

## REGULAR MEETING

June 6, 2017

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

Roll Call: All Legislators were present, except Legislator Chartrand whom had been excused.

Chairman Tabolt offered the Invocation. Legislator Philip Hathway called for a moment of silence for those who perished on D-Day (June 6, 1944), as well as all survivors. Chairman Tabolt then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

There were 36 persons present.

Hearing no comments to the contrary, Chairman Tabolt declared the May 2, 2017 meeting minutes 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.

Dated: June 6, 2017

Lawrence Dolhof, Chairman  
Bryan Moser  
Craig Brennan

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

Chairman Tabolt was proud to recognize a Lyons Falls resident who has served her community for many years; and to several high school students for their outstanding competitive achievements at the global level.

Clerk of the Board Teresa Clark read the commending Proclamation for Catherine (Katie) Leindecker admiring her accomplishments and unwavering community spirit. Legislator Fawcett cited Katie's award as the 2016 Randy Streeter Citizen of the Year sponsored by the Lewis County Office For the Aging, that honors older volunteers who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution or dedication to senior citizens in their community. Chairman Tabolt and Legislator Moroughan presented the document to Ms. Liendecker.

Legislator Hathway read a proclamation recognizing the seventh place World level achievement of the Beaver River Central School Odyssey of the Mind team. He and Chairman Tabolt then presented the document to the students and team advisors.

Clerk of the Board Teresa Clark read a proclamation recognizing the tenth place World level achievement of the Lowville Academy & Central School Odyssey of the Mind team. Chairman Tabolt then presented the document to the students and team advisors.

At 5:16 p.m. Chairman Tabolt opened the public hearing for comments or suggestions for possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2017 program year.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Economic Development Director Eric Virkler read the following information into the record: The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is a federally funded program authorized by Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The CDBG Program is administered by the Office of Community Renewal (OCR) under the direction of the Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC). For 2017, the OCR may make up to \$20 million available for housing activities, community planning, public infrastructure, public facilities, and economic development and microenterprise programs. Applications for housing assistance are submitted under an annual funding round. Applications for public infrastructure, public facilities, and economic development assistance are available under the Consolidated Funding Application that is due no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 28, 2017. The County may apply for up to \$750,000 for public infrastructure \$300,000 for public facilities; \$200,000 for microenterprise programs; and up to \$50,000 for planning activities, provided the projects meet national objectives to benefit low and moderate income families, prevent or eliminate slums or blight, or meet other urgent community development needs.

No less than 70% of the NYS CDBG funds must benefit low and moderate income persons, defined as a member of a household whose income is less than 80% of the area median income for the household size. A principal benefit to low and moderate income persons requires at least 51% of the persons benefiting must qualify as low and moderate-income persons. The county may provide technical assistance to groups representing low and moderate income persons to develop applications.

The CDBG program encourages communities to minimize displacement of persons benefiting from the program. Depending on the activity proposed, displacement should not be a problem. For housing activities, homeowners should not encounter displacement unless the home to be renovated contains extensive lead based paint that would require the family to be out of the home during remediation.

Mr. Virkler reported that although the grant funds are customarily sought for housing rehabilitation through Snow Belt Housing, they may also assist businesses or organizations with capital projects.

Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL) Executive Director Aileen Martin reported that after a lengthy search their agency has identified feasible 4,000 sq. ft. office space located in the Village of Lowville and would repurpose the Jackson Street commercial building. NRCIL employs 41 in Jefferson and 17 in Lewis County. In response to Legislators Hathway and Brennan, Ms. Martin said the prospective building could

accommodate additional employees and would serve their foreseeable needs. A 10-year lease is envisioned, while projecting subsequent renewal. Ms. Martin would seek low-income Lewis County residents to fill future jobs, and informed that 75 percent of their personnel have a disability. The agency intends to apply for the maximum amount of \$300,000 CDBG funding, dependent upon the Board's approval for the County to be lead agency. Mr. Virkler affirmed there is no local match requirement.

#### PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICES:

Mark and Liz Swearingin and Reverend Matthew Laney acknowledged the personal contributions from Legislators and Court House staff to the Asylum Hill Congregational Church in memory of Liz's dad Kenneth Hollister.

Mrs. Abby Wallace sent a thank you note for the personal contributions to Hospice in memory of her husband, former District No. 5 Legislator Patrick F. Wallace.

Charlotte VanZandt had penned a note of thanks to commend Solid Waste Department worker Lynn Widrick for helping her with a flat tire while at the Lowville transfer station. She admired his courteous and helpful manner.

The members of the Harrisville Boys' Varsity Basketball Team had each signed a letter of thanks to the Board for acknowledging their accomplishments; and for the opportunity to observe the Board's meeting procedures. They cited and thanked the many local fans who attended and cheered them to victory, which gave more meaning to their winning achievements.

The NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation office informed they would be considering the First Lewis County Clerk's Office located in Martinsburg for nomination to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

The Board acknowledged receipt of a resolution from the Cattaraugus County Legislature in support of proposed State legislation regarding the prohibition of smoking in vehicles where minors are passengers.

Senator Joseph Griffo and Assemblyman Brian Kolb each acknowledged receipt of the Board's resolution encouraging adoption of Senator Griffo's sponsored legislation to ensure continued viability of the State's existing large-scale renewable energy sources, most importantly hydroelectric and biomass facilities.

#### REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

Legislators have received copies of the County Treasurer's May report; the 5/3 and 5/26/17 Highway and Solid Waste Audit reports; minutes of the 5/15/17 Youth Bureau Advisory Board, 4/20/17 & 5/11/17 Planning Board, and 1/17/17 Health Services Advisory Committee meetings.

Director of Weights and Measures James A. Richmire has submitted the May monthly report to be placed on file with the Clerk of the Board.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Legislator Philip Hathway, Taxation/Elections/Information Technology Committee Chairman, reported the broadband contractor continues to expand services within the County and is searching for a site that would accommodate their operations and a 400' tower. Referencing the earlier cyber security insurance policy presentation, he noted that IT Director Adam Zehr has installed backup and firewalls to reduce the risk of a cyber breach.

He also reported that Real Property Tax Director Candy Akin is working with Town Boards to change duplicate road names in certain areas throughout the County to avoid errors by emergency responders.

Legislator Hathway stated that County Attorney Joan McNichol would provide the Board a client-privilege update later today on the property assessment challenges and negotiations.

Legislator Roscoe Fawcett, Jr., Social Services/Office For Aging/Youth Committee Chairman, announced that 31 businesses have registered for the 6/7/17 job fair sponsored by Workforce Development at the Lowville Elks Lodge, searching for candidates to fill over 100 jobs. The Summer Youth Employment Program has placed 22 18-24 year olds in various jobs, and additional unemployed or underemployed candidates are urged to contact 315-376-5800.

The HEAP cooling program is accepting air conditioner applications from those who meet income and medical guidelines.

Legislator Fawcett made a motion to authorize DSS Commissioner Jennifer Jones to re-fill one Full-time Caseworker position effective immediately, due to a termination. The motion was seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Senior Day at the Lewis County Fair will be 7/20/17 to include musical entertainment. Farmers' Market coupons will also be available.

Legislator Fawcett reported the Youth Advisory Board awarded the balance of Office of Children and Family Services Youth development allocations of \$2,675 to support the 9/8/17 "Night Out" event. At the opening ceremony ambulance teams will be recognized for often being the first responders at heroin and related crises.

Legislator Bryan Moser, County Officers/Junkyards/Veterans' Services/ Human Resources Committee Chairman, urges approval of the recommended Veteran's Department personnel changes, to promote Stephen Kilionski to Director and replacing the vacant counselor position with a keyboard specialist representing \$13,000 annual savings.

Legislator Moser commended retired Veterans' Service Director Derek Davey for great performance and service to local veterans, while reminding everyone to keep him in their prayers after his wife's recent passing.

Legislator Moser stated that Junkyard Law amendments would be proposed to the Board after further discussion with the Review Board. Legislator Hathway expressed appreciation for cleanup of the long-time blighted property in the Town of Diana, enhanced by the previous law changes and aggressive efforts by the Committee and County Attorney.

Legislator Jerry King, Courts and Law Enforcement/Fire & Emergency Services/Building Codes Committee Chairman, reports continued testing and work to enhance paging communications. The County qualified for grant funds due to installing interoperable channels.

Legislator Lawrence Dolhof, Economic Development/Recreation, Forestry and Parks Committee Chairman, announced a 6/13/17 business leaders' breakfast at the Boondocks restaurant in Lyons Falls.

Legislator Dolhof, Atty. McNichol and Economic Development Director Eric Virkler continue to negotiate with Avangrid Renewables and Invenergy developers and taxing jurisdictions for Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes (PILOT) agreements for two windmill projects.

There are 17 students registered for the July Manufacturing Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) Camp at B.O.C.E.S. The facility also hosted 30 student participants for the "Wind Blade Challenge", with a Lowville Academy team achieving first place. Jefferson Community College officials have informed their inability to start the Lewis County extension center and education classes this fall, due to reduced State funding. However, they remain committed to course development and offering classes at the Maple Ridge facility.

Planning Director Frank Pace reported a 101-day construction schedule for solar array installation would begin in July with planned inter-connection to National Grid in November.

Legislator Craig Brennan, Ways and Means/Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize County Clerk Linda Hoskins to refill a full-time Motor Vehicle Application Examiner position effective immediately, due to a resignation. The motion was seconded by Legislator Fawcett and carried.

Legislator Brennan made a motion to authorize Treasurer Patricia O'Brien to refill a Temporary full-time Account Clerk position effective immediately, due to a resignation. The motion was seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Buildings Maintenance Supervisor Frank Archer has addressed the PSB fuel tank issues cited by the NYMIR risk analysis specialist.

Legislator Brennan recognized Computer System Assistant Doug Nagy for generating a replacement part required to secure the Court House exit door on his personal 3-D printer that would otherwise have cost \$2,000.00.

Legislator Brennan reported that net proceeds from the delinquent property tax auction exceeded projections.

Atty. McNichol explained that as approved by the State Legislature, the local law proposes a \$.30 surcharge on all pre-paid and post-paid wireless communication devices. The State will collect the fees and forward the County's apportioned share of estimated \$30,000 - \$50,000 annual revenue to support E-911 operations.

Legislator Brennan reported receipt of three engineering consultant proposals to develop a strategic facilities plan for amounts ranging from \$40,000 to \$275,000. He urged Legislators' review and comments, directing them to the Clerk's office for copies.

Legislator Brennan reported the County's Clean Energy Communities grant application would be given first consideration for having met required criteria. Jamie Rogers of ANCA and Jim Yienger of Climate Action Associates will assist to compose the application to document the County's proposed projects that would effect hydrocarbon reduction and energy efficiency improvements.

Legislator Gregory Kulzer, Transportation/Solid Waste Committee Chairman reported sale of 150 bags of compost; and that minor repairs have been completed on the Solid Waste trailer used to haul recyclables.

Legislator Kulzer reported that Highway road paving commenced on 5/22/17 and affirmed their policy for making road signs are available to Towns, Villages, School Districts, County Departments and the NYS DOT. Highway Superintendent David Becker has asked farmers not to plant corn in the 10' right-of-way from roads, as legally required for driver safety. He has asked local media sources to assist with public announcements.

As the Board's representative for the Double Play Recreation Center, Legislator Kulzer reported the agency had been awarded the bid to administer the Lowville summer recreation program and has opened it up to all children in the County aged 5 – 12. They offer various sports, arts and music programs, as well as lunchtime supervision, but kids must bring their own food. They will also cover the adult morning swim and evening basketball and volleyball programs. Enrollment will be on 6/13, 6/15, 6/20 and 6/22/17 for the weekday summer program from July 10 – August 14, 2017 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Citing the disparity between the Agency's bid of \$34,000 and the school's allocation of \$30,000, the Agency's Board approved using \$2,000 of the County's appropriation to support the program. They continue to search for an alternative building to house their operations, but are effectively utilizing their current location. They accepted a donated stair mill from Dr. David Swift.

In response to Legislator Moser, Legislator Kulzer reported that Double Play Recreation Center is looking at prospective buildings in southern Lewis County. They are assisting the Port Leyden summer recreation program; but have yet to identify feasible locations for Port Leyden and Harrisville after-school programs.

As a member of the Hospital Committee, Legislator Fawcett reported favorable financial results for April; and impending information technology upgrades at a cost of \$1.5 million. He announced that Certified Nursing Assistant Danny Thomas was chosen as the March employee-of-the-month. The Board of Managers selected a new Chief Executive Officer, but are deferring

announcement until concluding the employment contractual agreement. The Hospital Auxiliary sold over 3,200 geraniums and 250 herbs. An art show is scheduled for 6/7/17 in the main lobby. Legislator Fawcett recognized the recent loss of a very active Auxiliary member with the passing of Sue Bush, inviting contributions to the Scholarship Fund in her memory.

Legislator Andrea Moroughan, Public Health/Community Services Committee Chair, reported the State budget allocation for the Physically Handicapped Children's program was not reduced from the previous year. The State allocation for cancer services program was reduced by only 5% instead of the expected 20%. The State rate changes for tuition-based pre-school vendors are now being developed for 3 previous years and payment adjustments will be done when rates are known, which may impact the County share. Public Health must purchase new billing software for State Education and Medicaid reimbursements for Pre-School program services.

Legislator Moroughan reported review of the 1st Quarter Board of Health and Quality Assurance/Corporate Compliance/Quality Improvement reports. The Emergency Preparedness regional exercise was conducted in March with results reported to the State. The Public Health Planner is reviewing all HIPPA and Security Policies that will serve as standardized procedures for all County departments involved with health care.

Legislator Moroughan reported Director of Community Services Pat Fralick met with school superintendents, local agency leaders and treatment providers to identify students and families in crisis and connect them with local services. Their goal is to have a specific plan to implement by September.

The Lewis County Priorities Council is restructuring, tasked to identify community priorities and respond with solutions. They will partner with the Hospital Care Transitional Coalition and DSS Care Consortium. Director Fralick will apply for available funding for staff training on identifying persons with depression, suicidal thoughts and those with substance abuse problems, as well as coordination of services.

#### SPECIAL REPORTS:

Director of Community Services Patricia Fralick distributed pamphlets on heroin and opioids and available services, including a June calendar of public educational events. During the past month efforts focused on dispelling myths and providing information to those in need so they can make better choices for themselves.

Ms. Fralick attended a heroin and opioid "Boot Camp" sponsored by Samaritan Medical Center, which provides access to respective information and materials with permission to distribute. She submitted the 2018 Lewis County Local Services Plan to Albany prioritizing the local crisis that will enable access to State funding and resources to develop plans and responsive programs.

Credo and Dr. Dan Pisaniello will simulate their Legislative Board presentation to Lewis County General Hospital medical staff to inform and educate about their available services and medication assisted treatment.

A local coalition encompassing agency and community-minded persons for grass root efforts will meet to organize and strategize on how best to communicate a consistent message and share resources. Legislators were encouraged to relay any relative initiatives in their locale to enhance organized efforts.

After listening to an inciting presentation by Jefferson County District Attorney Christina Mills, Ms. Fralick plans to meet with Sheriff Michael Carpinelli and Lowville Police Chief Randy Roggie to gain understanding from a law enforcement perspective.

In response to Legislator Moser's prior inquiry, Ms. Fralick had met with school superintendents and service providers who plan a series of meetings to develop a process to communicate and connect with those in need.

Chairman Tabolt reported presenting a Proclamation, accompanied by Legislator Moroughan at the 5/11/17 Mental Health Awareness walk. He had also presented a local Proclamation at a ceremony to recognize National Nursing Home Week.

The Chairman also reported attending a Lowville Village Board meeting, and plans to attend the 6/22/17 Inter-county Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks in Saratoga and the 6/12/17 Regional Economic Development Council meeting in Lake Placid.

#### COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

Liz Swearingin recognized Taraden Lyndaker and Treasurer Benefits Specialist Joyce (JJ) Hodkinson for going above and beyond during the past several months to build the Tyler payroll system that will be implemented on June 25<sup>th</sup>. All employees will have access to enter their time into the internet-based system. Department Heads and selected staff are being trained for approval functions. The system will not allow employees to use benefit time before it is earned, and time-off requests are to be entered for supervisor approval. Payroll checks will be issued and available on-line by employees with secured indentified access. Each will have access to their respective payroll and benefit information. No paper checks will be distributed. Annual W-2's will also be issued electronically.

#### COUNTY TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer Patricia O'Brien recited the balances of the Special Legislative Contingency Fund - \$395,000.00; Contingency Fund-\$357,698.00; Capital Data Processing Fund-\$119,476.57 and Capital Equipment Fund - \$342,621.01, of which \$239,362.59 is the Highway portion, year-to-date sales tax revenues of \$3,269,987.15 are \$431,000 above the last year-to-date amount; and current Hospital debt of \$1.9-million.



The 4/30/17 balance of the Internal Service Fund is \$1,248,843.55. Ms. O'Brien reported another 10 percent health insurance premium has been imposed. Gilroy, Kiernan & Gilroy consultants will schedule educational sessions for all employees about voluntary options of a high-deductible or hybrid plan. They must make their selection by the end of July for plans that will become effective September 1, 2017.

At 6:24 p.m. Chairman Tabolt declared the public hearing closed.

REPORT OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:



OTHER BUSINESS:

Clerk of the Board Teresa Clark read the Chairman's proclamation declaring 5/14 – 5/20/17 as "National Nursing Home Week".

Due to the July meeting date falling on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, Legislator Moser made a motion to schedule the next regular meeting on July 5, 2017 at 5:00 p.m., seconded by Legislator Fawcett and carried.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Fawcett, seconded by Legislator Moser and carried.