

[DRAFT]

**FOURTH DAY
ANNUAL SESSION
December 5, 2017**

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

Roll Call: All Legislators were present, except Legislators Chartrand and Fawcett, whom had each been excused.

Legislator Tabolt offered the Invocation then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

There were 20 persons present.

Chairman Tabolt declared the minutes of the November 7th and November 15, 2017 meeting minutes approved by general consent after no corrections were noted.

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.

Signed by: Lawrence Dolhof, Chairman
 Bryan Moser
 Craig Brennan

Dated: December 5, 2017

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

A Proclamation commending the Beaver River Central School Varsity Boys' Cross Country Team was presented by Chairman Tabolt and Legislator Bryan Moser, to team members and their coach for garnering their 16th New York State Title.

Chairman Tabolt introduced newly appointed Office For Aging Director Kelly Hecker.

At 5:11 p.m., the Chairman opened the public hearing for comments on Local Law (Intro. No. 5-2017), "A LOCAL LAW AMENDING AND REPLACING LOCAL LAW NO. 2-2015 - THE COUNTY OF LEWIS JUNKYARD LAW"; and proposed additions of off-road trails to the Lewis County ATV Trail System pertaining to the following properties: David & Laura Descoteau - State Route 26 and Zimmer Road in the Town of West Turin, identified as parcel numbers 378.00-01-16.600 & 378.00-01-16.220, Nowwhac, LLC - 5169 Zimmer Road in the Town of West Turin, identified as parcel number 378.00-01-16.100, Raynard & Robin Gagnon - State Route 26 in the Town of West Turin, identified as parcel number 378.00-01-16.210, Lawrence Williams - State Route 12 in the Town of West Turin, identified as parcel numbers 322.00-01-17.100 & 322.14-03-10.000, Mark D. Kovach, Jr. - State Route 12 in the Village of Lyons Falls, identified as parcel numbers 322.14-01-17.310 & 322.14-03-08.120, and Mike &

Tracy Hurilla - State Route 12 in the Village of Lyons Falls, identified as parcel numbers 322.00-01-35.000; 322.14-03-08-110 & 322.18-01-10.212.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Erik Griffin of Lowville, reminded the County Planning Board had previously denied Walmart's request to construct gasoline pumps adjacent to their Lowville store location, citing several existing gasoline stations in the immediate area. Subsequently, however, that board had approved the Utica Boulevard Nice N Easy construction, he said, and most approved gasoline pumps at the Tops Plaza. Mr. Griffin feels the location of the pumps will cause pedestrian and vehicular safety issues, due to the close proximity to the bank and other businesses at that end of the plaza. He further referenced a water system under the proposed site, purporting the Planning Board should solve problems, not create them.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICES:

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation informed the First Lewis County Clerk's Office located in Martinsburg has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Chemung County Legislature enacted a resolution to support increasing the State appropriation for Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations.

The Essex County Legislature adopted a resolution to honor 2017 as the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Suffrage Act in New York State, which granted women the right to vote in State and local elections.

The Schuyler County Legislature adopted a resolution to urge the Governor to advance funding and expedite completion of the "Daniel Patrick Moynihan" interstate 86 projects in Broome, Delaware, Sullivan and Orange Counties.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

Legislators have received copies of the County Treasurer's November report; the 11/28, 11/29 and 12/5/17 Solid Waste and Highway Audit reports; and the minutes of the 10/10/17 Community Services Board, 11/16/17 Planning Board and the 11/15/17 Youth Bureau Advisory Board meetings.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislator Philip Hathway, Information Technology Committee Chairman, reported the Information Technology budget was on track. Mohawk Network representatives have met with various municipal officials to inform their need to erect 50-60 repeater towers ranging from 180-199' tall throughout the County to expand broadband services. The respective landowner lease agreements will be for 25 years and Mohawk Networks has agreed to pay respective property taxes.

Legislator Hathway reported a proposed Facebook page for the Real Property Tax Department. A County policy will be devised for compliance by all Departments. He also reported the 49 Lewis County veterans with existing property exemptions are being notified of the increased \$7,500 amount and advised to contact the County office to effectuate their exemptions.

Legislator Hathway posed that property owners having a PILOT agreement should be prohibited from filing an assessment challenge, while recognizing the agreements are under the purview of the Industrial Development Agency (IDA). Legislator Hathway made a motion for the County Attorney to draft a resolution that would record the Board's recommendation and urge the IDA to include language in their agreements to prohibit respective assessment challenges while a PILOT agreement is in effect. The motion was seconded by Legislator Brennan.

Legislator King was assured that a Town-wide revaluation would have no impact for negotiated PILOT agreements.

Attorney McNichol deemed no legal issues with urging the IDA to consider the County's policy when negotiating agreement terms.

Legislator Dolhof agreed philosophically, while referencing a particular business that was negatively affected by low electric rates, and without a reduced assessment and a PILOT agreement, the struggling industry could not be salvaged.

The motion was then unanimously carried.

On behalf of Committee Chairman Roscoe Fawcett, Jr., DSS Commissioner Jennifer Jones reported an on-site visit by NYS Commissioner Samuel Roberts, who met with Legislators Moroughan and Kulzer and representatives of Senator Griffo and Assemblyman Blankenbush. It had been 15 years since a State Commissioner had visited. Discussion focused on the SNAP, HEAP, Temporary Assistance and Housing Programs.

Ms. Jones reported there have been 1,479 HEAP applications processed and release of \$979,737. She encouraged everyone to be cognizant and alert the DSS office of anyone they suspect is homeless so that proper outreach and shelter can be provided.

A Work For Success Program representative is at the local One Stop office one day per month to assist those with a criminal history to attain employment.

Legislator Jerry King, Courts and Law Enforcement Committee Chairman, agreed that District Attorney Leanne Moser had made some valid points earlier today, but has been asked to forward more statistical case information to facilitate an informed decision.

Legislator King reported that antennas are to be installed at the Lyons Falls and No. 3 Road towers to reduce radio background noise. He expects to make a vendor contract recommendation for the Interoperable channel overlay project at the next meeting.

Legislator Lawrence Dolhof, Economic Development, Recreation, Forestry and Parks Committee Chairman, deferred relative discussion until his sponsored resolutions are later presented.

Legislator Craig Brennan, Ways and Means, Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairman, reported departmental budgets are within budgetary appropriations, and sales tax receipts were on course to meet projections.

Legislator Brennan reported that Buildings and Grounds maintenance personnel have completed public safety building repairs, and the sally port gate is working properly. They had also installed a blower motor for heat in the Highway Sign Shop.

Legislator Gregory Kulzer, Transportation/Solid Waste Committee Chairman, reported construction on the Sears Pond Road, and repair of the No. 4 Road culvert that is 120' long and 22' deep were completed.

Legislator Kulzer reported that Solid Waste Director Pete Wood was authorized to purchase a 50-yard compactor; and that trash and recycling volumes both continue to increase.

On behalf of the Martinsburg Historical Society, Legislator Kulzer relayed a funding request to offset repairs to the First Lewis County Clerk's Office located in Martinsburg and maintained by their group. A specific appropriation will be proposed to the Board at the next meeting.

Legislator Kulzer relayed a request from Highway Superintendent Association President Tyler Jones for an unspecified per mile County appropriation from ATV and/or snowmobile revenues to repair/maintain Town roads that are opened to recreation traffic. This issue was referred to the Recreation, Forestry and Parks Committee for consideration.

Legislator Richard Chartrand, Hospital Committee Chairman, deferred to Hospital CEO Gerald Cayer, who recited the Board of Managers' recently endorsed Vision and Mission Statements to send a clear message of their greater purpose. They continue to work to increase patient access to primary and surgical physicians. To that end, another orthopedic physician will join the Hospital practice in January 2018 that will enhance surgical volumes. They are also evaluating expanded surgical options such as laparoscopic and hysterectomy. Growth is seen in the Home Health and Hospice programs, sustained census at the residential healthcare facility, as well as stabilized emergency room and hospitalist coverage.

Mr. Cayer and the Board of Managers continue to refine their key initiatives, while promoting a culture of holistic system thinking in the best interest of patients. Priorities are for aggressive recruitment of primary physicians in recognition of the age of existing practitioners; endeavor to facilitate specialty clinical affiliations to provide local access to high-end specialty

care; substantially reduce crippling employee and dependent health insurance costs; and negotiate a multi-year bargaining unit agreement.

In response to Legislator Hathway's inquiries, Mr. Cayer reported plans to increase two operating rooms from 3 to 4 days per week; related that the key to Hospice services is physician and community education, primarily through the Friends of Hospice group, to commence timely palliative care discussion with prospective patients resulting in earlier access and increased volumes. Lastly, he cited efforts to increase local access to cardiology, behavioral health and orthopedic specialty services.

Legislator Hathway recognized the three proposed Board of Manager appointees, none of which are from his Legislative District. Mr. Cayer respectfully offered his insightful participation with future member selections, affirming that having representation from throughout the hospital service area is an industry standard.

Legislator Andrea Moroughan, Public Health/Community Services Committee Chair, reported ongoing efforts to address transportation challenges for those seeking behavioral health and substance abuse treatment. Several local groups were cited that have sponsored informational events to assist with public understanding and education on opiate substance use.

Legislator Moroughan recognized and thanked long-term Community Service Board members John Waterhouse, Jane O'Connor and Thomas Yousey for their time and commitment to Lewis County residents. They have each chosen not to extend their terms.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

At this time, Chairman Tabolt presented a commending proclamation to Town of Watson Supervisor Virgil Taylor to recognize his 44 years tirelessly serving in the best interest of his constituents. Chairman Tabolt declared that "In all that time he had never heard anything bad said about this gentleman".

Chairman Michael Tabolt reported that Legislator Chartrand and Ryan Piche joined him at the 12/3/17 Fort Drum holiday social, proudly relaying General Walter Piatt's public appreciative comments for the cooperation of Lewis County officials. This was followed up by a local luncheon today with Lt. Col. Todd Polk and Andrew Kennedy from the Garrison Commander's office. They informed Fort Drum's desire to retain a corridor, encompassing a portion of northern Lewis County, for their air training. There are no existing wind projects in that area. Mr. Piche was pleased to relay the cooperative relationship being forged; and Legislator Dolhof remains confident that Fort Drum and County officials each recognize respective goals and will be mutually supportive.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

Ryan Piche reported intent to implement the contract management phase of the Tyler Munis software.

Collaborative discussion continues with Hospital and County management and union representatives to devise recommended employee health insurance plan changes to lower the unsustainable and escalating costs for the County, Hospital and employees alike.

Mr. Piche reported that Mohawk Networks has a list of targeted properties for tower locations with determined optimum signals to expand broadband services. Each Town has been assigned one of five Mohawk Network representatives to enhance communication and progress.

Budget and programming discussion continues with JCC representatives for the Extension Education Center. However, Mr. Piche will be meeting with Mohawk Valley Community College and SUNY Canton representatives to discern their interest in the initiative.

Mr. Piche informed that he, Chairman Tabolt, Eric Virkler and Michele Ledoux would attend the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) award announcements in Albany on 12/13/17.

COUNTY TREASURER REPORT:

Patricia O'Brien reported the current fund balance of the Special Legislative Contingency Fund - \$339,154.14; Contingency Fund-\$231,972.27; Capital Data Processing Fund-\$116,514.91 and Capital Equipment Fund - \$262,487.84, of which \$7,379.85 is the Highway portion, year-to-date sales tax revenues are above budget at \$9,252,475.56; and current Hospital debt is on schedule at \$1.3 million.

Ms. O'Brien stated the October Internal Service Fund report is not yet available.

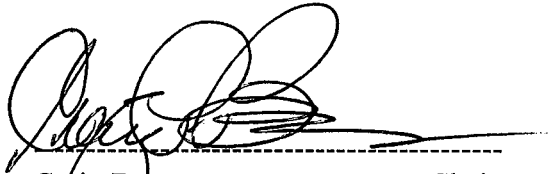
Chairman Tabolt closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.

REPORT OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:

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

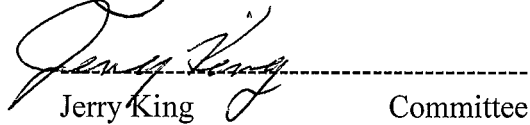
To: The Honorable County Legislators

The Ways and Means Committee reports that they have examined the claims presented for payment in the total amount of \$ 876,226.33 and recommend that they be audited and allowed for the amounts claimed.



Craig Brennan

Chair



Jerry King

Committee

Richard Chartrand

Committee

Dated: December 5, 2017

Approved on motion by Legislator Dolhof, seconded by

Legislator Moser, and carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Legislator King made a motion to set the date for the Board's final 2017 session for December 21, 2017 to begin at 10 a.m., seconded by Legislator Dolhof and carried.

Legislator Moser made a motion to enter executive session at 6:48 p.m. for an update on union negotiations, assessment challenges and other legal matters, and invited Legislators-elect John Lehman, Randall LaChausse and Ronald Burns who were all present this evening, to attend the session. The motion was seconded by Legislator Dolhof and carried. The session began at 6:55 p.m. following a short recess. Legislator Brennan was excused from the meeting.

At 7:47 p.m. Legislator Hathway made a motion to return to the regular meeting, seconded by Legislator Dolhof and carried.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Legislator Dolhof made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried.