

REGULAR MEETING
April 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael A. Tabolt.

Roll Call: All Legislators were present.

Legislator Bryan Moser offered the Invocation and asked for a moment of silence for those who have departed since the last meeting. Chairman Tabolt then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

There were 30 persons present.

Chairman Tabolt declared the March 1, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.

REPORT OF THE RULES AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE:

The Rules and Legislation Committee had met and recommended to waive the rules to allow action on late resolutions.

Lawrence Dolhof, Chairman
Bryan Moser
Craig Brennan

Dated: April 5, 2016

Legislator Moser made a motion to waive the rules, seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Chairman Tabolt opened the public hearing for comments on the effectiveness of the administration of the Lewis County Housing Rehabilitation Program, provided by Snow Belt Housing, Inc.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Cheryl Shenkle-O'Neill, Snow Belt Housing, Inc. Executive Director, reported that in January of 2014 Lewis County applied for \$522,500 in funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program for the Lewis County Housing Rehabilitation Program. A public hearing was held on December 3, 2013 in preparation for the application and a second public hearing is being held today to provide residents with the opportunity to offer any comments on the accomplishments of the grant.

The purpose of the program was to provide low- and moderate-income households with grant funds to improve the health, safety, and energy efficiency of their home and to make accessible modifications as necessary to allow elderly homeowners to remain in their home as long as possible. All projects must meet code as well as HQS (Housing Quality Standards), as developed by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

This application was successful and the County was awarded \$522,500. A Grant Agreement was signed with a program effective date of April 11, 2014 and the agreement stipulated that all funds must be expended within 24 months (by April 10, 2016). The county did receive an extension until July 31, 2016 in order to complete the program. The application anticipated that fifteen households would be assisted with estimated program funds of \$439,500. The program is nearing completion and 21 households have been or will be provided assistance, six more than projected. Of the 21 households assisted, eight are disabled, six are elderly and one household is an elderly and disabled household. The average CDBG assistance provided was \$20,563 with ranges from \$9,635 to \$40,023. Additional funds of \$104,842 were provided by other grant funds awarded to Snow Belt Housing bringing the total project costs up to \$535,683 with an average total project cost of \$25,556. Energy audits are completed by Lewis County Opportunities and any weatherization related work is included in the scope of work either by Opportunities or by the contractor. Lead based paint risk assessments and clearances are completed for homes that are built prior to 1978 when lead paint was banned. The contractors are required to use lead safe work practices and pass a clearance test ensuring that the home is free of lead hazards. If the rehabilitation cost exceeds \$25,000, lead abatement is required. Radon tests are completed for all assisted homes and if the radon levels are high, a radon mitigation system is installed.

The work completed included two mobile home replacements; two radon mitigation systems were installed; and one lead abatement project was completed. In this case the only lead paint found in the home was on the porch window trim. The windows and trim were removed, the trim was replaced and the aluminum windows were reinstalled. One household was displaced for a short period of time while the accessible modifications were being completed to their kitchen and bathroom. There was no permanent displacement or relocation. The program was truly a countywide program in that the renovated homes were located throughout the county. The majority of the contractors live in Lewis County as well.

Ms. O'Neill provided some before and after renovation pictures to illustrate the dire need and improvements to the selected homes. The Legislators thanked Cheryl for her presentation and were appreciative of the program accomplishments.

Chairman Tabolt introduced Blake Place, DVM with BOCES who turned the floor over to her students Kayla Weakley and Destiny Mooney. They explained the "Sharps Containers" project for the collection of sharp needles and other sharps used on farms. They are working to expand their inventory of farmers who will utilize the containers to remove the items from the waste stream. They had taken the initiative to identify facilities that would accept the full containers for proper disposal; ie. Lewis County Transfer Stations at Lowville and Croghan and the Rome Memorial Hospital. The girls have commenced discussion with the Lewis County General Hospital to accept the collected items for cleansing and incineration. Their hope is to entice other hospital facilities to begin accepting the objects for environmentally friendly disposition. Legislator Brennan applauded their innovative and environmental efforts.

Hospital CEO Eric Burch said he would work with the BOCES' students to determine if their facility was capable of processing the objects. The girls will endeavor to assign the

remaining 20 of their total 60 containers, to agriculture owners. Chairman Tabolt thanked the girls for their conscious efforts to improve the environment.

Lance Evans, Executive Officer of the Jefferson Lewis Board of Realtors recognized the Board's declaration of April as "Fair Housing Month". April 11th is the 48th anniversary of President Johnson's signing of the Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. The Act declared it illegal to discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, familial status, handicap, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin.

Jefferson Lewis realtors illustrate commitment to the Fair Housing Act by continuing to address discrimination in our communities, to support programs that will educate the public about the right to equal housing opportunities, and by planned partnership efforts with other organizations to help assure everyone of their right to fair housing without discrimination or harassment. Realtors pledge to comply with all the terms of the Civil Rights Act when dealing with home sellers, home seekers, or landlords, to provide equal professional services to everyone.

Mr. Evans thanked the Board for their recognition of the Fair Housing Act and the community's commitment to assure equal housing opportunities for the entire citizenry.

Blair Bullock, Lewis County General Hospital (LCGH) registered nurse, exclaimed "The hospital is severely short-staffed", putting lives at risk, and providing what he termed were unsatisfactory services. He questioned why the LCGH hiring freeze did not apply to administration, citing the proposed hiring of a Chief Operating Officer and Assistant Nursing Home Administrator. As the Legislature's Board of Managers' representative, Legislator Chartrand reported plans to lift the freeze and re-hire medical and nursing staff.

LCGH registered nurse Leah Eaves asked when the hiring freeze would be lifted. LCGH CEO Eric Burch reported he was currently working with union representatives to consider filling positions.

Sue Ross directed an inquiry to Mr. Burch referencing previous written communication relating specific union member concerns. County Attorney Joan McNichol deemed this was not the appropriate forum to discuss union matters. Ms. Ross stated that many employees are appreciative of their jobs, but cited stressful working conditions due to the lack of staff. She cited recent resignation or retirement of a few highly qualified nurses whom have not been replaced. She referred to union letters with close to 300 signatures submitted a year and half ago to the Board of Managers with specific concerns and inquiries, taking extreme exception for the non-response of any kind.

Ms. Ross further expressed frustration that the facility has been reduced from 58 beds to 25 critical-access beds, questioning the need for more administrative hires. She took specific exception to the proposed Assistant Nursing Home Administrator that the Board of Managers purportedly said would be budget neutral, asking if the Director of Nursing position would be abolished. On behalf of nurses, Ms. Ross termed some administrative practices as wasteful, while stating that nursing staff have heightened stress to live up to their expected level of service.

LCGH registered nurse Tina Bates relayed her heightened stress level for being over-worked, while relating frustration the administration was not responding to nurse's concerns. She reported having to work 4-5 12-hour shifts every other week, concerned for the impact on employee's children and families. Ms. Bates feels that patient treatment has diminished and urged administrative attention.

Chairman Tabolt assured the Hospital employees had garnered the Legislators' attention, while welcoming individual contacts. To clarify, Legislator Chartrand stated that union personnel are represented by CSEA. Management personnel have appropriately discussed issues with CSEA representatives who are charged to pose workers' concerns, and thereafter relate management's responses to their membership. He suggests the breakdown of communication lies with the CSEA representatives.

Legislator Moser deferred to Legislator Chartrand as the Board of Managers representative, and responsible for oversight, setting policies and addressing concerns. Legislator Moser relayed understanding stressful workloads, citing his personal 16-hour days, sometimes 6 days per week, while raising a family, terming it normal rather than the exception for many who are struggling. Legislators, he said, are aware and appropriately involved, while depending on representative appointees to make operational decisions. "Otherwise, he asserted, "We might as well give ourselves full-time jobs!

Legislator Brennan inquired what union representatives had related back to the membership. County Attorney McNichol intervened, cautioning the employees that it would be inappropriate to respond to direct questioning about union representatives or issues.

In conclusion, Mr. Bullock expressed understanding that many people put in long work hours, distinguishing that nurses are putting lives at risk. He takes pride in his work, while concerned the impact of diminished services may be that persons by-pass LCGH for treatment at an alternative facility.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICES:

Legislators were cordially invited to a Healthy Happy Hour to be held on April 6, 2016 at 4 p.m. at the Lewis County Public Health offices to commemorate National Public Health Week; and to the Association of Sportsmen's Club's annual dinner meeting on April 8th at the Croghan American Legion.

The Delaware and Sullivan County Legislatures submitted resolutions calling upon the State Legislature to increase the share of revenue Counties retain for providing State DMV services.

Delaware County had also submitted resolutions urging the Governor and Legislature to gradually restore the 50/50 cost sharing for the Safety Net Program, and increase shelter grant reimbursements to County Departments of Social Services; another opposing the NYS Labor Commissioner's order to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for employees of fast-food

chain restaurants; and another calling on the State to develop a 100% State funded Indigent Legal Defense System as a way to provide mandate relief and lower property taxes.

The Delaware and Tompkins County Legislatures had each urged the State to provide technical and financial assistance to Counties in complying with the Federal Child Care Law changes so that local child care slots are not lost due to increased costs to meet the new Federal mandates.

The Tompkins County Legislature called upon the State to restore funding parity between the Capital Plans of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the NYS Department of Transportation.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

Legislators had received copies of the Treasurer's February and March reports, as well as the 1st Quarterly Bed Tax Report; the 3/22/16 Solid Waste and Highway Audit Reports; and minutes of the 1/12/16 Public Health Corporate Compliance Committee and the 3/16/16 Youth Bureau Advisory Board meetings.

The County Sealer of Weights and Measures has submitted her 1st Quarter Activities Report to be placed on file.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Legislator Philip Hathway, Ways and Means/Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairman, reported the County Clerk has implemented a "pilot program" to temporarily extend hours at the DMV office from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. through 9/30/2016. The union personnel have voluntarily agreed to alternate shifts. Pursuant to amended Federal guidelines for CDL testing, Linda Hoskins is searching for the required 300'x30' blacktop location for CDL tests. Also, it was determined cost prohibitive to establish and operate a satellite DMV office.

Legislator Hathway reported that maintenance personnel have completed 80% of the workplace safety upgrades at the various buildings. Energy audits for the Emergency Management and Public Safety Building are being explored. He reported that Legislator King had met with engineers who provided a proposal to outline upgrades at the Highway garage.

Citing five Tuesdays in May, Legislator Hathway announced the committee meeting would be held at 1 p.m. on 5/31/16.

Legislator Roscoe Fawcett, Jr., Social Services/Office For Aging/Employment and Training/Youth Bureau Committee Chairman, reported a new Job Readiness pilot training program for recipients of temporary assistance on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Able-bodied recipients are required to attend all 8 job readiness sessions, some of which will be provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension and Lewis County Opportunities, Inc.

Summer Youth employment applications are available at high school guidance offices.

Legislator Fawcett referred to Chairman Tabolt's proclamation of April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month", to be read later in the meeting. Child Protective Service personnel had responded to 420 abuse and neglect cases in 2015, and 113 year-to-date. They depend upon cooperative efforts from individuals, law enforcement and agencies to prevent child abuse and maltreatment.

Legislator Fawcett made a motion to authorize refilling a full-time retiring Social Services Caseworker, seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Legislator Fawcett made a motion to authorize DSS Commissioner Jenny Jones to issue a Request for Proposals for security guard services at the Social Services building, seconded by Legislator Hathway. In response to Legislator Chartrand, Ms. Jones justified the services citing persons that arrive intoxicated or under the influence of drugs, and the associated and unknown risks with investigating persons and/or making sensitive decisions to remove children from families. She reminded the 75% Federal and State reimbursement for associated costs, while distinguishing Lewis County as one of the very few in the State without on-site security. The motion then carried. Legislator Kulzer was opposed.

Legislator Fawcett reported that several local officials had participated in the "Mayors For Meals", some of which accompanied meal home deliveries and others who served at the meal sites. The event enhanced awareness for senior nutrition and support for the senior population.

Office For Aging personnel have completed 365 HEAP applications for the program that will close on 4/8/16. Personnel will participate in the LCGH community health fair on 4/16/16 with a slogan "Spring In To Healthy Living", for outreach to hundreds of attendants.

The Youth Bureau Advisory Board awarded \$1,000.00 to each of the five (5) municipal recreation program applicants in the Towns of Diana and Greig and the Villages of Croghan, Lowville and Port Leyden.

Legislator Fawcett announced that Advisory Board member Tyler Eddy, a Harrisville senior, was recently featured and honored by Channel 7 News as an Academic All-Star.

Legislator Bryan Moser, County Officers/Junkyards/Veterans' Services/ Human Resources Committee Chairman, reported estimated first quarter benefit receipts by local veterans of \$148,000. Director Derek Davey and Stephen Kilionski are handling an average of 152 claims. The 2013 Veterans' Administration report indicates 2,283 veterans reside in Lewis County, equal to 10% of the overall population and representing an increase of 95 over the previous year.

Legislator Moser reported review and discussion on several proposed positions that will be considered during tonight's meeting.

Legislator Jerry King, Courts and Law Enforcement/Fire & Emergency Management Director/Building Codes Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize Sheriff Carpinelli to refill one vacant part-time Correction Officer and one part-time Dispatcher/Correction Officer due to resignations, seconded by Legislator Chartrand. There was no clear response to Legislator Moser's inquiry as to the length of time the authorization was in effect. Legislator King said he would make an inquiry and report. The motion was carried.

Legislator King made a motion to authorize Sheriff Carpinelli to travel to Washington, D.C. for the National Sheriff's Convention from May 12-15, 2016, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Legislator King reported the radio system is working, and the coverage testing will be conducted in June when the tree foliage is in bloom. Dispatchers are operating from the new center at the Public Safety Building, and will return to the Court House back-up center for one shift each quarter to assure equipment efficiency.

Legislator Lawrence Dolhof, Economic Development Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize renewal of all County general and professional liability insurance policies with NYMIR for the period 4/5/2016 to 4/5/2017 for a premium of \$199,922.16, representing less than one percent increase. The County property values were increased by 4%, and the new towers, equipment and shelters were valued at \$6 million, for an aggregate value of \$42,487,000. The motion was seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Legislator Dolhof made a motion to authorize Recreation, Forestry & Parks Director Jackie Mahoney to submit an ATV access proposal to the New York State Department of Transportation, seconded by Legislator Brennan and carried.

Legislator Dolhof made a motion to rescind Resolution No. 377-2015 in its entirety, which approved entering an Agreement with the Lewis County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) for an amount of \$50,000.00 to support the Small Business Loan Fund Program. County Attorney Joan McNichol had affirmed the County is prohibited from making loans to private businesses, which is the essence of the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Legislator Dolhof reported the first quarter bed tax revenue was comparatively less than half the amount of last year, reflective of the poor snowmobiling season and lack of tourists.

The committee recommends the ATV trail system be opened on April 11, 2016 due to weather conditions. Legislator Dolhof clarified that persons do not need a trail permit to ride the SNIRT RUN route. However, if riders wish to travel outside the parameters of the SNIRT RUN, they need to purchase a 3-day pass. Legislator Kulzer posed consideration to waive the permit requirement, if the trail system is opened prior to the event next year. Legislator Dolhof reported discussion to consider one free weekend during the upcoming summer. In response to Legislator Chartrand, Atty. McNichol said she does not have the general liability policy yet, but anticipates receipt of the required insurance binders within the next two days. In response to Legislator Kulzer, Atty. McNichol stated that if she does not receive the binders within the

agreed upon 10 days prior to the event, she will timely notify all Legislators for a decision whether to cancel the event. In response to Legislator Brennan, Deputy Michael Leviker affirmed the Sheriff's Department is well aware of the event.

Legislator Dolhof reported that maple products will be shipped to the United Kingdom this month.

BOCES is advancing a 2-year Career Technical Education program for Production Design and Technology to begin this fall. Their curriculum will be formulated based on a similar program at a West Virginia school. The JCC administration is also considering a similar program.

Legislator Dolhof reported completion of the land survey for the solar array that will be presented to the Village of Lowville Planning Board for approval.

Legislator Craig Brennan, Taxation/Information Technology Committee Chairman, reported that IT Director Adam Zehr is working with Real Property Tax Director Candy Akin to enhance public access to property records.

At Legislator Brennan's request, Adam Zehr reported that Mohawk Networks is compiling their State grant application, inclusive of support letters from several local municipalities for expanding internet services to approximately 5,400 County residents. The accuracy of the census block data released from the State has been questioned, as well as Time Warner Cable's proposal to supply internet services to the under-served or un-served population. The Inter-County Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks has had in-depth broadband discussion. Chairman Tabolt announced that Empire State Development Director of Broadband Ana Rua will present an update to the group at their 4/28/16 meeting in Saratoga.

Mr. Zehr also reported that a new technology program will enable digital display of property maps, otherwise required to be printed and cumbersome for public utilization. Hard copies are available upon request.

Legislator Gregory Kulzer, Transportation/Solid Waste Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize purchases for the Highway Department of a 2016 3/4-Ton Crew Cab truck for \$28,694.54; and a 2016 1/2-Ton Extended Cab truck for \$25,317.85 from North & Virkler, Inc. of Lowville, NY. The motion was seconded by Legislator Brennan. Legislator Kulzer stated that bid notices for all new vehicles will be published in the local newspaper. The motion then carried.

Legislator Kulzer made a Motion to authorize purchase for the Highway Department of a 2016 Tractor w/cab and front-mounted angle broom from Walldroff Farm Equipment, Inc. for \$43,829.00, seconded by Legislator Brennan and carried.

Legislator Kulzer reported the 4,000-gallon gasoline tank at the Highway garage will be reverted to a diesel tank to serve the larger vehicle volume. The County WEX purchases will be discounted at 1.58%/gallon and exempt from taxes, with a single monthly bill to the Treasurer.

The process will relieve Highway personnel from labor intensive record keeping and billing to the various entities that utilize the County gasoline pump. The County Manager is working on the WEX card registration process.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to award the bid to Custom Container Solutions of Lewisburg, PA in the amount of \$5,998.00 for a 50-yard open top roll-off container, seconded by Legislator Brennan and carried.

Legislator Richard Chartrand, Hospital Committee Chairman, reported general surgeon Dr. Nick Gabriel and Orthopedist Dr. Stephen Adcock began seeing patients in March. County Treasurer Patricia O'Brien expects receipt of Nursing Home 2014 and 2015 IGT funds of \$8 million. The \$6,580,000 Essential Health Care Provider Support Program contract allows wide ranging discretion for allocating those funds, and will enable the facility to relinquish debt.

The first of five nursing home universal settlements of \$74,000 was received, with the balance due for a total of \$370,000. However, these revenues will be deducted from anticipated IGT funds.

The 3/17/16 meeting of the Central NY Delivery Systems Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) group was well attended with a good exchange of respective information. Drs. Manoj Vora and Shirley Tuttle-Malone were named co-directors of the clinics.

Legislator Chartrand reported a gain of \$203,309 for a year-to-date surplus of \$220,246. The auditors will present the 2015 financial statements later this month; and the County debt is \$3.3 million. Acute admissions have increased over the past three months being 3% above budget in February. February observation admissions were 30% over the budgeted level; swing-bed admissions were at an all-time high; and occupancy of the Skilled Nursing Facility was 94.9%. Emergency room visits were also over the budget target.

Legislator Chartrand reported although the program ended 3/31/2016, the facility secured an additional Vital Access Provider Assurance Program (VAPAP) allocation of \$650,000 earmarked in the 2016-2017 State budget. The three Rite Aid stores located in Carthage and Boonville are new participants of the 340-b pharmacy reimbursement program.

He announced the employee-of-the-month was custodial worker Kimberly Lyndaker; while congratulating cafeteria worker Judy Widrick as the 2015 employee-of-the-year.

Legislator Chartrand urges approval to create an Assistant Nursing Home Administrator with a salary range of \$97,680-\$100,080, explaining the position would be filled by an existing employee and is in line with the Hospital's succession planning. The Nursing Home Administrator is expected to retire in the near future. Also, to create a Chief Operating Officer position to be filled in-house. The position is budget neutral, due to consolidating job duties of three management personnel. The position will be re-assessed after one year.

The Board of Managers had amended and approved the employment agreement and salary for Chief Executive Officer Eric Burch.

Legislator Chartrand reported approval of an agreement with St. Joseph's Hospital for management assistance for Certified Home Health Agency services.

Legislator Chartrand concluded that none of the administrative or management positions would be filled until the hiring freeze is lifted.

In response to Legislator Moser's expressed concern for reduced clinic and physician office revenue by 20% and 11% respectively, Legislator Chartrand referenced appointment of the two medical clinic directors for closer monitoring of those operations.

Legislator Andrea Moroughan, Public Health/Community Services Committee Chair, reported that Public Health Director Penny Ingham was exploring options to replace software used to bill Medicaid for Pre-School services after the State notified the current software will not be compatible after 2017. The dental health registered nurse has been trained in fluoride varnish practice and will be presenting education sessions and tracking for evidence-based outcomes.

She reported that Penny Ingham had chaired the recent Regional Project Advisory Committee meeting encompassing representatives from six regional counties to share their views on the DSRIP process.

Legislator Moroughan reported a psychiatric nurse practitioner started on 3/7/16 at the Behavioral Health Clinic and a new psychiatrist will have office hours two days per week.

Lewis County was mentioned in the NYS Office of Mental Health annual report in the section: North Country Reinvestment and Planning Progress. Additional programs developed by Lewis County Local Government Unit are funded by the State Aid to Localities. The grant funds provide support for an Outreach Peer Advocate for support to community members who are at risk for hospitalization or emergency department utilization. The Advocate will assist access to services and provide support as they engage with treatment providers.

Legislator Moroughan reported the Suicide Prevention Coalition is coordinating with BOCES medical career students to organize a Walk-Run event at the fairgrounds on 5/14/16, with a theme of "Lighting Up the Dark". The purpose is to raise awareness of available resources to prevent suicide.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

Liz Swearingin reported submission of the "chart of accounts" to Tyler-Munis for data entry. The core group will progress to the next phase to determine rules for system use. She anticipates implementing the system in the fourth quarter of 2016 for the general ledger, budgeting, purchasing, accounts payable, accounts receivable, contracts employment reimbursement and cash management. Payroll and Human Resources will be implemented in early 2017.

Liz expounded on Legislator Kulzer's WEX card report, stating that each County vehicle will be issued a WEX card and each employee will be assigned a PIN number that will enable gasoline purchases at any vendor. The single bill will enable sorting by various categories. The WEX cards will initially be issued to County vehicles only within 2-3 weeks. If deemed efficient, all other existing users will be timely informed to register for WEX cards, or make other arrangements when the County tank is reverted to diesel.

She reported that 25 County personnel had attended supervisory training, and were impressed with the information provided.

Liz reported that she, Legislator Moroughan, CSB Chairman John Waterhouse and Vice-Chairman Douglas Ort had met with TLS Executive Director Stevie Kiggins and TLS Board Chairman Mike Lively. During their frank discussion, Mr. Lively indicated awareness of relayed concerns about mental health services in the County, that were further heightened by the untimely death of Dr. Camillo. Ms. Swearingin believes the open dialogue will enhance communications to assure continuation of expected level of services.

COUNTY TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer Patricia O'Brien recited the balances of the Special Legislative Contingency Fund - \$250,000.00; Contingency Fund-\$475,000.00; Capital Data Processing Fund-\$134,594.65 and Capital Equipment Fund - \$484,465.98, of which \$166,265.58 is the Highway portion. She also reported January and February sales tax revenues of \$926,126.88, proportionately lower than budgeted. The current Hospital debt is \$3.3 million.

Ms. O'Brien stated the balance of the Internal Service Fund remains drastically below the recommended \$4 - \$6 million. She cautioned the need to consider raising premiums in the near future. Ms. Swearingin stated the recently approved changes could not be implemented until June, while citing high expenditures in the last two months.

In response to Legislator Dolhof, Ms. Swearingin stated there is no way to determine the exact cause, but historically gas purchases equate 20% of our sales tax revenue. Legislator Dolhof surmised the revenue receipts were partially impact by the poor snowmobile season.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Chairman Tabolt had met with NYSAC and Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages representatives to discuss mutual interest for ATV Legislation. NYSAC officials had successfully lobbied the Western Inter-County Legislative Committee to adopt a similar resolution enacted by our Board urging State legislation to allow registration of heavier ATV's.

He reported Liz Swearingin had accompanied him at the maple tree tapping event with NYS Agriculture & Markets Commissioner Richard Ball.

The Chairman referenced several meetings he had attended in Albany, Utica and locally to discuss the Kraft Heinz expansion project and the financing thereof. He credited County

Manager Liz Swearingin, Economic Development Director Eric Virkler and Planning Director Frank Pace for their assistance and coordinating efforts to further the project. The next respective meeting of the Village of Lowville Board will be held on 4/6/16.

Chairman Tabolt and Legislator Chartrand had attended the 3/31/16 seminar sponsored by the Tug Hill Commission. They each attended presentations by Mr. Robert Freeman on the Open Meetings Law. During discussion with Atty. McNichol, Mr. Freeman offered to make an educational presentation to the Board of Legislators, Board of Managers and any other interested municipal officials.

Chairman Tabolt relayed Liz Swearingin and Frank Pace continuing discussion with JCC representatives, who have indicated interest to offer local educational courses.

The Chairman acknowledged and thanked Legislators Dolhof and Chartrand and Clerk of the Board Teresa Clark for attending the 3/24/16 Inter-County Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks on his behalf. The meeting was held at Paul Smith's college, ironically Legislator Dolhof's alma mater.

The Municipal Electric & Gas Alliance (MEGA) has requested a Lewis County representative to serve on their Board. The commitment is to attend an annual meeting, the next to be held in Cooperstown on 4/22/16. The Alliance would assume the costs for any interested Legislator, who would support their mission to achieve the most competitive pricing for electricity and natural gas for its municipal members.

Chairman Tabolt relayed meeting with Habitat for Humanity representatives for assistance to identify a home or parcel of land for their next project.

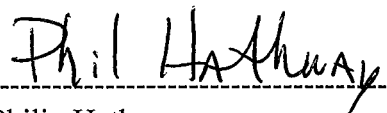
Chairman Tabolt closed the public hearing at 6:46 p.m. for comments on the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant.

REPORT OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:

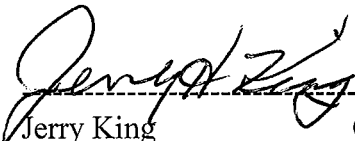
**REPORT OF
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
ON THE EXAMINATION OF CLAIMS**

To: The Honorable County Legislators


The Ways and Means Committee reports that they have examined the claims presented for payment in the total amount of \$ 2,079,231.86 and recommend that they be audited and allowed for the amounts claimed.



Philip Hathway Chair



Jerry King Committee



Richard Chartrand Committee

Dated: April 5, 2016

Approved on motion by Legislator King, seconded by
Legislator Moser, and carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Legislator Hathway made a motion to change the location of the May 3, 2016 Board meeting to be held at the Lyons Falls Library, seconded by Legislator King. Chairman Tabolt announced plans to tour the Lyons Falls mill prior to the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and invited anyone interested to join him to tour the Storm Bailey Museum at 3:30 p.m.

Legislator Kulzer relayed concerns from parents of dance students who regularly use the library for lessons and were asked to cancel their May 3rd classes, especially considering their upcoming recital. He suggests a more appropriate location, rather than closing a business. He queried the reason to change the meeting location, invoking that public participation would be enhanced by changing the meeting time. Legislator Dolhof relayed that dance classes are sometimes cancelled due to bad weather, suggesting that two months was ample notice to change their date or time. Legislator Kulzer cited the inconvenience for anyone to change dates and times of events, noting the Board of Legislators is asking for the exception. Legislator Dolhof would respectfully expect that anyone with community spirit would accommodate the one-time change. Chairman Tabolt stated the intention for rotating the meeting location was a good will gesture to accommodate the general public. Legislator Kulzer reiterated his objection, suggesting the firehall as a meeting location rather than closing a business. Chairman Tabolt asked Legislators to inform him if their community would like to host a Board meeting. Legislator Chartrand assumed the library board had approved the meeting date and had informed the involved individuals. Legislator Dolhof stated the building was owned by the Village of Lyons Falls. The motion to change the meeting location was then carried. Legislator Kulzer was opposed.

Chairman Tabolt reported that all State Legislative representatives and officials had phoned to offer assistance in the wake of the April 1, 2016 closing announcement of the Climax Manufacturing plant.

Legislator Hathway commended Legislator Bryan Moser, County Manager Liz Swearingin, County Attorney Joan McNichol and District Attorney Leanne Moser for being recent news media "Cover People"; and/or being featured in a State publication.

Legislator King invited Legislators to a Southern Lewis County Water Study meeting to be held at the Port Leyden Firehall on 5/12/16.

Clerk of the Board Teresa Clark read proclamations whereby Chairman Tabolt had declared the month of April as "Fair Housing Month" and "Child Abuse Prevention Month".

The Chairman had re-appointed Carl S. Golas, Anne Merrill, Michele Ledoux, Glen Gagnier, Stevie Kiggins, Nichelle Billhardt, Douglas Hanno, Jacqueline Mahoney and Dan Salmon to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee for a 2-year term from 5/1/2016 to 4/30/2018.

Legislator Brennan made a motion to enter executive session at 7:16 p.m. for an attorney/client privilege update on contractual negotiations; and to discuss the appointment,

employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried. After a short recess, the session began at 7:26 p.m.

Legislator Brennan made a motion to authorize Chairman Tabolt to execute an amended Purchase Power Agreement with Greenskies, Inc., seconded by Legislator Dolhof and carried.

Legislator King made a motion to authorize the County Attorney to file an appeal to Supreme Court Judge Charles Merrell's recent decision in the matter of Deputy Sheriff Darrell Ortlieb vs. the County of Lewis. The motion was seconded by Legislator Moser. The motion carried. Legislators Brennan and Moroughan were opposed.

At 8:36 p.m. Legislator Hathway made a motion to re-enter regular session, seconded by Legislator Dolhof and carried.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned on motion by Legislator Dolhof, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.