

May 2, 2022

Finance Committee: 4-25-2022

RESOLUTION NO. 181-2022

**ACCEPTING THE ARPA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS**

By Mr. Acres, Chair, Finance Committee

Co-Sponsored by Mr. Reagen, District 1; Mr. Fay, District 9; and Mr. Arquiett, District 13

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act into law approving \$350B to “facilitate the United States recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic,” and

WHEREAS, these funds would be distributed directly to tribal governments, states, counties, cities, towns, and villages by the Federal Government with guidance to be provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury who would prepare and approve authorized uses for these funds, and

WHEREAS, of the funds, counties and cities were allocated a total of \$130B with \$65B set aside specifically for counties, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County received notification that its allocation would be \$20.9M, and that half of the funds (\$10.4M) would be received in what would be called the first tranche in mid-2021, and the second tranche (\$10.5M) would be distributed in mid-2022, with the understanding those funds be appropriated by the end of 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Treasury issued an ‘Interim Final Rule’ on May 5, 2021, which provided guidance for acceptable uses of the ARPA Funds and solicited comments through July 16, 2021, to better understand the impact of the tentative guidance as they prepared the Final Rule which was expected to be released by the beginning of 2022, and

WHEREAS, comments were submitted by St. Lawrence County to assist in the completion of the Final Rule of use of the ARPA Funds, and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2021, Chair Sheridan appointed a Committee of Legislators chaired by the Legislator from District 8 and Chair of the Finance Committee Kevin Acres, and comprised of Legislators Jim Reagen, District 1; Dan Fay, District 9; and Tony Arquiett, District 13, for the purpose of meeting to prepare recommendations for the use of these funds to the Board of Legislators, and

WHEREAS, a survey was conducted via the County Website from November 9th through November 30th, 2021, to solicit ideas and suggestions for uses of the ARPA Funds, and

WHEREAS, the Final Rule for appropriate uses of the American Rescue Plan Funds was released on January 6, 2022 with an effective date of April 1, 2022,

WHEREAS, the Committee met on an ongoing basis to review the Interim Final Rule, review the survey results, consider options that would benefit County residents, and is now prepared to make recommendations to the Board of Legislators,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators accepts the ARPA Committee recommendations for the \$20.9M American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds as follows:

- \$5M for Emergency Communications Equipment
- \$4M for Economic Development and Tourism
- \$3M for Broadband Development and Installation
- \$3M for Utilities: Water & Sewer Development & Repair
- \$5M for County Capital Projects
- \$.9M for Ash Tree Removal and Reforestation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Emergency Services in St. Lawrence County are in the midst of massive improvements and as a part of this transformation, a new radio system is being installed and these funds will assist in the necessary funding required to assist local municipalities with equipment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that economic development and tourism are essential to improving the services and activities available in St. Lawrence County and the ARPA Committee recognizes the need for services and infrastructure in the following ways; Childcare Provide Training (\$200K); EMT Training (\$100K); CDL Licensure training (\$287K); Cornell Cooperative Extension (\$50K); Clifton-Fine Hospital (\$300K); Gouverneur & St. Lawrence County Fair (\$50K); and an additional \$3M to be distributed through the SLCIDA to organizations who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are looking to improve their services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a great deal of work has been accomplished in the area of improving broadband access in St. Lawrence County and in order to continue those efforts, the ARPA Committee recommends \$3M be appropriated for matching funds and/or investment to develop and extend that availability throughout the County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ARPA Committee recognizes the importance of stable infrastructure and recommends \$3M for projects that support the economic recovery and stability of water and sewer projects in St. Lawrence County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that St. Lawrence County Government is working to improve facilities infrastructure by renovating the Public Safety Complex on Court Street, repurposing the Old Jail Facility on Judson Street, relocating county departments to improve efficiencies and services to the public, the ARPA committee recommends \$5M to support these projects, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ash trees in St. Lawrence County have been impacted by the devastating Emerald Ash Borer requiring attention to county roadways and right-of-ways, the ARPA Committee recommends \$900K for removal of these trees on County lands and reforestation to provide for the future, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED other projects the ARPA Committee would like to see included with funds include employee wellness, ballistic vests for the Probation Department, and a watercraft for use by the Emergency Services Department, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that further resolutions will be prepared for consideration by the Board of Legislators for the creation of the necessary accounts, transfers of funds, and for the approval of a firm to manage these funds for the County.

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. 181-2022 Entitled “Accepting the ARPA Committee Recommendations for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds”, adopted May 2, 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
May 3, 2022