

Members Attending: **Mr. Perkins**, ~~Mr. Gennett~~, Mr. Burke, ~~Ms. Curran~~, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Fay, Mr. Forsythe, ~~Ms. Haggard~~, Mr. Hull, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Reagen, Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Smithers, ~~Ms. Terminelli~~, and Mr. Webster

Mr. Perkins chaired the January Finance Committee Meeting in Mr. Gennett's absence.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. Perkins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Forsythe moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Hull, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Forsythe moved to approve the December 18, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Hull, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

3. CLIFTON FINE HOSPITAL CONVERSION FROM CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL TO RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL PRESENTATION– Dierdra Sorrell, Clifton-Fine Hospital CEO and Tom Sauter, Clifton-Fine Hospital Board Chair

4. HIGHWAY – DON CHAMBERS

A. 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 (Res) – Mr. Smithers moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

B. Modifying the 2024 Budget for the Department of Highways for the Lazy River Road Bridge Over Grasse River, BIN 3341820, PIN 775332 (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

C. Modifying the 2024 Budget for the Department of Highways for County Route 35 Bridge over Trout Brook, BIN 3341700, PIN 775394 (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

D. Modifying the 2024 Budget for the Department of Highways for County Route 22 Bridge over Sawyer Creek, BIN 3340950, PIN 775425 (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

E. Modifying the 2024 Budget for the Department of Highways for the County Route 34 Bridge Over Trout Brook, BIN 3341630, PIN 775426 (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

F. Modifying the 2023 Budget for the Department of Highways for Road Maintenance Work (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Webster, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

G. Bridge NY and Culvert NY Funding (Discussion) – Mr. Chambers said in order for grants to be successful, the County must commit to funding any remaining balance of a project with local funding sources, if necessary, as the cap on a Bridge NY Projects is \$5 million. Making this commitment will ensure the Department of Transportation that when a project is awarded to St. Lawrence County, the project will be fully funded and completed.

5. SOLID WASTE – DON CHAMBERS

A. Modifying the 2023 Budget for the Solid Waste Department for Recycling Costs and Equipment Repair (Res) – Mr. Lightfoot moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

B. Mattress Recycling – DANC Update (Discussion) – Mr. Chambers

6. TREASURER – RENEE COLE

Deb Bridges, Deputy Treasurer, spoke to the following resolution in Ms. Cole’s absence:

A. Modifying the 2023 Budget for the Treasurer’s Office for Additional Sales Tax Distribution (Res) – Mr. Smithers moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

7. COUNTY ATTORNEY – STEVE BUTTON

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Allied World Insurance for Medical Malpractice Insurance Coverage for Insurance for County-Employed Medical Providers (Res) – Mr. Hull moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Webster, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

8. LEGISLATORS FORSYTHE AND PERKINS

A. 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”” (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

B. 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 (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Reagen.

Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Smithers, Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Denesha and Mr. Webster asked to be added as co-sponsors to this resolution.

Motion carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

9. WORKFORCE INNOVATIVE OPPORTUNITY ACT – PAM LEWIS

A. Establishing the Budget for the NY Scion Initiative (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

10. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE – RUTH DOYLE

A. Real Property – Mr. Green requested to abolish an Account Clerk, and create and fill a Secretary I, Position No. 005100039, in Real Property.

11. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) UPDATE – RUTH DOYLE

A. Information and Update (Discussion) – Ms. Doyle gave a summary update on the \$20.9 million received in each of the following: \$5M for Emergency Communications Equipment; \$4M for Economic Development and Tourism; \$3M for Broadband Development and Installation; \$3M for Utilities: Water and Sewer Development and Repair; \$5M for County Capital Projects; and \$.9M for Ash Tree Removal and Reforestation

12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – RUTH DOYLE

A. Modifying the 2024 Budget for the County Administrator’s Office to Purchase an Envelope Printer for Mail Room (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Hull, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

B. Modifying the 2023 Budget for the Assigned Counsel Program (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

C. Modifying the 2024 Budget for the Department of Highways for Paving Projects and Authorizing an Additional 44.35 Miles of Paving (Res) – Mr. Lightfoot moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

D. 2023 Fourth Quarter Financial Update (Info) – Ms. Doyle

Ms. Doyle said the County is fortunate to be in a position to consider the resolution authorizing additional miles of paving. It is an unprecedented investment in the road system of the County.

The Solid Waste Department has implemented the newly adopted credit policy and has been successful in collecting \$45,890 in the month of January.

The deadline for accepting applications for Public Health Director is approaching, and as of now there are thirteen (13) applicants.

13. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. Modifying the 2023 Budget for Social Services Budget for training fees, medical assistance, and foster care (Res) – Mr. Sheridan moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Fay, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

Mr. Webster said he would like to add a resolution to the Full Board Meeting supporting the State of Texas and “Operations Lone Star” and calling upon New York State Governor Kathy Hochul to render aid.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Cornell Cooperative Extension Board – Mr. Denesha
- B. Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Region 6 – Mr. Sheridan
- C. Fisheries Advisory Board – no report
- D. Gouverneur Fair Board – no report
- E. Highway/Solid Waste Committee – no report
- F. Industrial Development Agency – no report
- G. Recreational and Trails Advisory Board – no report
- H. St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency (RVRDA) – no report
- I. St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce – Mr. Webster
- J. Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors – Mr. Burke

Mr. Forsythe moved to go to Executive Session at 8:23 p.m., to discuss negotiations, personnel, and appointments, seconded by Mr. Fay, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Fay moved to go to Open Session at 9:17 p.m., seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, and carried by a voice vote with eleven (11) yes votes, and four (4) absent (Curran, Gennett, Haggard, and Terminelli).

16. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Perkins adjourned the January Finance Committee Meeting at 9:17 p.m., as there was no further business.