

****PURSUANT TO THE STATE OF EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.1 ARTICLE 7, SUSPENSION OF LAW ALLOWING THE ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS TELEPHONICALLY OR OTHER SIMILAR SERVICE****

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

Members Attending Via Videoconference: Mr. Arquiett, Mr. Burke, Ms. Fiacco, Ms. Haggard, and Ms. Terminelli

Others Attending: Ruth Doyle, Kelly Pearson, Mike Cunningham, Keith Zimmerman, and Stephen Button

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. Denesha called the meeting to order at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Forsythe moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Reagen, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Forsythe moved to approve the August 10th meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

3. EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) TASKFORCE PRESENTATION – Aaron Barrigar, St. Lawrence County Forester and John Tenbusch, Planner II

4. PLANNING – JASON PFOTENHAUER

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign Accelerated Transit Capital Reimbursement Forms (Res) – Mr. Perkins moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign up to Three, One-Year Contract Extensions with Volunteer Transportation Center, Inc. for First Mile Last Mile Services (Res) – Ms. Curran moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Fay, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

C. Authorizing the Chair to Sign Bus Advertising Agreements (Res) – Mr. Acres moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

D. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Subrecipient Agreement with the North Country Housing Council, Inc. for the Delivery of the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

E. Lead Grant Update (Discussion) – Mr. Pfothenauer

F. Fair Housing Task Force Event (Discussion) – Mr. Pfothenauer

Ms. Curran left the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

5. EMERGENCY SERVICES – MATT DENNER

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with New York State Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to Accept a FY20 SHSP Grant and Modifying the 2020 Budget for the Office of Emergency Services (Res) – Mr. Perkins moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Curran).

B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with New York State Office of Homeland Security for a FY20 Emergency Management Performance Grant (Res) – Mr. Lightfoot moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Curran).

C. Modifying the 2020 Budget for Emergency Services for Overtime Costs (Res) – Mr. Fay moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Curran).

D. Interoperability Towers Update (Discussion) – Mr. Denner

6. PROBATION – TIM LEPAGE

A. Declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Reagen, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Curran).

7. GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES – MIKE CUNNINGHAM

A. Modifying the 2020 Budget for the Governmental Services Department for the COVID-19 Response (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Fay, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Curran).

B. Adoption of Records Retention Schedule LGS-1 (Res) – Mr. Perkins moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Acres, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Curran).

8. HUMAN RESOURCES – JONNIE DOROTHY

A. Authorization to Revise the Medicare Part B Premium Reimbursement Policy for St. Lawrence County (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Curran).

(Please Note: The Health Insurance Committee recommended that the Board of Legislators review both resolutions listed below and choose the option they would like to go forward. Only one resolution should be moved forward to the full Board Meeting. Item B is an immediate increase and Item C is a phased in increase.)

B. Authorizing Change to Retiree Pharmacy Prescription Co-Pays and Directs the Human Resources Department to Adjust Retiree Rx Co-Pays to Keep Pace with CSEA Union Negotiated Rx Co-Pays for Active Employees (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot. No vote was taken on this resolution.

C. Authorizing Change to Retiree Pharmacy Prescription Co-Pays and Directs the Human Resources Department to Adjust Retiree Rx Co-Pays to Keep Pace with CSEA Union Negotiated Rx Co-Pays for Active Employees (Res) – Mr. Acres moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, and carried by a roll call vote with nine (9) yes votes, five (5) no votes (Haggard, Fiacco, Burke, Arquiett, and Terminelli), and one (1) absent (Curran).

9. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE

A. Conflict Defender – Ms. Dona requested to fill an Assistant Conflict Defender (021500007) in the Conflict Defender’s Office.

B. Sheriff – Sheriff Bigwarfe requested to fill a Correction Officer (603000020), Correction Officer (603000070), and Deputy Sheriff (605000010) in the Sheriff’s Office.

10. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – RUTH DOYLE

A. Social Services Legal Unit (Discussion) – Ms. Doyle said there are five requests being made, five actions being taken, and five recommendations being considered. The five requests include: Increase in workload and attorney presence in court; additional attorney and support staff; increased salaries for attorneys; to contract out appeals; and to have support matters managed by the County Attorney’s Office. The five actions already taken include: Increasing the grade and title of the Supervising Attorney; a promotion of an attorney to Senior Social Services Attorney; filling vacant attorney positions; an intern program; and the Commissioner of Social Services is scheduling weekly meetings with the Legal Office. The five recommendations include: Being at full staff by the end of the week; either add one additional Social Services Attorney to the staff or contract out the appeals work; review the contracted appeals after one full year to determine if best to continue contracting out or if the work could be returned to in-house at the Legal Office; authorize a contract regarding support matters with the County Attorney’s Office and review after one year; consideration for Social Services Attorneys to be hired at Band IV or Band V depending on experience; and put the net difference of reimbursements in a contingency account for funding if another position is warranted.

Ms. Doyle said the current number of children in foster care is 311 with 26 children in institutional care. \$2.5 million dollars has been spent for foster care so far this year, with an additional \$1.17 million being approved this evening. Last year, \$3.9 million was spent for foster care and the prior year was \$2.1 million.

B. Marine Sanctuary Alternative Boundary Option (Discussion)

Ms. Doyle said there is one transfer of funds to report: \$3,905.69 in Emergency Services for Verizon and Spectrum invoices.

There have been fifty-one (51) reports from the enforcement side of COVID-19. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) officially closed on Thursday, September 17th. The center was open for six (6) months. Public Health has hosted COVID-19 informational calls with municipalities and colleges calls every other week. There have been three (3) positive cases internally since March.

There have been twelve (12) mask designs submitted, so far, for the “It’s Your Task to Wear a Mask” contest hosted by the Youth Bureau.

There will be a Smart Path update and tour next Tuesday at 10 a.m. for all Legislators wishing to attend.

A resolution to continue to contract with auditors, Drescher and Malecki, LLP, will be on the next Finance Committee meeting.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board – Mr. Denesha
- B. Alternatives to Incarceration Board – no report
- C. Board of Trustees for Supreme Court Library
- D. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board – no report
- E. Environmental Management Council – Ms. Terminelli
- F. Fire Advisory Board – Mr. Denesha
- G. Intercounty Legislative Committee – no report
- H. Jury Board – no report
- I. Planning Board – Mr. Fay

12. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Forsythe said he does not like Legislators texting during presentations.

Mr. Acres said Tom Plastino passed away last week.

Mr. Acres moved to go to Executive Session at 11:08 p.m. to discuss negotiations, litigation, personnel, and appointments, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Curran and Lightfoot).

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Forsythe moved to go to Open Session at 11:15 a.m., seconded by Ms. Haggard, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes and one (1) absent (Curran).

14. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Denesha moved to adjourn the September Operations Committee Meeting at 11:15 p.m., as there was no further business.