

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: All Legislators were present with the exception of Mr. Perkins. Mr. Sheridan arrived at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Denesha offered the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Sheridan arrived at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Smithers moved to suspend the Rules of Procedure to include a resolution as Number 31 under Presentation of Resolutions, seconded by Mr. Gennett and Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. Gennett moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Smithers, Mr. Hull and Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Gennett moved to approve the January 2nd meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Hull, Mr. Reagen and Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

COMMUNICATIONS: The following correspondence were read by the Deputy Clerk:

1. Two resolutions were received from Greene County Board of Legislators: (1) “Urging New York State Legislature to advocate of behalf of Columbia-Greene Community College to increase funding” and (2) “Opposing New York State Senate Bill S7794 and New York Assembly Bill A8336, An Act to Amend the Public Authorities Law and Chapter 154 of the Laws of 1921, relating to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, in relation to contracts to provide food services at authority owned and operated transportation facilities and rest areas.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: There was no citizen participation.

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PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Operations Committee: 1-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 32-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH RAVE MOBILE SAFETY FOR AN EMERGENCY ALERT NOTIFICATION PROGRAM AND MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, an Emergency Alert Notification System is recommended as it would be beneficial to residents and emergency responders of St. Lawrence County,

WHEREAS, multiple systems have been reviewed, and RAVE Mobile Safety was determined to be the most cost-effective program for St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, RAVE Mobile Safety would allow mass notification by text and email to subscribers, sending thousands of messages per second to residents and visitors in a selected geographical location in the event of an emergency where such notification would be required, and

WHEREAS, RAVE Mobile Safety could act as a centralized hub for emergency information, allow for an effective platform for the distribution of information, providing real-time updates on emergencies such as flooding, blizzards, or severe weather alerts, and

WHEREAS, RAVE Mobile Safety also localizes access to IPAWS (FEMA's national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public through multiple means of communication), which would expedite public notification to all individuals within a selected geographical location regardless of subscription to the service in the event of a major incident, and

WHEREAS, the cost for the RAVE Mobile Safety for a one-year subscription is \$23,940,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Rave Mobile Safety for an Emergency Alert Notification Program for one year, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to modify the 2024 Budget for the Office of Emergency Services, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700	B SPEC Contingency Account	\$23,941
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

X2036404 42004	X Computer Software	\$23,941
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Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 32-2024, seconded by Mr. Gennett and Mr. Hull, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Operations Committee: 1-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 33-2024

**MODIFYING THE 2023 BUDGET FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR FIVE
CALL-TAKING LICENSES FOR THE 911 DISPATCH CENTERS**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services has utilized Intrado to provide phone services in the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the last twenty-five years; a system which has been updated to have the ability to directly interface with our Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) software provider Spillman, in order to streamline and expedite calls to 911 in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is in the process of planning an extensive 911 Dispatch Center renovation which will include the upgrade of technological equipment and service upgrades at both the Primary (Canton) and Backup (Massena) 911 Centers, and

WHEREAS, dispatch center renovation include adding additional call-taking locations; two (2) in the Dispatch Center, one (1) for the Supervisor of Dispatch, and one (1) for the Backup 911 Center in Massena, and

WHEREAS, adding licenses increases the annual maintenance costs associated with the equipment, computer systems, and support, and

WHEREAS, maintenance costs are typically budgeted within multiple State and Federal grants; however, with recent changes within the grant claiming process and increasing costs of other services in which the Office of Emergency Services utilizes, the maintenance cost is no longer paid for by the grants, and

WHEREAS, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), a political subdivision of Texas, was established pursuant to Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act (Texas Local Government Code, Title 7, Chapter 791), which allows local government and certain non-profits to contract or agree under the terms of the Act to make purchases or provide purchasing services and other administrative functions appropriately established by another agency, where these products and services are contracted after having been subjected to either a competitive bid (IFB) or

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competitive proposal (RFP) process, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County Government is contracted as an end-user with the HGA-C Program, and

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services has funding available in the budget for personnel and contractual accounts due to reduced costs throughout the year that are recommended for this expense,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2023 Budget for the Office of Emergency Services for call-taking licenses for the 911 Dispatch Centers, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

X1C34101 11000	X CD Direct Service Workers	\$18,000
X1C34101 17000	X CD Regular Part-Time	9,276
XP036404 43007	X PSCS Other Fees & Services	<u>14,400</u>
		\$41,676

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

XP036404 42004	X Computer Software	\$41,676
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Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 33-2024, seconded by Mr. Burke and Mr. Gennett carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Operations Committee: 1-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 34-2024

**ENCOURAGING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROTECT AGRICULTURE
BY USING A SOLAR DEVELOPMENT MAPPING TOOL FOR DECISION-MAKING
REGARDING SOLAR DEVELOPMENT**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Gennett, District 13

WHEREAS, the market value of agricultural products grown in St. Lawrence County was \$191 million in 2017, and

WHEREAS, the success of the farming industry in St. Lawrence County relies on the availability of productive soils to grow food and products, and

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WHEREAS, the presence of prime farmland and prime farmland if drained are limited to nineteen percent (19%) of all land in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, large-scale solar arrays typically require five (5) to seven (7) acres of cleared, flat, dry land for every megawatt of power they generate, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Planning Board has reviewed 45 solar projects over the past decade that have or will potentially displace 1,400 acres of farmland, and

WHEREAS, the rural character, affordable real estate prices, and presence of high voltage transmission lines in St. Lawrence County, along with the energy policies of New York State will continue to attract the siting of solar arrays on farmland, and

WHEREAS, the Planning Office created a Solar Development Mapping Tool, located on the County Website at <https://stlawco.gov/Departments/Planning/SolarDevelopmentMappingTool> that identifies areas of the County where solar development will have less negative impacts on agricultural land, and is available and encouraged to use by local governments,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators encourages local governments to protect agriculture by using a Solar Development Mapping Tool for decision-making regarding solar development.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 34-2024, seconded by Mr. Denesha, Mr. Gennett and Mr. Hull.

Mr. Denesha recognized Planning Director, Jason Pfothauer.

Resolution No. 34-2024 was adopted by a voice call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Operations Committee: 1-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 35-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A 30-DAY MODIFICATION PERIOD FOR THE EIGHT-YEAR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT REVIEW THAT WILL RUN CONCURRENTLY WITH THE ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT REVIEW FOR ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY AND SETTING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County established an agricultural districting program to protect and enhance its agricultural lands and farming industry, and

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WHEREAS, Agricultural District No. 1 is undergoing an eight-year review and covers the Towns of DeKalb, DePeyster, Edwards, Fowler, Gouverneur, Hammond, Hermon, Maccomb, Morristown, Oswegatchie, Pitcairn, and Rossie, and

WHEREAS, Agricultural District No. 2, which covers the Towns of Brasher, Canton, Hopkinton, Lawrence, Lisbon, Louisville, Madrid, Massena, Norfolk, Parishville, Pierrepont, Potsdam, Russell, Stockholm, and Waddington is proposed to be consolidated with Agricultural District No. 1, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Agricultural Districts Law requires a 30-day period to give landowners and municipalities the opportunity to petition for the inclusion of, or the removal of, land from an Agricultural District, and

WHEREAS, State regulations also require the County to give the public the opportunity to comment on any proposed changes to the Districts as recommended by the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board which will be completed with a Public Hearing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the creation of a 30-day modification period for the eight-year agricultural district review that will run concurrently with the annual Agricultural District Review of the County, which occurs from March 1st to March 30th of each year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes setting a date for a public hearing to allow the public the opportunity to comment on the recommendation of the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board to modify Agricultural Districts Nos. 1 and 2, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing to modify Agriculture Districts Nos. 1 and 2 will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the Human Services Center Conference Room, located at 80 State Highway 310, Canton, New York.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 35-2024, seconded by Mr. Hull, Mr. Denesha, and Mr. Gennett, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

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Operations Committee: 1-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 36-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RENEWAL FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS AND MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE PLANNING OFFICE

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR) has awarded \$615,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to St. Lawrence County to continue funding for the Countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program (CHRP 5), and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to approximately twelve (12) eligible, income-qualified households in communities across the County,

WHEREAS, in the last forty-two-years, 660 low-to-middle income households, in twenty-four different communities across St. Lawrence County, have been assisted with more than \$13.7million in CDBG funding for housing rehabilitation to bring residences up to building codes and increase the quality of housing in the County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract, and all necessary documentation, with New York State Office of Community Renewal for Community Development Block Grant Funds, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to modify the 2024 Budget for the Planning Office, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

N1080204 460GP NH55 N CDBG CHRP 5 Payments \$615,000

INCREASE REVENUE:

N1049105 57000 NH55 N FA CHRP 5 \$615,000

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

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 36-2024, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot and Mr. Gennett, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

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Operations Committee: 1-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 37-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN FEDERAL EQUITABLE SHARING PROGRAM AGREEMENT AND ANNUAL CERTIFICATION REPORT

By Ms. Currans, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice requires that the St. Lawrence County District Attorney's Office file an annual Federal Equitable Sharing Program Agreement and Certification Report to be eligible to submit requests for federally forfeited property or proceeds, and

WHEREAS, this agreement is entered into by the United States Department of Justice, the County of St. Lawrence, and the St. Lawrence County District Attorney's Office (J4011654 49900 DEA),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a Federal Equitable Sharing Program Agreement and Annual Certification Report, and any subsequent amendments, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 37-2024, seconded by Mr. Gennett and Mr. Reagen, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Operations Committee: 1-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 38-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH NEW YORK STATE TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE CORPORATION (NYSTEC) FOR VIRTUAL CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER SERVICES AND MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, cybersecurity threats remain prevalent throughout the world including for governments, and

WHEREAS, the complexity of these threats and the tendency to change rapidly requires more focused on organizational strategy for cybersecurity, and

WHEREAS, these demands exceed the ability of in-house IT Staff but allow staff to augment specialty type professional services, and

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WHEREAS, NYSTEC is a proven leader in security and has been commissioned by the State of New York to provide cybersecurity services to local governments to secure elections and has a working relationship with St. Lawrence County and its network environment, and

WHEREAS, NYSTEC provides Virtual Chief Information Security Officer (VCISO) services in lieu of having to hire a Chief Information Security Officer at significant expense, to include, but not limited to, regular security assessments, compliance training, vendor contract review, policy assistance, reports and recommendations, and

WHEREAS, these funds were set aside during the 2024 Budget in targeted contingency and requires authorization of the Board of Legislators,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with New York State Technology Enterprise Corporations (NYSTEC) for Virtual Chief Information Security Officer Services, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for Information Technology, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700	B SPEC Contingency Account	\$40,000
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

CD016804 43007	C IT Other Fees	\$40,000
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Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 38-2024, seconded by Mr. Denesha, Mr. Gennett, and Mr. Lightfoot, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

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Operations Committee: 1-8-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 39-2024

URGING GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS SENATE BILL S1230 AND ASSEMBLY BILL A4552, “AN ACT TO AMEND THE EDUCATIONS LAW, IN RELATION TO ADOPTING THE INTER-STATE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (PART A) AND TO AMEND THE EDUCATION LAW IN RELATION TO ADOPTING THE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE COMPACT (PART B)

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Hull, District 8

WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact is an agreement among states to allow nurses to practice with a multi-state license meaning if their nursing license was earned in one of the nursing compact states they can practice in other participating states without applying for another license, and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) was proposed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing in 1997 in response to a variety of calls for action, and

WHEREAS, legislation to adopt the NLC was first proposed in New York State in 2013, but as of August 2023, New York State is one of eleven (11) states in the Nation that remains a non-NLC State, and

WHEREAS, being a member of the NLC means nurses would have more geographic flexibility which helps nurses who work in multistate health systems and traveling nurses, and it also benefits participating states and their employers since they can hire nurses from other NLC states removing the need to apply for new licenses resulting in a more streamlined process, and

WHEREAS, there is a nation-wide shortage of nursing staff that has progressed over the years with several factors contributing to the healthcare staffing crisis such as an aging workforce, burnout, high turnover, and the lack of nursing educators, along with the COVID-19 pandemic which aggravated the healthcare crisis, and

WHEREAS, rural and remote areas, such as St. Lawrence County, tend to have older residents who typically require more medical attention and care, and having fully-staffed local hospitals and access to care is necessary, and

WHEREAS, being a member of the NLC would increase the number of available nurses; help prepare for natural disasters, virus outbreaks, or other unpredictable circumstances where more nurses would be needed; promote cooperation with nurses and healthcare professionals across state lines; and give greater access to care with patients not missing out on specialized care that they could benefit from because of state lines,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to pass Senate Bill S1230 and Assembly Bill A4552, “An Act to Amend the Educations Law, in Relation to Adopting the Inter-State Nurse Licensure Compact (Part A) and to Amend the Education Law in Relation to Adopting the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact (Part B), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul; Senator Mark Walczyk; Senator Dan Stec; Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush; Assemblyman Scott Gray; NYSAC; James V. McDonald, Commissioner, New York State Department of Health; Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner, New York State Department of Education.

Ms. Curran moved to adopt Resolution No. 39-2024, seconded by Mr. Smithers and Mr. Gennett, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Services Committee: 1-22-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 40-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITH PROVIDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS (CYSHCN) PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS

By Mr. Hull, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN) provides education and resources to families, providers, and the community as a whole, and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to contract with various providers and/or organizations to share this essential information at community events would be beneficial for all involved, and

WHEREAS, providers and/or organizations who sign contracts to take part in these community events would receive a rate of \$250 (PE040594 43007) per event,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorize the Chair to sign contracts with providers and/or organizations for the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program for community events, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Hull moved to adopt Resolution No. 40-2024, seconded by Mr. Gennett and Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

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Services Committee: 1-22-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 41-2024

**MODIFYING THE 2023 BUDGET FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE RESPONSE GRANT**

By Mr. Hull, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department was awarded \$313,036 (PPZ44895 57000 VAC) with objectives and goals to focus primarily on COVID-19 vaccine implementation, and

WHEREAS, there have been higher than anticipated operating expenses and fringe benefits within the COVID-19 Vaccine Response Grant, and a decrease in salary expense within the COVID-19 Vaccine Response Grant,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2023 Budget for Public Health for the COVID-19 Vaccine Response Grant, as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

PPZ40101 19000 VAC	P CVD Vaccine Temp and Part Time	\$24,353
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

PPZ40104 43005 VAC	P CVD Vaccine Advertising Fees & Expense	\$24,353
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any remaining funds will be rolled over to future budgets until the grant is fully expended.

Mr. Hull moved to adopt Resolution No. 41-2024, seconded by Mr. Fay, Mr. Gennett and Ms. Curran, carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Services Committee: 1-22-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 42-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE STOP-DWI 2024 PLAN FOR THE NEW
YORK STATE GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

By Mr. Hull, Chair, Service Committee

WHEREAS, Vehicle and Traffic Law §1197 requires the Chair of the Board of Legislators to approve the STOP-DWI 2024 Plan which has been submitted to the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, and

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WHEREAS, the STOP-DWI Plan was requested by the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee for the time period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the STOP-DWI Program Budget was approved by the Board of Legislators on December 4, 2023,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign the STOP-DWI 2024 Plan for the New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee, and any other documents necessary to carry out the terms of the program, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Hull moved to adopt Resolution No. 42-2024, seconded by Mr. Gennett, Ms. Curran and Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Services Committee: 1-22-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 43-2024

MODIFYING THE 2023 SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET FOR YEAR END EXPENSES

By Mr. Hull, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, due to higher than anticipated costs in some areas such as Safety Net and reduced spending in Preventive, it is necessary to modify the 2023 Social Services Budget to cover the final expenses for 2023,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorize the Treasurer to modify the 2023 Social Services Budget as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

DPS61404 46100	D HR Directs	\$9,000
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DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

DSC61094 465YA PRP	D PRP Prevent/Reunification	\$9,000
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Mr. Hull moved to adopt Resolution No. 43-2024, seconded by Mr. Fay, Mr. Smithers, Mr. Gennett and Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

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Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 44-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE WILDLIFE SERVICES

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Department of Highways to maintain safe roadways in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, beaver activity has caused significant damage to County roads including flooding of roads, erosion of roadbeds, blocked road culverts, and other related property damage, as well as indirect threats to human health and safety, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Highways has requested assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (APHIS WS) to reduce damage caused by beavers at a cost not to exceed \$9,000 (HM351104 43007), and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Inter-governmental Agreement is to establish and administer a cooperative program between the Department of Highways and APHIS WS to reduce roadway damage along with the risk to human health and safety from beavers, and

WHEREAS, to mitigate damage caused by beaver, APHIS WS may install and maintain water control structures to reduce flooding and prevent beaver dams from restricting water flows where appropriate, as well as reduce local, site specific beaver numbers at locations where beaver activities are causing or threatening to damage roads or other properties managed or identified by the Department of Highways, and

WHEREAS, the terms of this agreement will become effective on March 1, 2024, and expire on December 31, 2024,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorize the Chair to sign an agreement between St. Lawrence County Department of Highways and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Wildlife Services, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 44-2024, seconded by Mr. Smithers, Mr. Burke, and Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

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Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 45-2024

MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS FOR THE LAZY RIVER ROAD BRIDGE OVER GRASSE RIVER, BIN 3341820, PIN 775332

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is responsible for maintaining its infrastructure for the safety of the traveling public, and

WHEREAS, construction is scheduled for 2024 for the Lazy River Road Bridge over Grasse River, BIN 3341820, a Federal Pass-through project, and

WHEREAS, the steel inspection/material testing for this project was not included in the 2024 Department of Highways Budget, and

WHEREAS, the steel inspection/material testing for this project is funded with ninety-five percent (95%) Federal Funds and five percent (5%) local match,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the Department of Highways for the Lazy River Road Bridge over Grasse River, BIN 3341820, PIN 775332, as follows:

DECREASE UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

03TG0911 50300 Fund Bal, Unreserved Unappropriated \$3,750

INCREASE APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

03TG0910 50300 Fund Bal, Unreserved Appropriated \$3,750

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HM299509 90600 H CR Transfers to Capital Fund \$75,000

INCREASE REVENUE:

HM045975 57000 H F/A Transportation Capital Project \$71,250

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HM651204 465CO 2101 H 2101 Sub-Contracts \$75,000

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INCREASE REVENUE:

06TG5031 90300 CP Transfer from County Road \$75,000

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 45-2024, seconded by Mr. Smithers, Mr. Denesha and Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 46-2024

MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS FOR COUNTY ROUTE 35 BRIDGE OVER TROUT BROOK, BIN 3341700, PIN 775394

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is responsible for maintaining its infrastructure for the safety of the traveling public, and

WHEREAS, construction is scheduled in 2024 for County Route 35 over Trout Brook, BIN 3341700, a Federal pass-through project, and

WHEREAS, the steel inspection/material testing for this project was not included in the 2024 Department of Highways' Budget, and

WHEREAS, the steel inspection/material testing for this project is funded with ninety-five percent (95%) Federal funds and five percent (5%) local match,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the Department of Highways for County Route 35 Bridge over Trout Brook, BIN 3341700, PIN 775394, as follows:

DECREASE UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

03TG0911 50300 Fund Bal, Unreserved Unappropriated \$3,100

INCREASE APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

03TG0910 50300 Fund Bal, Unreserved Appropriated \$3,100

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HM299509 90600 H CR Transfers to Capital Fund \$62,000

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INCREASE REVENUE:

HM045975 57000 H F/A Transportation Capital Project \$58,900

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HM651204 465CO 2035 H 2035 Sub-Contracts \$62,000

INCREASE REVENUE:

06TG5031 90300 CP Transfer from County Road \$62,000

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 46-2024, seconded by Mr. Burke and Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 47-2024

MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS FOR COUNTY ROUTE 22 BRIDGE OVER SAWYER CREEK, BIN 3340950, PIN 775425

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is responsible for maintaining its infrastructure for the safety of the traveling public, and

WHEREAS, construction is scheduled for 2024 for County Route 22 over Sawyer Creek, BIN 3340950, a Federal Pass-through project, and

WHEREAS, the engineering and design for this project was not included in the 2024 Department of Highways' Budget, and

WHEREAS, the engineering and design for this project is funded with ninety-five percent (95%) Federal funds and five percent (5%) local match,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the Department of Highways for County Route 22 Bridge over Sawyer Creek, BIN 3340950, PIN 775425, as follows:

DECREASE UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

03TG0911 50300 Fund Bal, Unreserved Unappropriated \$13,350

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INCREASE APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

03TG0910 50300	Fund Bal, Unreserved Appropriated	\$13,350
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HM299509 90600	H CR Transfers to Capital Fund	\$267,000
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INCREASE REVENUE:

HM045975 57000	H F/A Transportation Capital Project	\$253,650
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HM651204 465CO 2322	H 2322 Sub-Contracts	\$267,000
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INCREASE REVENUE:

06TG5031 90300	CP Transfer from County Road	\$267,000
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Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 47-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 48-2024

MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS FOR THE COUNTY ROUTE 34 BRIDGE OVER TROUT BROOK, BIN 3341630, PIN 775426

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is responsible for maintaining its infrastructure for the safety of the traveling public, and

WHEREAS, construction is scheduled for 2024 for County Route 34 over Trout Brook, BIN 3341630, a Federal pass-through project, and

WHEREAS, the engineering and design for this project was not included in the 2024 Department of Highways' Budget, and

WHEREAS, the engineering and design for this project is funded with ninety-five percent (95%) Federal funds and a five percent (5%) local match,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the Department of Highways for the County Route 34 Bridge over Trout Brook, BIN 3341630, PIN 775426, as follows:

DECREASE UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

03TG0911 50300	Fund Bal, Unreserved Unappropriated	\$13,750
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INCREASE APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

03TG0910 50300	Fund Bal, Unreserved Appropriated	\$13,750
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HM299509 90600	H CR Transfers to Capital Fund	\$275,000
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INCREASE REVENUE:

HM045975 57000	H F/A Transportation Capital Project	\$261,250
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HM651204 465CO 2334	H 2334 Sub-Contracts	\$275,000
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INCREASE REVENUE:

06TG5031 90300	CP Transfer from County Road	\$275,000
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Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 48-2024, seconded by Mr. Burke and Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 49-2024

**MODIFYING THE 2023 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK**

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, the Department of Highways budgets appropriation and revenue accounts to reflect current and projected operations, and

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WHEREAS, the Department requests to amend the budget to more closely reflect actual operations for 2023, and

WHEREAS, the NYS DOT equipment rates were last updated in 2017 and were updating during 2023 to match FEMA rates, and

WHEREAS, due to a lack of snow during the early 2023 winter season, more road maintenance work was done by the Department,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2023 Budget for the Department of Highways for Road Maintenance Work, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HM351104 40600	H MR Machinery Rental	\$241,000
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DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HC051424 454WM	H CSR Winter Maintenance Materials	\$200,000
HS051444 406000	H Snow Machinery Rental	<u>41,000</u>
		\$241,000

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 49-2024, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Smithers, and Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 50-2024

MODIFYING THE 2023 BUDGET FOR THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT FOR RECYCLING COSTS AND EQUIPMENT REPAIR

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution Nos. 263-2023 and 318-2023 authorized modifications to the 2023 Budget due to drastic changes in the market, and these changes continue to impact the Enterprise Fund, and

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Department requires additional funding to cover the increase in recycling costs and equipment repairs, and

WHEREAS, unforeseen costs in 2023 have caused overages exceeding the budget, and

WHEREAS, the overage in these expenses can be offset by retained earnings,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2023 Budget for the Solid Waste Department for recycling costs and equipment repair, as follows:

DECREASE RETAINED EARNINGS:

05TG0909 50300	Retained Earnings	\$66,100
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INCREASE APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

05TG0599 50300	EL Fund Balance, Appropriated	\$66,100
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

WH081604 43018 RECY	W RECY Tipping Fees	\$57,000
WT081604 42200	W TRS I/D Equip Repair & Maintenance	<u>9,100</u>
		\$66,100

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 50-2024, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot and Ms. Curran.

Mr. Forsythe said he will be traveling to DANC for a meeting and to tour the facility next Tuesday, along with Legislators Gennett and Lightfoot, and County Administrator Ruth Doyle.

Resolution No. 50-2024 was adopted by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 51-2024

**MODIFYING THE 2023 BUDGET FOR THE TREASURER’S OFFICE
FOR ADDITIONAL SALES TAX DISTRIBUTION**

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, since 2017, the Treasurer’s Office has received more sales tax revenue than budgeted for the Fiscal Year, and

WHEREAS, should revenue exceed budget, a budget modification is necessary to pay the towns and villages the additional funds shared by the County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2023 Budget for the Treasurer’s Office to distribute additional sales tax, as follows:

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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

T3019854 465ST	T Distribution of sales tax	\$3,025,000
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INCREASE REVENUE:

T3011105 55000	T R Sales and Use Tax	\$3,025,000
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Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 51-2024, seconded by Mr. Burke and Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 52-2024

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH ALLIED WORLD INSURANCE FOR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR INSURANCE FOR COUNTY-EMPLOYED MEDICAL PROVIDERS

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County Government is comprised of twenty-four (24) Departments with three (3) departments that currently operate with a statutory and legal obligation to render medical care, and

WHEREAS, Public Health, Community Services, and the Sheriff's Office employ licensed medical professionals to render care to members of the public, and

WHEREAS, there are twenty-seven (27) medical professionals in Community Services (A1142504 414MM; A1242504 414 MM; A1342504 414 MM; A164250 414MM; A3143201 414MM; A3143204 414MM; A3243204 414MM; A3343204 414MM; A3743204 414MM); nine (9) medical professionals in the Sheriff's Office (S4031504 414MM); and ten (10) medical professionals in the Public Health Department (PE040594 414MM) and all require medical malpractice insurance to insure the County against any loss or liability associated with their practice areas, and

WHEREAS, the Office of the County Attorney, through insurance broker Rose & Kiernan, a subsidiary of NFP Insurance, secured quotes for the provision of medical malpractice insurance coverage, and

WHEREAS, Allied World Insurance was identified as the lowest, most reasonable bidder for the professional services, and

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WHEREAS, the County has the ability to renew coverage through the extension of the original contract for medical malpractice coverage in the amount of \$275,000,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Allied World Insurance for medical malpractice insurance coverage, and any other documents necessary, for the County-employed medical providers, upon the approval of the County Attorney.

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 52-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 53-2024

**SETTING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED
LOCAL LAW A (NO. _) FOR THE YEAR 2024, “RESCINDING LOCAL LAW NO. 7
FOR THE YEAR 1994 “BANNING DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN
COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY & VEHICLES”**

By Mr. Forsythe, District 2 and Mr. Perkins, District 7

WHEREAS, in 1994, St. Lawrence County adopted Local Law No. 7 which banned the possession of dangerous weapons, to include licensed firearms, in County buildings and vehicles, and

WHEREAS, due to a lack of definition, the local law had the legal effect of banning possession of legally licensed firearm possession in not only buildings and vehicles but upon property appurtenant thereto, to include sidewalks, parking lots, and surrounding lands, and

WHEREAS, on June 23rd, 2022, the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in NYSRPA et. al v. Bruen et. al, striking down the New York State ‘proper cause’ requirements for the issuance of a pistol license, and

WHEREAS, building on District of Columbia v. Heller and the decision in McDonald v. City of Chicago, Illinois, the United States Supreme Court ruled in Bruen that the Second Amendment’s protection of “the right to keep and bear arms” extends to individual self-defense outside the home, and

WHEREAS, the Bruen Decision enunciated that historical analogues have permitted the banning of firearms within governmental buildings and property, among other places, but that it was incumbent upon the government to establish those regulations, and

WHEREAS, in response to the Bruen Decision, the New York State Legislature and Governor Kathy Hochul concluded a two-day extraordinary session on July 1, 2022 that led to

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Governor Hochul signing the “Concealed Carry Improvement Act” so titled by its proponents, and

WHEREAS, the Concealed Carry Improvement Act (CCIA) moved to circumvent the decision to deprive its citizens of any effective right to self-defense in public in one major way, by exponentially expanding the places [“Sensitive places”] in which a person with a valid license cannot carry a firearm for self-defense, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has now usurped local authority in making rules related to possession of weapons on its own property so that Local Law No. 7 for the Year 1994 is no longer relevant, and

WHEREAS, the law requires that a Local Law adoption be preceded by a public hearing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing on proposed Local Law A (No. __) for the Year 2024 will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 5:50 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers.

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW A FOR THE YEAR 2024 RESCINDING LOCAL LAW NO. 7 FOR THE YEAR 1994 “BANNING DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN COUNTY OWNED BUILDINGS & VEHICLES”

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Legislators of the County of St. Lawrence as follows:

Section 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of this local law to rescind Local Law No. 7 of the Year 1994 which had been entitled: “BANNING DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN COUNTY OWNED BUILDINGS AND VEHICLES” as the State of New York has enacted legislation which has rendered this local law superfluous.

Section 2. AUTHORITY

This local law is adopted pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law and the County Law which expressly authorizes the County Board to adopt a local law related to the property and operations of County government.

Section 3. RESCISSION OF LOCAL LAW OPTING OUT

The St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators hereby rescinds Local Law No. 7 of the Year 1994 which had been entitled: “Banning Dangerous Weapons in County owned Buildings and Vehicles”.

Section 4. SEVERABILITY

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application

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thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstances, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Mr. Lightfoot moved to adopt Resolution No. 53-2024, seconded by Mr. Burke, Mr. Smithers, Mr. Gennett, Mr. Webster, Mr. Denesha, Ms. Curran and Mr. Reagen.

Mr. Lightfoot said this local law is thirty years old and New York State has since passed laws regarding firearms and ammunition that cover all the provisions in the County local law making it redundant. The State law supersedes the local law.

Resolution No. 53-2024 was adopted by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 54-2024

REQUESTING A PARDON FROM THE PLANNED CLOSURE OF ANY PRISONS IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY AND URGING GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL TO CONSIDER THE IMPACT ADDITIONAL PRISON CLOSURES WILL HAVE ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY OF THE NORTH COUNTRY

By Mr. Reagen, District 1; Mr. Forsythe, District 2; Mr. Perkins, District 7
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Lightfoot, District 3; Mr. Sheridan, District 4; Mr. Smithers, District 5; Mr. Denesha, District 6; and Mr. Webster, District 11 Mr. Gennett, District 13; and Ms. Curran, District 15

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul released her proposed 2024-2025 Executive Budget on January 23, 2024, which included legislation to close up to five (5) State correctional facilities, and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the North Country withstood a significant impact from the closure of the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility, which was one of six prisons shut down that year, and the local economy and families are still struggling with the aftermath, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 276-2022 made a request to Governor Hochul to continue heating the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility until a realistic plan for its reuse, and the Governor

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demonstrated her good faith and genuine desire to redevelop the property by keeping the heat and lights on in the building to prevent needless destruction, and until the Redevelopment Commission she created successfully transitioned the facility into productive use that results in new jobs, new economic development opportunities, and real growth for Northern New York, so hearing of the possible closure of more prisons is devastating news, and

WHEREAS, further prison closures in St. Lawrence County will again lead to job loss impacting already stressed families that rely on these correctional facilities, and will affect the economic well-being of the entire community, resulting in the relocation of families and more vacant properties, and

WHEREAS, in addition, closing prisons affects public safety, which should be the top priority of the State of New York, and shutting down additional facilities throughout the State will further exacerbate the increasing crime rates and decrease safety within prisons by consolidating them even further,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators requests a pardon from the planned closure of any prisons in St. Lawrence County and urging Governor Hochul to consider the impact additional prison closures will have on the local economy of the North Country, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Katherine Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Assemblyman Scott Gray.

Mr. Reagen moved to adopt Resolution No. 54-2024, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Burke, Mr. Smithers, Mr. Gennett, Ms. Terminelli, Mr. Denesha, Ms. Curran, Ms. Haggard, and Mr. Webster.

Mr. Reagen said seven prisons across northern New York have closed including the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility in St. Lawrence County, and none of these prisons have been redeveloped or made productive. This has led to job loss and families being uprooted. New York State claims prisons are being closed due to staffing issues, but in fact, the more prisons that close the less likely people are going to be going into the Corrections field, and if people are forced to move somewhere to work at a prison far away from families, people will be taking early retirement and getting out of the profession. This resolution is asking New York State to take a hard look at which prisons are more efficient in operations, and they will find that the prisons in St. Lawrence County are ranked among the best managed and have the most dedicated workforce.

Mr. Gennett asked to be added as a co-sponsor to this resolution.

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Mr. Smithers said he agrees with the comments made by Mr. Reagen, but there is another element to this which is the attitude of the lawmakers in Albany. They no longer want to put criminals in jail and the crime rate is going up and the prison population is going down. One of the main jobs of government is to protect its citizens. Mr. Smithers said he objects to the idea of closing prisons.

Ms. Curran asked to be added as a co-sponsor to this resolution. She said prisoner feel safer and say they are treated better in the prisons in northern New York.

Ms. Haggard said it is a very complex situation. The number of murders are down in New York City by 12%, along with double-digit percentage decreases in the number of rapes, burglaries, and shootings since 2022.

Mr. Sheridan said he is concerned with the crime rate, and it is discouraging that the people in Albany are doing things to hurt the situation instead help it. He said he is going to support this resolution and he hopes it gets the attention of the people in Albany.

Resolution No. 54-2024 was adopted by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 55-2024

ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR THE NY SCION INITIATIVE

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, New York State Department of Labor Technical Advisory #21-06 states that each Local Workforce Development Area must have at least one Disability Resource Coordinator on staff, and

WHEREAS, New York State Development of Labor Technical Advisory #21-06.01 expanded the three (3) year pilot program to a five (5) year program, and

WHEREAS, each Local Workforce Development Board will receive up to \$100,000 annually for five (5) consecutive years to assist with the implementation, and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Development Board has been awarded the third-year funding of \$100,000 to administer the initiative known as the New York Systems Change and Inclusive Opportunities Network (NY SCION), and

WHEREAS, Resolution #22-C09-05, which authorized the execution of the agreement to accept the funding for the NY SCION Initiative, was approved at the St. Lawrence County Workforce Development Board meeting on March 9, 2022, and

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WHEREAS, the funds are available to be used from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to establish the Budget for the NY SCION Initiative, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

UR262901 12000	Supervisory/Administrative	\$4,653
UR262904 40700	Bldg & Property Rent	500
UR262904 41400	Liability & Other Insurance	18
UR262904 42000	Office Supplies & Expenses	10
UR262904 42002	Copying Expenses	14
UR262904 42300	Other Communication Services	14
UR262904 42400	Postage	14
UR262904 42700	Membership & Dues	18
UR262904 430WI	WIB Expenses	1,800
UR262904 47800	DP Charges	140
UR262908 81000	Retirement	637
UR262908 83000	Social Security	330
UR262908 84000	Workers' Compensation	125
UR262908 84500	Group Life Insurance	7
UR262908 86000	Hospital & Medical Insurance	1,650
UR262908 86500	Dental Insurance	50
UR262908 89000	Vision Insurance	20
UR262911 11000	Direct Service Worker	53,042
UR262911 19550	Health Insurance Buyback	3,005
UR262914 40700	Bldg & Property Rent	4,121
UR262914 41100	Educational Workshops	2,500
UR262914 41400	Liability & Other Insurance	200
UR262914 41901	I/D Central Printing	150
UR262914 42000	Office Supplies & Expenses	281
UR262914 42002	Copying Expenses	65
UR262914 42300	Other Communication Services	78
UR262914 42400	Postage	85
UR262914 42700	Membership & Dues	338
UR262914 430WI	WIB Expenses	2,760
UR262914 47800	DP Charges	5,500
UR262918 81000	Retirement	7,280
UR262918 83000	Social Security	4,350
UR262918 84000	Workers Compensation	1,510
UR262918 84500	Group Life Insurance	115
UR262918 86000	Hospital & Medical Insurance	3,600
UR262918 86500	Dental Insurance	780
UR262918 89000	Vision Insurance	240
		<u>\$100,000</u>

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INCREASE REVENUE:

UR247905 57000

NY SCION Revenue

\$100,000

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 55-2024, seconded by Mr. Burke, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 56-2024

**MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
TO PURCHASE AN ENVELOPE PRINTER FOR MAIL ROOM**

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, departments across the County utilize preprinted envelopes to conduct business, and

WHEREAS, preprinted envelopes have historically been procured using outside vendors, often purchased in bulk to realize savings, and

WHEREAS, printing envelopes in-house allows for better inventory control and a reduction in costs by allowing for the printing of envelopes on an as-needed basis, resulting in reduced wait time and shipping costs, and

WHEREAS, the Print Shop operates with minimal staffing with one (1) supervisor and one (1) print and mail clerk, along with the mailroom staff provide valuable services at a minimal cost, and

WHEREAS, in the last few years the County has expanded its footprint in the community, adding two additional locations where County staff provide services, and

WHEREAS, changing a half-time mail room position to full-time this year will allow support in the Print Shop and support establishing mail runs to satellite offices, saving money by using presort postage rates, and

WHEREAS, as part of the 2024 Budget preparation process, funds were placed in targeted contingency for the purpose of purchasing an envelope printer,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the County Administrator's Office for the purchase of an envelope printer, as follows:

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Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 57-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Hull, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Finance Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 58-2024

**MODIFYING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
FOR PAVING PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL
44.35 MILES OF PAVING**

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is required to maintain 573 miles of County roads and its infrastructure for the safety of the traveling public, and the County paves approximately thirty (30) miles of road on an annual basis through a mix of federal, state, and local tax dollars, and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Board of Legislators demonstrated a commitment to addressing the challenges with the County Road System when Resolution No. 243-2022 was adopted adding ten (10) miles (\$2.1M to the Budget) for paving, and again in 2023, the Board of Legislators committed \$1.2M in Resolution No. 262-2023 to add another ten (10) additional miles of paving throughout the County for a second consecutive year, and

WHEREAS, the reserves for County Road and County Road Machinery have been depleted over the last two years, utilized to pay for two (2) of the three (3) County Highway Outposts in Russell and in Lisbon, and

WHEREAS, the reserves for the General Fund have reached the intended level associated with the 2016 Fund Balance Policy and therefore the County has an opportunity for consideration of additional miles for paving for the third consecutive year, and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Budget includes 34.88 miles to be paved and the recommendation is to add an additional forty (44.35) miles of paving, subject to the competitive bidding process for 2024, rather than adding the miles at the end of the construction season,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2024 Budget for the Department of Highways for paving projects and authorizes an additional 44.35 miles of paving, as follows:

DECREASE UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

01TG0911 50300 Fund Balance, Unreserved Unappropriated \$5,000,000

INCREASE APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

01TG0910 50300 Fund Balance, Unreserved Appropriated \$5,000,000

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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

T6199019 90300 T IFT GF Transfer to CR \$5,000,000

INCREASE REVENUE:

T6350319 90100 T IFT CR Transfer from GF \$5,000,000

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

HM151104 454PM H1 H H1 Paving Materials \$5,000,000

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 58-2024, seconded by Mr. Smithers, Ms. Curran, Mr. Reagen, and Mr. Webster.

Mr. Smithers said he was happy this resolution has been brought forward and said it is good use of County funds as the roads are not lasting anywhere near the predicted nineteen (19) year lifespan.

Resolution No. 58-2024 was adopted by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

Services Committee: 1-29-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 59-2024

**MODIFYING THE 2023 BUDGET FOR SOCIAL SERVICES
FOR TRAINING FEES, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND FOSTER CARE**

By Mr. Gennett, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, due to higher than anticipated costs in local training fees, Medical Assistance and Foster Care, it is necessary to modify the 2023 Social Services Budget to cover the final expenses for 2023,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorize the Treasurer to modify the 2023 Budget for Social Services Budget as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

DMG61014 46500	D LR Repayment Due State	\$8,000
DAT60104 499TF	D Trng Local Share Training FE	6,000
DSC61194 445VD ADCFC	D ADCFC Vol Driver Travel	60,000
DSC61194 46500 ADAD	D ADCFC Adoption Subsidies - I	272,500
DSC61194 465YA RTA	D RTA Youth Advocacy Program	12,500

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DSC61194 465IS ADCFC	D ADCFC Institutions	680,000
DSC61194 465IL	D Independent Living	14,000
DPS61404 46100	D HR Directs	8,800
DAF60104 420GE	D FS Office Supplies	<u>1,700</u>
		\$1,063,500

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

DAA60102 21000	D ADM Furniture & Fixtures	\$216,500
B1019904 49700	B Spec Contingency Account	<u>314,043</u>
		\$530,543

INCREASE REVENUE:

DMG36015 56000	D SA Medical Assistance	\$4,000
DMG46015 57000	D FA Medical Assistance	4,000
DSG36705 56000	D SA Services for Recipients	9,816
DA046105 57000	D FA General Administration	91,803
DSC46195 57000	D FA Child Care	263,838
DSC36195 56000 RTA	Foster Care RTA	12,500
DPS36405 56000	D SA Safety Net	2,500
DAC18115 55000	D LR Child Support Incentives	52,100
DAC27705 55000	D SCU Interest Earned	8,200
DPS27015 55000	D LR SN Prior Year Refunds	15,300
DPB18405 55000 BURY	D LR Safety Net Burials	8,900
DAF18115 55000	D LR Top Incentives	2,100
DSC27015 55000	D LR CC Prior Year Refunds	3,500
DA036105 56000	D SA General Administration	18,000
DAF46115 57000	D FA Food Stamps Administration	13,700
DAS36105 560CW	D SA Child Welfare Funding	<u>22,700</u>
		\$532,957

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 59-2024, seconded by Mr. Burke, and Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

RESOLUTION NO. 60-2024

AUTHORIZING FILLING OF VACANCIES

By Mr. Perkins, District 7

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 369-2019 and Resolution No. 253-2020 authorized the continuance of the current vacancy review process with a recommendation that the vacancies continue to be deliberated at each jurisdictional committee, but one resolution be created for all approved positions to be considered at the Regular Board Meeting, and

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WHEREAS, the Vacancy Review Committee reviewed seven (7) positions in five (5) departments, and of those reviewed four (4) positions were new positions, and three (3) positions will be abolished,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the fill of each of the following vacancies which have been reviewed and recommended to be filled or created and filled by the Vacancy Review Committee:

Department/Unit:	Title:	Position	Type	Duration	Timeline
Social Services/Prevent	Case Supervisor, Grade B	816100013	FT	Contingent	Immediate
Community Services	Mental Health Svc. Coordinator*	506300001	FT	Provisional	Immediate
Community Services	Senior Fiscal Officer*	099600004	FT	Provisional	Immediate
Community Services	Senior Account Clerk*	100200046	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Real Property	Secretary I*	005100039	FT	Permanent	Immediate
Emergency Services	Deputy Director/Emergency Services Coordinator	614200002	FT	Provisional	Immediate
Public Health	Administrative Assistant	005200009	FT	Permanent	30 days

*new position

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Position No. 102600001, Administrative Services Manager and Position No. 101200003, Fiscal Manager, be abolished in Community Services and Position No. 100100039, Account Clerk be abolished in Real Property, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED for any positions funded by grants, and the grant goes away, those positions will be abolished, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appointing authorities are authorized to fill the positions as provided for in the resolution.

Mr. Lightfoot moved to adopt Resolution No. 60-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

RESOLUTION NO. 61-2024

**IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION LONE STAR AND CALLING UPON
NEW YORK STATE GOVERNOR, KATHY HOCHUL, TO RENDER AID
TO THE STATE OF TEXAS**

By Mr. Gennett, District 13
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Webster, District 11

WHEREAS, in the face of rising illegal immigration at the southern border, with more than a million illegal immigrants crossing unlawfully annually, Texas Governor Greg Abbott activated ‘Operation Lone Star’ in March 2021, and

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WHEREAS, Operation Lone Star is a joint operation between the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Military Department along the United States – Mexico border in Southern Texas, and

WHEREAS, nearly two years later, the operation remains active as an influx of migrants crossing the border cost the State of Texas approximately \$10 billion, and

WHEREAS, according to CBS News, 496,000 migrants have been detained for being in the United States illegally with thirty-eight thousand, five hundred of those captured facing criminal charges, and

WHEREAS, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety, Operation Lone Star has also seized 453 million doses of the lethal drug fentanyl, and

WHEREAS, as a part of the enforcement measures imposed by the State of Texas, Operation Lone Star has also bussed alleged illegal migrants to sanctuary cities with more than 100,000 people having been transported so far, and

WHEREAS, according to CBS News, the State of New York has received the most migrants from the State of Texas, and

WHEREAS, since 2022, a legal disagreement between the State of Texas and the Federal Government has been on-going, resulting in the seizure of the federal Eagle Pass installation on the Rio Grande River by State authorities, seeking to enforce the federal immigration laws after the refusal of the Biden Administration to do so, and

WHEREAS, both the federal government and the states act as fully sovereign actors operating within their delineated spheres of legitimate governing authority, and

WHEREAS, in the 2012 United States Supreme Court case of *Arizona v. United States*, the Court ruled, "As a sovereign, [a state] has the inherent power to exclude persons from its territory, subject only to those limitations expressed in the Constitution or constitutionally imposed by Congress," and

WHEREAS, on January 24th, 2024, Governor Abbott released a statement in which he formally declared an "inva(sion)" under Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, and

WHEREAS, the declaration of an invasion by a State permits that State to request aid and support from the other States in the absence of federal assistance, and

WHEREAS, within 72 hours of the declaration by the State of Texas, twenty-five (25) other States had pledged military and financial support to assist in defending the border, and

WHEREAS, the migrant crisis has spilled over into neighboring States and has ventured as far north as New York, leaving New York with limited options and an inability to find

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appropriate housing and support for the entering migrants, and

WHEREAS, under the United States Constitution, New York State Constitution, and New York Military Law, the Governor may deploy the New York State National Guard to render aid to a State who has declared an invasion, and

WHEREAS, assistance to the State of Texas by the State of New York National Guard is in the best interests of all citizens in both States,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators supports Operation Lone Star and calling upon New York State Governor, Kathy Hochul, to render aid to the State of Texas, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Legislators calls upon New York State Governor Kathy Hochul to mobilize the New York State National guard and join the list of twenty-five (25) States in committing to support the efforts of the State of Texas in defense of the border, and protecting its citizens from a declared invasion under Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul; Texas Governor Greg Abbott; U.S. Congresswoman Elise Stefanik; Senator Mark Walczyk; Senator Dan Stec; Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush; Assemblyman Scott Gray; Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton; and NYSAC.

Mr. Gennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Webster.

Mr. Burke said he supports the underlying concern, but he did not want to spend funds to send the NYS National Guard to Texas so he will not be supporting this resolution.

Mr. Webster said this resolution is to support the State of Texas in protecting their own territory against invasion, and they have called upon other states to render aid. Twenty-six (26) states have committed resources for Operation Lone Star. According to a news report 3.3 million migrants have been release into the Country since January 2021. He said it is in the best interest of New York State to render aid.

Ms. Haggard said there is a mess at the border and it has been going on for decades, and there needs to be a federal bipartisan agreement . She will not support this resolution.

Mr. Hull said securing our borders need to be a priority of funding other countries to secure their borders.

Ms. Curran said securing borders has been an issue. We are a nation of immigrants, but there are immigration laws that are not being followed. More needs to be done at the border, and we need to send a message that we want to secure all the borders.

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Mr. Smithers said this is a not just a state problem, but it is a federal problem. The main job of government is to keep people safe and since this is a safety issue, he said he will support this resolution. The borders are being overwhelmed and it is a growing problem and more needs to be done.

Mr. Denesha said the intent of this resolution is spot on. Living on the Northern border of the United State he hopes that if there was an influx of immigrants crossing the northern border, and assistance was needed, he hopes we would receive support.

Mr. Forsythe said last year a billion dollars was spend in New York City to take care of the crisis of immigrants coming in and the proposed budget this year is \$2.4 billion, and that same budget decreases Veterans Services. This needs to stop, and we need to be willing to help out a neighbor.

Resolution No. 61-2024 was adopted by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, three (3) no votes (Burke, Terminelli, and Haggard), and one (1) absent (Perkins).

PRESENTED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

RESOLUTION NO. 62-2024

**OPPOSING A PROPOSAL IN THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET TO REMOVE THE
SAVE HARMLESS CLAUSE, ALLOWING CUTS TO FOUNDATION AID AND
DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTING CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT
IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY**

By Mr. Denesha, District 6
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Burke, District 12 and Ms. Curran, District 15

WHEREAS, there is a proposal in the Executive Budget to remove the hold harmless clause which would allow New York State to cut foundation aid as they see fit, and

WHEREAS, the hold harmless clause requires the State to offer at least as much foundations aid each year as it did the year prior; a formula which has been in place for years serving as a predictive model for school districts to plan their budgets, and

WHEREAS, under this proposal, funds would be shifted to other prioritized areas in the Executive Budget, and funds typically earmarked for the County would also be intercepted causing a property tax shift placing the burden on the taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, school districts that would be affected include Canton, Hammond, Madrid-Waddington, Morristown, and Ogdensburg, and

WHEREAS, Clifton-Fine School District has issued a statement to its residents detailing a proposed cut of twenty-four percent (24%) would be a \$940,000 foundation aid reduction, leaving taxpayers to make up the losses, and

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WHEREAS, this proposal lacks care and concern for small rural communities and the ability for all students in the State to have the same opportunities regardless of where they live,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators opposes a proposal in the Executive Budget to remove the hold harmless clause, allowing cuts to foundation aid and disproportionately affecting certain school district in St. Lawrence County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul; Senator Mark Walczyk; Senator Dan Stec; Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush; and Assemblyman Scott Gray.

Mr. Denesha moved to adopt Resolution No. 62-2024, seconded by Ms. Curran, Mr. Gennett and Mr. Burke.

Mr. Denesha this is going to inappropriately affect smaller, rural school districts. Students in smaller school deserve just as good of an education as those in larger, urban schools.

Ms. Curran asked to be added as a co-sponsor to this resolution, and she said this is wrong.

Mr. Reagen said this is an effort by certain people downstate to divide and concur and drive a wedge between communities claiming it is a social justice move to take from the rich and give to the poor. In fact, it will affect poorer communities, and these kinds of efforts are a disguise to shift money from upstate to downstate communities.

Ms. Haggard said she supports this resolution. It is a systemic thing and to shift money around is unfair.

Mr. Burke asked to be added as a co-sponsor to this resolution.

Resolution No. 62-2024 was adopted by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Doyle reported on two transfer of funds: \$100 for Social Services for expenses and \$1,300 for Solid Waste for overages in energy costs.

A kickoff meeting was held on February 1st for the Public Safety Building renovation project. Notices have been sent out to all residents of Pearl Street regarding the closure of the road during the project.

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The Committee for Repurposing Ogdensburg Correctional Facility met and discussed of loss of jobs in the north country.

The Vacancy Review Committee will meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

A kickoff meeting will be held for the former jail roof replacement project.

The Valentine Day card drive is underway, and these cards will be shared with Seniors.

Interoperability project testing passed a significant milestone this week, and it was successful.

A request was made from the Village of Massena for letters of support for the Air Products Green Hydrogen Plant. It is a major manufacturer that is set to be built in Massena.

The CivicClerk training for Legislators went well last week.

Public Defender James McGahan had a baby girl today.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Reagen said there was an incident in Ogdensburg recently regarding the possibility of a student having a gun at school. Mr. Reagen said he was in one of the classrooms during a lockdown, and he was proud of the response from law enforcement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no committee reports.

Mr. Hull moved to go to Executive Session at 7:16 p.m., to discuss litigation, negotiations, personnel, and appointments, seconded by Mr. Gennett and Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Perkins).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Sheridan left the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

The Board moved to go into Open Session.

Mr. Gennett moved to appoint the following individual to the **Community Services Alcohol & Substance Abuse Subcommittee (Term to Expire: 12/31/2027)**, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Burke, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Perkins and Sheridan).

Stacy J. Vassar, 7 Woodlawn Avenue, Massena 13662

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Mr. Gennett moved to appoint the following individual to the **Community Services Board & Mental Health Subcommittee (Term to Expire: 12/31/2027)**, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Burke, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Perkins and Sheridan).

Randy Fipps, 258 Mullin Street, Watertown 13601 (Replacing Heather Rand)

Mr. Gennett moved to appoint the following individual to the **Community Services Mental Health Subcommittee (Term to Expire: 12/31/2027)**, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Burke, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Perkins and Sheridan).

Desiree LeBoeuf, 74 State Street, Canton 13617 (Replacing Sara Hutcheson)

Mr. Gennett moved to appoint the following individual to the **Community Services OPWDD Subcommittee (Term to Expire: 12/31/2027)**, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Burke, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Perkins and Sheridan).

Tara Carr, 26405 Perren Lake Road, Watertown 13601 (Replacing Howard Ganter)

Mr. Gennett moved to reappoint the following individual to the **St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency (Term to expire: 2/5/2027)**, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Burke, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Perkins and Sheridan).

Steven Morrill, 118 Jeffers Road, Dekalb Junction 13630

Mr. Gennett moved to reappoint the following individual to the **Soils and Water Conservation District Board of Directors (Term to expire: 2/5/2027)**, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Fay, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Perkins and Sheridan).

Robert G. Andrews, Jr., 258 Hull Road, Gouverneur 13642

CHAIR'S APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Forsythe reappointed Legislators Bill Sheridan to the Fish & Wildlife Management Board, Region 6.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Forsythe adjourned the February Full Board Meeting at 8:21 p.m., as there was no further business.