

*\*\*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. Acres, Ms. Curran, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Fay, Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Reagen, Mr. Sheridan, and Mr. Smithers

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

**Others Attending:** Ruth Doyle, Kelly Pearson, Dylan Soper, and Steve Button

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Chair Acres called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Denesha moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Mr. Forsythe moved to approve the September 28th meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

**3. CITY OF OGDENSBURG** – Stephen Jellie, City Manager

**4. BROADBAND SURVEY ASSESSMENT** – Carl Farone, Executive Director, Development Authority of the North Country

## **5. HIGHWAY – DON CHAMBERS**

A. Authorizing the Chair to Award and Sign Contracts for Brown’s Bridge Road Over Raquette River, Town of Pierrepont BIN 3221560, PIN 775380 (Res) – Ms. Curran 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) abstained (Perkins).

## **6. COUNTY ATTORNEY – STEVE BUTTON**

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Gary Bowitch, Esq. for Legal Services Related to Environmental Matters (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha, Ms. Curran, and Mr. Lightfoot, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

## **7. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

A. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Ms. Barb Lashua requested to fill an Employment Training Counselor (701000010) in the WIOA Office. All agreed to move forward to full Board.

## **8. LEGISLATOR KEVIN ACRES**

A. Opposing the Unfunded Mandate of Enforcement of the Executive Orders Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Calling Upon the Governor of the State of New York to Remove the Threat of Loss of State Aid Conditioned on Enforcement (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Lightfoot, and Ms. Curran, and carried by a roll call vote with ten (10) yes votes, and five (5) no votes (Haggard, Fiacco, Burke, Arquiett, and Terminelli).

## **9. LEGISLATOR HARRY SMITHERS**

A. Supporting Senate Bill S2047 and Assembly Bill A6461 Proposing Amendments to Section 4 and Section 5-A of Article 3 of the Constitution, in Relation to the Number of Senators and the Apportionment of Senate Districts (Res) – Mr. Smithers moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Denesha, Ms. Curran, Mr. Forsythe, and Mr. Sheridan, and carried by a roll call vote with nine (9) yes votes, and six (6) no votes (Fay, Haggard, Fiacco, Burke, Arquiett, and Terminelli)

## **10. 2021 TENTATIVE BUDGET REVIEW**

- A. Board of Legislators
- B. County Attorney
- C. Highway
- D. Treasurer
- E. Real Property
- F. Solid Waste

## **11. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – RUTH DOYLE**

A. Delivery of the Tentative 2021 Budget to the Board of Legislators (Discussion) – Ms. Doyle said County law requires that she as the Budget Officer must deliver the budget to the Finance Committee, and the Finance Committee then delivers to the full Board of Legislators.

Ms. Doyle said the current number of COVID-19 cases today is 389 with 38 active cases, with an additional sixteen (16) over the weekend. Three are hospitalized. There is an uptick in cases and the volume has a great impact on the Public Health Department. To date, 82,168 tests have been given.

Ms. Doyle reported one transfer of funds for the Probation Department in the amount of \$2,416.16 for data imaging.

Early voting is underway and the Human Services Center, located on State Highway 310, Canton, is the location in St. Lawrence County for early voting.

Construction is being done at the Harold B. Smith Building in the HEAP Unit. Some offices will be moved to the Human Services Center for the time being until construction is complete.

The annual Department Head training will be split into two training sessions this year.

The Human Resources Office sent an email regarding training for Legislators. Ms. Dorothy, Director of HR, will provide this training for Legislators following a committee meeting in November.

At the November Board Meeting, a longevity ceremony will be held honoring members of County staff that have 30+ years of services with St. Lawrence County. At the December Board Meeting, a memorial services is held for past members of the Board of Supervisor or Board of Legislators who have passed away during the year.

The County has begun a partnership with Allied Health and BOCES with three students being trained to assist Public Health regarding COVID-19.

Mr. Burke asked the County Administrator how remote working has been going for County staff and if the work is getting done and services are being provided. Ms. Doyle said it is going extremely well. Staff have been instructed to work from home at a fifty percent capacity with the expectation of one-hundred percent of work being complete and with no lapse in services. Mr. Burke strongly encourages the County Administrator to continue to run the organization as she sees fit with continuation of services and keeping the workforce safe.

Mr. Acres asked if the DMV drive-thru was still closed. Ms. Doyle confirmed it was closed due to an executive order from the Governor. Mr. Acres asked the County Attorney if anything could be done to open the drive-thru. Mr. Button said St. Lawrence County is one of two counties that have a drive thru and the other county requested to open and was denied. Ms. Doyle said revenue in the DMV is down twenty-percent (20%) this year.

Ms. Haggard asked if there was a plan to expand early voting to other municipalities in the future. Ms. Doyle said there have been conversations, but there would have to be sufficient staff to do so.

Ms. Cole said due to COVID-19, the Real Property Tax Foreclosure Auction was conducted completely online by Auctions International. There were 110 parcels with 388 registered bidders. All parcels received a bid and over \$2.3 million was collected. There was \$1.2 million in expenses. These numbers are preliminary.

B. Designating the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce as the St. Lawrence County Tourism Promotion Agent and Authorizing the Chair to Sign the 2021-2023 Contract (Res) – Mr. Denesha moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Reagen and Mr. Forsythe, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

C. Adopting an Amended St. Lawrence County Title VI Plan and Authorizing the Chair to Sign the Plan (Res) (Info) – Ms. Curran moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Sheridan and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

D. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with the City of Ogdensburg for HAZMAT Team Services (Res) – Mr. Reagen moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

E. Third Quarter Financial Update (Info) – Ms. Doyle

## **12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

## **13. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Acres recognized the Village of Massena Mayor, Tim Currier. Mayor Currier said he is in support of a methadone clinic in Massena. Over the last few years he has been working with the prevention councils of Jefferson, St. Lawrence, and Lewis Counties on building a strategic plan in North Country to deal with opioids issues. He is concerned with the location of the clinic and his preference is to have it located in the Village of Massena. He urges the Board to support the resolution and said it is needed in this region. The biggest obstacle in the North Country is the availability and access to treatment.

A. Authorizing the Acceptance of the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program Grant and Modifying the 2020 Budget for Community Services (Res) – Ms. Curran moved to table this resolution to the November Full Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Forsythe and Mr. Lightfoot, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Ms. Doyle said there is \$4,855 in employee recognition funds.

Ms. Doyle said a public hearing will be scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup> for adoption of the 2021 Budget.

Mr. Reagen left the meeting at 8:16 p.m., and returned at 8:20 p.m.

Mr. Forsythe moved to go to Executive Session at 8:25 p.m., to discuss negotiations, litigation, and personnel, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

## **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Curran moved to go to Open Session at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

**15. ADJOURNMENT** – Chair Acres adjourned the October Finance Committee Meeting at 9:15 p.m., as there was no further business.