September 12, 2022

Finance Committee: 8-29-2022

RESOLUTION NO. 299-2022

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT APPROPRIATING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE REMOVAL OF ASH TREES WITH THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND MODIFYING THE 2022 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2022, Resolution No. 181-2022 adopted the recommendations made by the ARPA Committee regarding the uses of the \$20.9M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds provided to St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of public safety and preemptively mitigating impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) for accessibility along County roads for the citizens of St. Lawrence County, funds were appropriated to provide for removal of ash trees within the highway bounds of County routes as identified by the County Highway Department, and

WHEREAS, of the funds appropriated, \$900,000 has been allocated for the removal of dead and dying ash trees within highway bounds as identified by the Highway Department to the St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District (SLC SWCD), with confirmation by the Conservation District Forester, and

WHEREAS, the list of towns, priority based, where EAB has been located and how it has spread throughout the County include: Hammond, Morristown, Oswegatchie, Lisbon, Waddington, Louisville, Massena, Rossie, Macomb, DePeyster, Madrid, Norfolk, Brasher, Gouverneur, Dekalb, Canton, Potsdam, Stockholm, Lawrence, Fowler, Hermon, Russell, Pierrepont, Parishville, Hopkinton, Pitcairn, Edwards, Fine, Clare, Colton, Clifton, and Piercefield, and

WHEREAS, recognizing that homeowners utilize wood as a heat source, ash trees of a minimum Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of 10" and determined to be of firewood quality by the Conservation District Forester, or hired contractors, may be left for landowners use provided they complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SLC SWCD, and

WHEREAS, a planting of native trees will be included with the budget for this project to offset the loss of ash trees cut, and will be facilitated by the SLC SWCD which will include site preparation and plug plantings on County Forestland parcels, and

WHEREAS, the plantings will be mutually beneficial to replacing removed trees and improving forest stand health of County parcels in need of improvements, and

WHEREAS, the SLC SWCD Board of Directors is supportive of the removal recommendations for trees impacted by the EAB and mitigated plantings for St. Lawrence County, and

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WHEREAS, additionally the SLC SWCD Board of Directors is supportive of the removal of hazard trees that are also located in the Highway Bounds of County Routes and recommended that they be included in this project and that will be presented in a separate resolution,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract appropriating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for the purpose of the removal of ash trees with the Soil and Water Conservation District, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that removal of ash trees damaged by the EAB and within the County highway bounds has the potential to be County-wide benefit and the goal of the ARPA Committee was to broadly apply funds for an overall County benefit, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to modify the 2022 Budget for the County Administrator's Office, as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

BF940895 57000 ARP6 B ARP 6.1 Revenue Ash Tree \$900,000

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

BF987304 46500 ARP6 B ARP 6.1 Forestry Ash Tree \$900,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any funds not spent in 2022 be rolled over until fully expended, in accordance with the U.S. Treasury Final Rule.

| STATE OF NEW YORK |) |
|------------------------|-------|
| |) ss: |
| COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE |) |

I, Kelly S. Bigwarfe, Deputy Clerk of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that I have compared this Resolution No. 299-2022 Entitled "Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract Appropriating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for the Purpose of the Removal of Ash Trees with the Soil and Water Conservation District and Modifying the 2022 Budget for the County Administrator's Office", adopted September 12, 2022, with the original record in this office and that the same is a correct transcript thereof and of the whole of said original record.

Kelly S. Bigwarfe

Kelly S. Bigwarfe, Deputy Clerk St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators September 13, 2022