES FOR ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY**

By Mr. Burke, District 12

**WHEREAS**, the Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution to be conducted every ten (10) years, and

**WHEREAS**, Census data is used to determine apportionment for political representation at federal, state, and local levels, and

**WHEREAS**, Census data is used to ensure fairness in taxation, and to determine funding levels for a wide variety of federal and state programs, and

**WHEREAS**, the Census is due to be conducted in 2020, and is scheduled to be accepted during the period of March 12 – July 31, 2020, and

**WHEREAS**, a world-wide pandemic, caused by a novel corona virus, COVID-19, is anticipated to prevent access to movement required to collect the necessary data, and

March 16, 2020

**WHEREAS**, in New York State, Governor Andrew Cuomo has declared a State of Emergency and is urging all New Yorkers to stay at home as much as possible, and to keep a safe distance of six (6) feet from others in public spaces, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Legislators believes that a complete count of population cannot be accomplished within the County during the stated time period for collecting Census responses, due to the following circumstances:

- According to local university data, there are more than 10,000 students attending college in St. Lawrence County; all local universities have closed until the threat has passed,
- An order given by the Governor asks people to stay at home as much as possible, and local events have been cancelled making it challenging for the County to conduct outreach efforts to remind people about the Census and its importance,
- Given the nature of this current pandemic, it will be impossible for the County to conduct door-to-door outreach activity including the Amish population,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators requests an extension for the Census Complete Count efforts and responses for St. Lawrence County, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators request that the extended period for collecting Census responses be extended to the end of the year, 2020, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Legislators call on our elected representatives at the State and Federal levels to carry this message to Congress, where such change to the collection period for Census responses may be enacted, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be forwarded to President Donald Trump, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kristen Gillibrand, Assemblywoman Elise Stefanik, Steven Dillingham, Director of the United States Census Bureau; Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Elizabeth Little, Senator Patty Ritchie, Assemblyman Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, and Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush.

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Mr. Burke moved to adopt Resolution No. 93-2020, seconded by Mr. Forsythe and Mr. Arquiatt, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Chair Lightfoot adjourned the March Special Board Meeting at 5:37 p.m., as there was no further business.