

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. Lightfoot, Mr. Acres, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Fay, Mr. Reagen, and Mr. Smithers

Members Attending via Videoconference: Mr. Arquiett, Mr. Burke, Ms. Curran, ~~Ms. Fiaco~~, Mr. Forsythe, Ms. Haggard, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Sheridan, and Ms. Terminelli

Others Attending via Videoconference: Ruth Doyle, Dylan Soper, Kelly Pearson, Stephen Button, Matt Denner, Brooks Bigwarfe, Jennie Bacon, Tom Nichols, and Jason Pfothenauer

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. Lightfoot called the meeting to order at 8:34 p.m. Mr. Denesha moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Smithers and Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with thirteen (13) yes votes, and two (2) absent (Fiaco and Acres).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Reagen moved to approve the March 8th meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Denesha, Mr. Arquiett, and Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Fiaco).

Mr. Lightfoot moved the following presentation forward in the agenda:

St. Lawrence County Annual Community Survey Results - Lawrence Danforth, Research Coordinator, Center for Community Studies, Jefferson Community College

3. EMERGENCY SERVICES – MATT DENNER

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign Memorandums of Understanding to Establish Emergency Shelters for the County Animal Response Team (CART) (Res) – Mr. Arquiett moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Fiaco).

B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications for a FY18 Statewide Interoperable Communications Targeted Grant and Modifying the 2021 Budget for Emergency Services (Res) – Mr. Denesha moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Fiaco).

4. SHERIFF – BROOKS BIGWARFE

A. Accepting Donations to be used towards the Implementation of an Additional K9 Team, Equipment, and Training (Res) – Mr. Smithers moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Perkins, Ms. Curran, and Mr. Fay, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Fiaco).

B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Federal Equitable Sharing Program Agreement and Annual Certification Report for the Sheriff's Office (Res) – Ms. Curran moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Perkins and Mr. Reagen, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Fiacco).

C. Proclaiming May 15, 2021 as “Police Officer Memorial Day” During National Police Week in St. Lawrence County (Res) – Mr. Denesha moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Reagan, Mr. Acres, Mr. Smithers, Ms. Curran, and Mr. Sheridan, carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Fiacco).

5. BOARD OF ELECTIONS – JENNIE BACON AND TOM NICHOLS

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign Contracts Requesting Grant Extensions for Poll Worker Training /Voter Education (Res) – Mr. Smithers moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Curran and Mr. Denesha, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Fiacco).

6. PLANNING – JASON PFOTENHAUER

A. St. Lawrence County Annual Community Survey Results - Lawrence Danforth, Research Coordinator, Center for Community Studies, Jefferson Community College

B. Lead Grant Update (Discussion) – Jason Pfothenauer

C. Broadband Survey Efforts (Discussion) – Jason Pfothenauer

7. LEGISLATOR DAVE FORSYTHE

A. Setting a Date for a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law B (No. _) for the Year 2021, “Allowing 12 and 13 Year Old Licensed Hunters to Hunt Deer with a Firearm or Crossbow During Hunting Season with the Supervision of an Adult Licensed Hunter” (Res) – Mr. Forsythe moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Curran, Mr. Arquiatt, Mr. Acres, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Sheridan, Ms. Haggard, and Mr. Perkins, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Fiacco).

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

8. LEGISLATOR RITA CURRAN

A. Proclaiming May 6, 2021, as “National Recognition Day for Nurses” during National Nurses Week in St. Lawrence County (Res) – Mr. Smithers moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Fay, Mr. Denesha, Ms. Curran, and Mr. Arquiatt, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Fiacco).

9. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE

A. Probation – Mr. LePage requested to fill a Probation Officer, Position No. 610000007, in the Probation Office.

B. Public Defender – Mr. McGahan requested to fill an Assistant Public Defender, Position No. 021400009, in the Public Defender’s Office.

C. Sheriff – Sheriff Bigwarfe requested to fill a Detective Sergeant, Position No. 606000003, in the Sheriff’s Office.

D. Board of Elections – Mr. Nichols requested to fill a Deputy Commissioner, Position No. 028000002, and fill a Data Management Technician, Position No. 282000001 in the Board of Elections.

E. Conflict Defender – Ms. Dona requested to create and fill an Assistant Conflict Defender, Position No. 021500008, in the Conflict Defender’s Office.

10. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Ms. Doyle gave a COVID -19 County Update saying employees will be returning to fully in office on April 21st, with cases being monitored as the County progresses through the process. Ms. Doyle said she commends Jolene Munger, the Public Health Staff, and all the partners for their creativity in using the Unified Commend Vehicle (UCV1) to reach people who could not travel to receive their vaccines. An expression of gratitude was given to Gouverneur Rescue Squad and the New York State Police for assisting with folks who are homebound. The Governor’s Executive Orders have been extended to May 6th providing for the hybrid meetings to continue. The Courts Administration have advised the County that they will return their workforce on May 24th to one-hundred percent (100%). St. Lawrence County is slated to receive \$20.9 million for the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Doyle said a group will be assemble to work on and discuss the best plan for the portion of the funds for St. Lawrence County.

The County is gathering data on the impact of the legalization of marijuana, and will bring a summary to the Board of Legislators.

Mr. Burke said the Department of Social Services gave an overview on February 11th of the Department regarding a three year plan, and asked if that plan remains going forward or if there is a different assessment now. Ms. Doyle said the Board has approved seventeen (17) new positions and the Department is working to fill these now, so there is a different philosophy and strategy of Family First going forward. DSS will be providing new metrics to the Board each month to get real time data for the Board to review and be able to make informed decisions.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board – Mr. Denesha
- B. Alternatives to Incarceration Board – no meeting
- C. Board of Trustees for Supreme Court Library – no report
- 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 St. Lawrence River water levels are the lowest ever for this time of year, and something needs to drastically happen quickly or the boating season will be dismal.

Mr. Denesha moved to go into Executive Session at 9:55 p.m. to discuss litigation, personnel and appointments, seconded by Mr. Smithers, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Fiacco).

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Smithers moved to go to Open Session at 10:46 p.m., seconded by Mr. Reagan, and carried by a voice vote with fourteen (14) yes votes, and one (1) absent (Fiacco).

14. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Lightfoot adjourned the April Operations Committee Meeting at 10:46 p.m., as there was no further business.

Appointments:

Environmental Management Council (Terms to expire: 4-5-2023)

- Lucas Hanss, 16 School Street, Hannawa Falls 13647; (315) 212-6179 (C); Email: Lhanss@gmail.com (Replacing William David Barnes)
- Steven P. Manders, 31 Judson Street, Canton 13617; Email: smanders@twcny.rr.com (Replacing Aaron Barrigar)

Fire Advisory Board (Terms to Expire 2-28-2024)

- Darren S. Bullard, Post Office Box 513, Cranberry Lake 12927; (315) 212-0999 (H); Email: 65polaris@gmail.com (Replacing Tom Popham)
- Steve Wilson, 1535 County Route 53, Brasher Falls 13613; (315) 764-5495 (H); (315) 250-1583 (C); Email: helena45-14@hotmail.com (Replacing Tom Miller)

Reappointment:

Environmental Management Council (Terms to expire: 12-31-2022)

- Brian Washburn, 625 Judson Street Road, Canton 13617; (315) 244-1525 (H); Email: popswash184@gmail.com