

2021

EIGHTH SESSION

AUGUST 5, 2021

The Board convened at 10:30 A.M. in the Supervisors' Chambers at the Court House, Lake Pleasant, New York, with the Chairman, William G. Farber presiding. Mr. Farber led the members of the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and an opening prayer.

The Clerk, Mrs. Laura Abrams, called the roll with the following Supervisors answering:

Arietta	Richard A. Wilt
Benson	John M. Stortecky
Hope	ABSENT
Indian Lake	Brian Wells
Inlet	John Frey
Lake Pleasant	Betsy A. Bain
Long Lake	Clay J. Arsenault
Morehouse	William G. Farber
Wells	Nick Mauro

Also present: Jeannette Barrett

A motion was made to accept the minutes of July 1, 2021 by Mr. Arsenault, seconded by Mr. Stortecky. Carried.

Public Comment: No one present.

Reports of Standing/Special Committees:

Mr. Wilt: Requested time on next Committee Day to bring everyone up to date on communications.

Ms. Bain: Stated that she attended a ZOOM meeting with Erica Mahoney-Public Health Director, Dr. David Welch, Jill Dunham-Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and the Chairman. They discussed NYS rescinding the State of Emergency and that they are not setting up any re-opening guidelines for schools. It is being left up to the local government. During the meetings they came up with the guidelines they thought would be good to set in place and will be meeting with the schools. Mr. Wells asked if he could have a copy of the drafted plan. Ms. Bain stated that they needed the schools input first to complete the plan and then yes absolutely. Mr. Stortecky asked if the schools had final say. The Chairman stated that it wasn't clear and he further discussed.

Christy Wilt-Economic/Tourism Director, RaChelle Martz-Economic/Tourism Aide, Nancy Bernstein-ANCA Energy Circuit Rider and Dani Delani-ANCA Entrepreneurial Program Director entered the meeting.

Ms. Wilt introduced Nancy Bernstein and Dani Delani both from ANCA.

Ms. Bernstein stated that she is an Energy Circuit Rider with the Clean Energy Program at ANCA. She reviewed her PowerPoint presentation that she printed and used as a handout. During her review she talked about the Clean Energy Communities Program. The money ran out the first time but they have brought back the funding. The program rewards municipalities for the clean energy projects done already but then also gives additional money to accomplish more. She discussed the different grants available.

Ms. Delani thanked Hamilton County for their continued support. She gave the Board a handout and did an update on the Center for Businesses in Transition Project that started 3 years ago. The project is to help the retiring business owners in the North Country look at how to transition their business. During the update she stated they were currently working with 153 prospective transitioning business owners.

Ms. Delani stated that they just received a grant from the Economic Development Administration to start the Center for Pandemic Response. She gave a handout and stated that it was a lot of what they are already doing but in a more streamline process for business owners.

Ms. Wilt stated that this has been a benefit throughout the Adirondack Park and it has been a good partnership. She further discussed how they help the business owner with these free services. She gave the Supervisors a brochure to share with any business owners they knew that needed help. She also discussed that some businesses have changed as well. Like The Pizza Crust went from restaurant to an outdoor store.

Christy Wilt, RaChelle Martz, Nancy Bernstein and Dani Delani left the meeting.

11:00 AM – The Chairman asked to open the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2021 A Local Law Adopting the Hamilton County Best Value Procurement Law

A motion was made to open the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2021 A Local Law Adopting the Hamilton County Best Value Procurement Law by Mr. Wilt, seconded by Mr. Arsenault. Carried.

No public present.

RESOLUTIONS:

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; Mr. Arsenault asked the Board if anyone goes. Mr. Wells stated that he doesn't go every year. He looks to see what the agenda is. Mr. Arsenault asked if the agenda would be put out. The Chairman stated that NYSAC sends it out and it should be on their desks. He also stated that some of the Department Heads attend as well.

RESOLUTION NO. 175-21

AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND THE 2021 NYSAC FALL SEMINAR

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. ARSENAULT:

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) will conduct the Fall Seminar in Syracuse, N.Y. September 13 – September 15, 2021, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that all Supervisors and County Officials be granted permission to participate in the above mentioned Conference and that the actual and reasonable expenses of the officers attending such meeting shall be a County charge and be audited by this Board in the same manner as other County charges.

Seconded by Mr. Mauro and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 176-21

**AUTHORIZING THE HAMILTON COUNTY TREASURER TO BE THE
COLLECTING OFFICER FOR THE LAKE PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT TAXES**

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, according to Real Property Tax Law Section 578, the County has the right to enter into a contract with a school district for the collection of school taxes, and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Treasurer's Office has had a contract with the Lake Pleasant Central School to collect the school taxes for the district since 2011, and

WHEREAS, the Lake Pleasant Central School Board agreed at its Annual Reorganizational meeting held on July 14, 2021 to enter into a school tax collection contract with Hamilton County for the collection year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 for \$10,500.00, and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Treasurer has agreed to be the tax collecting officer for the 2021-2022 school year for the Lake Pleasant Central School during its normal school tax collection period of September 1 to October 31 with the collection office being the Hamilton County Treasurer's Office, be it

RESOLVED, that Beth Hunt, Hamilton County Treasurer, is authorized to collect the Lake Pleasant Central School District taxes for the School Tax year 2021-22 at the Hamilton County Treasurer's Office for an agreed amount of \$10,150.00 for school tax year to be paid by the Lake Pleasant Central School District, and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon the approval of the County Attorney, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to enter into a contract with Lake Pleasant Central School to provide school tax collection services for the school year 2021-2022 for \$10,150.00 and the County Treasurer be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 177-21

CONTRACTING ABSTRACTING SERVICES FOR THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Treasurer's Office each year has stub searches performed on delinquent properties that are part of the foreclosure procedure, and

WHEREAS, last year this was successfully performed by Mountain Abstract Company, Inc., and

WHEREAS, Mountain Abstract Company, Inc. is able to provide the abstracting services needed at the same price as last year's services; that being \$125 per new search and \$50 per two year update search, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman is hereby authorized to enter into an abstracting agreement with Mountain Abstract Company, Inc., PO Box 140, Chestertown, NY 12817 under the same terms and conditions as last year.

Seconded by Mr. Mauro and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; the Chairman stated that the Treasurer's Office has been working with the Comptroller's Office on figuring out how to set up the accounting for the federal funding coming in. He further discussed how it would be handled and stated the lost revenues are sales tax and CHHA. In a month there should be a resolution that starts framing some of this with specifics. This resolution is like the resolution that they passed to contract for the trail work in Long Lake on Buck Mountain. The County is investing in outdoor recreational enhancing and the high outdoor recreation demand as a reaction to COVID. As they are starting to approve these contracts and projects, he wants to make sure that the Board is on the same page with the overarching resolution that will be coming to them secondarily. Another piece is around reconstructing county government which would include a new computer software system. It will be a transition to a cloud-based system that the Treasurer, Personnel and Clerk of the Board will have access to with the possibility of adding all departments. It will eliminate the passing around of paper and people needing to be in the office, which was problematic during COVID. They will also be taking time to meet with McCarthy & Conlon, now that the Public Health Audit is done, to look at what CHHA should look like post COVID. He thought that the County would be investing another chunk of it in that as well. He stated that they had discussed the buildup of benefit time since COVID and how it should be addressed. Part of the utilization would be to buy it down. There should be money left over to also invest in the business community. They had discussed a broad range of investments and he has heard some really creative things being done. He stated that they may well need to look at a partnership with IDA regarding workforce issues; looking at how it applies to some of the businesses and sustaining them. Borrowing of the IDA funds has slowed recently. They might want to think about this idea of utilizing some of that money through IDA and maybe they could operate a program that looks somewhat like some of the earlier programs. To implement a program like that the IDA would need some financial support. The software is consistent with people's general thinking for the utilization of the federal money. He asked if any of the Board found it to be an objectionable purpose with respect to the federal money. He stated that it was out of sequence but they want to get the software going because of the length of time it takes for the transition.

Shaun Groden-County Administrator for Greene County joined the meeting during the Chairman's discussion.

RESOLUTION NO. 178-21

**APPROVAL OF APPLICATION SOFTWARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED
BY SYSTEMS EAST, INC. FOR THE TREASURER'S OFFICE TAX COLLECTION**

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, the proposal to provide application software and support services to the Hamilton County Treasurer's Office, as well as the towns and school districts, for their tax collection has been submitted by Systems East, Inc., and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer's Office is satisfied with the services and support received from Systems East in the past, and

WHEREAS, an increase of \$166.00 over last year's agreement has been proposed for a total contract price of \$12,019.00 to cover the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, and

WHEREAS, a portion of this contract price will be charged back to the towns and schools at the same level as last year (\$200.00 each), be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement as proposed and the County Treasurer be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 179-21

**AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR THE
COURT CLEANING CONTRACT**

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, Hamilton County has received the Annual Renewal Letter and Budget for the Court Cleaning Contract #C-300407 authorized by Resolution No. 301-18 adopted October 4, 2018, and

WHEREAS, said Renewal Letter covers State Fiscal Year 2021-2022 with a budget of \$123,255.00, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Letter of Renewal and Budget is hereby approved for State Fiscal Year 2021-2022, and the Chairman is authorized to sign the necessary documents and the County Treasurer be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 180-21

**AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF NEW FINANCIAL SOFTWARE FOR THE
TREASURER'S OFFICE, CLERK OF THE BOARD'S OFFICE AND THE
PERSONNEL OFFICE**

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. ARSENAULT:

WHEREAS, the Treasurer's Office has been researching new financial software for use in the Treasurer's Office, the Clerk of the Board's Office, and would bring in the Personnel Office which is in need of Personnel software, and

WHEREAS, two presentations by vendors yielded a unanimous agreement by all three departments that one product, that being the "Incode" software from Tyler Technologies was the best fit for the County, be it

RESOLVED, that the County enter into an agreement with Tyler Technologies to provide new Accounting and Personnel financial software at a cost of \$79,590.00, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Tyler Technologies to provide financial and personnel software to the County of Hamilton, and the Clerk of the Board, Personnel Officer and Treasurer be so advised.

Seconded by Mr. Stortecky and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 181-21

COMP TIME OVERTAGE – BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, Republican Election Commissioner Marie Buanno has put in comp time in excess of 80 hours, and

WHEREAS, due to regular primary election duties, early voting duties and an error in calculating overtime comp time hours, has placed Marie over the allowed threshold of 80 hours (95.5) on time sheet form #8, and

WHEREAS, Marie is currently back to her normal scheduled 35 hour work week now that the primary election is over, and

WHEREAS, Marie will have her excess comp time hours over the allowed 80 used on time sheet form #9, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize Marie Buanno to keep the excess comp time she accumulated with the understanding it be used as soon as possible and the Personnel Officer be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Stortecky and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 182-21

APPOINTMENTS TO THE CONTINUING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. MAURO:

WHEREAS, the Public Health Nursing Service/Home Health Agency's certification requires Hamilton County Board of Supervisors to appoint members from the Professional Advisory Committee to the Quality Improvement Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Service/Home Health Agency's Professional Advisory Committee has named the following members for appointment:

Dr. David Welch
158 John Brown Road
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Elizabeth Gundel
6345 NYS Rt 30

Ellen Kleppang
Stanton Rd.
Indian Lake, NY 12842

Charles Taylor
PO Box 686

Indian Lake, NY 12842

Long Lake, NY 12847

Beth Waldron
PO Box 128
Wells, NY 12190

Leila Lewis
PO Box 367
Indian Lake, NY 12842

One Agency Community Health Nurse

be it

RESOLVED, said members be appointed to the Continuing Quality Improvement Committee for the two-year period of 2021 and 2022.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 183-21

APPOINTMENTS TO PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. STORTECKY:

WHEREAS, the Public Health Nursing Service/Certified Home Health Agency's certification requires Hamilton County Board of Supervisors to appoint members to the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC), and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Nursing Service/Home Health Agency's Professional Advisory Committee has named the following members for appointment:

Robert Kleppang
Director of DCS
83 White Birch Lane
Indian Lake, NY 12842

Abigail Eichler
Senior Caseworker - DSS
139 White Birch Lane
Indian Lake, NY 12842

Beth Waldron
P.O. Box 128
Wells, NY 12190

Dr. Russell Rider
8561 Newcomb Road
Long Lake, NY 12847

Elizabeth Gundel, RN

Kristen Sayers, Director

Indian Lake Central School
6345 NYS Rt. 30
Indian Lake, NY 12842

NYSDOH Regional Environmental Health
41 St. Bernard Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Leila Lewis, RN
PO Box 367
Indian Lake, NY 12842

Charles Taylor
PO Box 686
Long Lake, NY 12847

Kathy Hutchins
1070 Big Brook Road
Indian Lake, NY 12842

Deanna Park, Director
Office for the Aging
Human Services Bldg.
1340 State Route 9
Lake George, NY 12845

Samantha Peets, RN
OPWDD Nurse Manager
2445 St. Rt. 30
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Betsy Bain
Lake Pleasant Supervisor & Health Comm. Rep.
PO Box 799
Lake Pleasant, NY 12108

be it

RESOLVED, that said members be appointed to the Professional Advisory Committee for the two-year period of 2021 and 2022, and be it further

RESOLVED, that terms will include: (1) Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Medical Director, Director of Public Health, Director of Patient Services, and the Supervising Community Health Nurse will serve during tenure of their employment to Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service.

Seconded by Mr. Mauro and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 184-21

AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS AN EARLY INTERVENTION PROVIDER

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. WELLS:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Health Law 2550, the New York State Department of Health is the lead agency responsible for the administration of the Early Intervention Program and that each Municipality is responsible for the local administration of the program, which includes accepting referrals of children potentially eligible for program services, assigning initial service coordinators, participating in Individual Family Service Plan (IFPS) meetings, ensuring that services contained in the IFSP are appropriately delivered and reimbursing providers for services not covered by Medicaid or commercial insurance according to rates set by the NYSDOH, and

WHEREAS, the NYSDOH has allotted \$25,751.00 annually, for the period October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2026, and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County by and through the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service assumes the responsibilities delineated above, and

WHEREAS, initial service coordinators may be assigned to employees of the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors be authorized to sign the Early Intervention Provider Agreement with the New York State Department of Health, pending approval by the County Attorney and the County Treasurer be so advised.

Seconded by Mr. Stortecky and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 185-21

**AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO
PROVIDE RELATED SERVICES FOR THE PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION
PROGRAM – INDIAN LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL**

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. WELLS:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service is required to provide for Related Services (Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy Services) for children aged 3-5, who reside within Hamilton County and have a developmental delay as defined through a comprehensive evaluation, through the Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) process, and

WHEREAS, Indian Lake Central School District can provide these related services through the New York State Department of Education, and

WHEREAS, the frequency and duration of services for each child is based on the findings of the comprehensive evaluation and rules applying to section 4410 of the NYS Education Law, as determined by the CPSE committee in preparing an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and

WHEREAS, the compensation for related services are set at rates in conjunction with the Rate Setting Unit of the NYS Department of Education, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors is authorized to enter into a contract with said provider to provide the aforesaid services for the period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 pursuant to an aforesaid IEP for each eligible child, with compensation for services rendered at the current approved rates set forth for Hamilton County by the Rate Setting Unit of the NYS Education Department, upon approval of the County Attorney, and the County Treasurer be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 186-21

**AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH LAKE PLEASANT
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THE PRESCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. STORTECKY:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service is required to provide for special education and related services for children aged 3-5, who reside within Hamilton County and have a developmental delay as defined through a comprehensive evaluation, through the Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) process, and

WHEREAS, Lake Pleasant Central School District is an approved provider of special education and related services through the New York State Department of Education, and

WHEREAS, the frequency and duration of services for each child is based on the findings of the comprehensive evaluation and rules applying to section 4410 of the NYS Education Law, as determined by the CPSE committee in preparing an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and

WHEREAS, the compensation for special education and related services are set at rates in conjunction with the Rate Setting Unit of the NYS Department of Education, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors is authorized to enter into a contract with said provider to provide the aforesaid services for the period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 pursuant to an aforesaid IEP for each eligible child, with compensation for services rendered at the current approved rates set forth for Hamilton County by the Rate Setting Unit of the NYS Education Department, upon approval of the County Attorney and the County Treasurer be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 187-21

**AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CONTRACTS FOR EVALUATION AND
SERVICE PROVISION WITH CENTER-BASED SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR
CHILDREN AGED 3-5 YEARS**

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. WELLS:

WHEREAS, Hamilton County is required to provide for Comprehensive evaluations for children aged 3-5, who reside within Hamilton County and have a suspected developmental delay through the Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) process, and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County is required to provide for any combination of Center-Based itinerant or related professional services including: Special Education Itinerant (SEIT) Services; skilled Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy Related services; Counseling and/or one-on-one Aide services for children determined to have an eligible level of developmental delay and require center-based services to fully meet their needs; as defined through the CPSE Process, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4410 of the New York State Education Law, the County is required to maintain contracts with several providers for the provision of comprehensive

Evaluation and specialized center-based services as described above; in order to provide parents with a choice for service provision, and

WHEREAS, reimbursement for comprehensive evaluation and subsequent center-based services is determined by the extent of the evaluation and results, and based on rates set in conjunction with the Rate Setting Unit of the New York State Education Department, and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive Evaluations may be requested at any time and/or professional related service provision may be requested at any time through the regular school year and/or the 30 day summer session, and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service represents Hamilton County as administrator of this program, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign contracts, upon approval of the County Attorney, for Comprehensive Evaluation and Center-Based professional service provision for children residing within Hamilton County at rates set by the New York State Department of Education, for the period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 between the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service and, not limited to but including, the following center-based preschool service providers:

NYSARC, Inc.
a/k/a The Children's Corner – The Adirondack ARC
12 Mohawk Street Tupper Lake, NY 12986
518-359-3351

Center for Disability Services (No evaluations)
Dba Prospect Center
133 Aviation Road
Queensbury, NY 12804
518-798-0170

Upstate Cerebral Palsy, Inc
1020 Mary Street
Utica, NY 13501
315-724-6907

Children's Development Group for Speech, OT, PT, and Psychological Services,
PLLC
1701 Front Street
Keesville, NY 12944
518-834-7071

Kelberman Center, Inc
1601 Armory Drive

Utica, NY 13501
315-797-6241

Seconded by Mr. Stortecky and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 188-21

**AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO
PROVIDE RELATED SERVICES FOR THE PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION
PROGRAM – WELLS CENTRAL SCHOOL**

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. MAURO:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service is required to provide for Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy Services for children aged 3-5, who reside within Hamilton County and have a developmental delay as defined through a comprehensive evaluation, through the Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) process, and

WHEREAS, Wells Central School District can provide these related services through the New York State Department of Education, and

WHEREAS, the frequency and duration of services for each child is based on the findings of the comprehensive evaluation and rules applying to section 4410 of the NYS Education Law, as determined by the CPSE committee in preparing an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and

WHEREAS, the compensation for related services are set at rates in conjunction with the Rate Setting Unit of the NYS Department of Education, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors is authorized to enter into a contract with said provider to provide the aforesaid services for the period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 pursuant to an aforesaid IEP for each eligible child, with compensation for services rendered at the current approved rates set forth for Hamilton County by the Rate Setting Unit of the NYS Education Department, upon approval of the County Attorney, and the County Treasurer be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 189-21

AUTHORIZING THE 2021 CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES PLAN ANNUAL UPDATE

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. STORTECKY:

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 119-18 adopted April 5, 2018 authorized the April 1, 2018-March 31, 2023 Child & Family Services Plan, and

WHEREAS, Roberta A Bly has provided the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors with the April 1, 2021- March 31, 2022 Child & Family Services Plan Annual Update, be it

RESOLVED, that Roberta A Bly, Commissioner of Social Services; Robert Kleppang, Executive Director of the County Youth Bureau; Amy Granger, Probation Director and the Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors are authorized to sign.

Seconded by Mr. Wells and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 190-21

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO CHEMUNG SUPPLY FOR HOPE FALLS ROAD

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. MAURO:

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 117-21 authorized and funded County Road Project No. 2, Hope Falls Road, to improve drainage, recycle base and apply HMA Base and Top, and

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent ordered galvanized arch pipes and bands to improve drainage from Chemung Supply under NYS Contract PC69054 Group 37700 Award 23187, and

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent confirms delivery and invoice of said materials, be it

RESOLVED, that payment for the galvanized arch pipes and bands is hereby authorized and the County Treasurer be so authorized to send a payment of \$15,414.78 to Chemung Supply, PO Box 527, Elmira, NY 14902 to be charged to Account No. D5112.2526 County Road Project No. 2, Co. Rd. No. 7-Hope Falls Road, and the Clerk of the Board and Highway Superintendent be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Stortecky and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 191-21

**APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF COUNTY ROAD FUND
PROJECT FOR 2021**

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, there has been appropriated in the 2021 highway budget the sum of \$1,304,038.40 for the construction of County Road Fund Projects for 2021 and these funds are 100% reimbursed through the Consolidation Highway Improvement Program (CHIP's), and

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent has recommended the expenditure of \$30,000.00 for the construction of the following project:

COUNTY ROAD PROJECT NO. 6 Town of Long Lake
Co. Rd. No. 10 – Sabattis Rd., Improve Drainage and Recycle Base @ 20 ft.
Approx. 1.0 miles.....\$30,000.00
Account No. D5112.2530

and

WHEREAS, the above designated road is on a completed system of the Hamilton County road map adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Hamilton County and approved by the Commissioner of Transportation, be it

RESOLVED, hereby that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Hamilton does allot and appropriate from Account No. D5112.202 Capital Projects, the sum of \$30,000.00, for the

construction of the above designated project as recommended by the County Highway Superintendent and the County Treasurer and Clerk of the Board be so advised.

Seconded by Mr. Mauro and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; the Chairman stated the County has a longstanding rapport with Beth Gilles and the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board so agreeing to do this is not outside the norm. The County has led several Adirondack base projects. The grant application submission has to take place by mid-August. This will be the County's first forte into putting together a regional application for some of this money. One of the things with fiber and even wireless coverage is that they don't follow hard municipal boundaries. He thanked the Board for their willingness to consider this during Committee Day.

RESOLUTION NO. 192-21

**AUTHORIZING HAMILTON COUNTY TO BE LEAD APPLICANT FOR THE
BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION**

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. STORTECKY:

WHEREAS, the US Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Broadband Infrastructure Program (Program), and

WHEREAS, the Program is designed to provide grant funding for the deployment of qualifying broadband service (25/3 standard) in eligible service areas (a census block in which broadband service is not available at one or more households or businesses) with an emphasis on projects designed to provide broadband service to the greatest number of households, and

WHEREAS, the Program also emphasizes broadband deployment in rural areas, and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County is working with Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren and Washington Counties, the Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board, and several private broadband providers to develop a strategy to deploy broadband within these designated counties, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned entities will create a “Covered Partnership” under the Program guidelines for the purpose of applying for funding under the Program, and

WHEREAS, a subdivision of the state must act as the lead applicant, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Hamilton County will act as the lead applicant for the Program grant application, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to execute any and all documents associated with the application and its submission, acceptance of award, execution of contracts and acceptance of funds.

Seconded by Mr. Frey and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 193-21

AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN DHSES GRANT PROJECT PS20-1031-E00

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Emergency Management Department has been awarded the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Grant Project PS20-1031-E00 in the amount of \$137,357.00, and

WHEREAS, PSAP grant funds are used for electrical power for the Oak Mt. tower, PSAP broadcast point, VCAD monthly charges, dedicated internet connectivity to PSAP and the annual salaries of some of the County 911 dispatchers, and

WHEREAS, said funds were budgeted for in the 2021 budget, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign said DHSES Grant Project PS20-1031-E00, and the Director of Emergency Management and Sheriff be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Stortecky and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 194-21

AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN “CERTIFICATION STATEMENT FOR PROVIDER UTILIZING ELECTRONIC BILLING”

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MS. BAIN:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service submits electronic claims to the State’s Medicaid Fiscal Agent, and

WHEREAS, the agency maintains 3 programs for which one or more “Certification Statement for Provider Utilizing Electronic Billing” forms are required and a new ETIN was created by KanTime:

Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service (CHHA):

ETIN: CLHF – Medicaid Provider Number 02997386 – Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service

therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to sign each “Certification Statement for Provider Utilizing Electronic Billing” for the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service, as needed, for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Seconded by Mr. Stortecky and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 195-21

INCREASE FUNDING IN PUBLIC HEALTH TEMPORARY STAFF

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MS. BAIN:

WHEREAS, Beth Waldron, RN, has been assisting in COVID relief efforts and vaccination clinics for the last year, and

WHEREAS, her personal service account will need to be increased to allow her to continue to assist in COVID relief efforts and vaccination clinics, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be authorized to make the following transfer:

FROM: A4010.0118 PH Certified Home Health Aide	\$10,000
TO: A4050.0126 PH Temporary Staff	\$10,000

Seconded by Mr. Stortecky and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 196-21

AWARD OF BID FOR FAYLE ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. WELLS:

WHEREAS, Hamilton County DPW solicited bids for the replacement of the Fayle Road Bridge located on Fayle Road in the Town of Morehouse, and

WHEREAS, four (4) bids were received as follows –

1. Tioga Construction -	\$1,160,000.00
2. Winn Construction -	\$1,190,000.00
3. Slate Hill Contractors -	\$1,818,000.00
4. Luck Brothers, Inc. -	\$2,222,222.22

and

WHEREAS, Andrew S. Bell of A.S. Bell Engineering design engineer for Hamilton County has reviewed the said bids and recommends that the award be made to Tioga Construction of Herkimer, NY, be it

RESOLVED, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors hereby award the bid for the Fayle Road Bridge Project to Tioga Construction, 333 Gros Blvd., Herkimer, NY 13350 in the amount of \$1,160,000.00, and be it further

RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors hereby authorize the Chairman of the Board to enter into an agreement with Tioga Construction for the said bridge project with the approval of the County Attorney, and the County Treasurer, Highway Superintendent and Clerk of the Board be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Arsenault and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 197-21

**AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO ADVANCED DRAINAGE SYSTEMS FOR CULVERTS
AND ASSOCIATED MATERIALS**

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. WELLS:

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 34-21 authorizes the County DPW Superintendent to purchase materials and supplies for County Road fund projects and maintenance for County Roads, and

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent ordered culvert pipes, bands, drop inlets, culvert tees, elbows and top grates from Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. for a total cost of \$45,266.17, and

WHEREAS, the culverts and bands totaling \$37,877.69 are under NYS Contract PC69053, and

WHEREAS, the associated necessary drop inlets, culvert tees, elbows, and top grates totaling \$7,388.48 are not under NYS Contract pricing, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent needed to purchase the said non-contract items as they are proprietary to connect with the culverts and underdrain system making them sole source to ADS for the said materials, and

WHEREAS, these facts make the expenditure of the \$7,388.48 a sole source purchase, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that payment for the culvert pipes, bands and associated materials is hereby authorized and the County Treasurer be so authorized to send a payment of \$45,266.17 to

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc, PO Box 414044, Boston, MA 02241-4044 out of Account No. D5110.405 Other Supplies, and the Clerk of the Board and Highway Superintendent be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 198-21

APPROVAL OF AUDITS IN COUNTY HIGHWAY FUNDS

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

RESOLVED, that the bills in the Machinery Fund amounting to \$152,624.65 and bills in the County Road Fund amounting to \$127,589.55 presented by the County Superintendent of Highways and audited this day by the County Public Works Committee, be, and the same hereby are approved and audited.

Seconded by Mr. Arsenault and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

RESOLUTION NO. 199-21

**APPROVAL OF AUDITS IN THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND AND CAPITAL
PROJECT 2019-1 HALLOWEEN STORM**

DATED: AUGUST 5, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

RESOLVED, that the bills audited this day in the County General Fund in the amount of \$166,849.54 by the following committees:

Public Works (Buildings) Committee.....	\$22,382.99
Public Works (Solid Waste) Committee	34,900.41
Finance Committee	23,311.67

Health Committee.....	26,360.54
Human Services Committee.....	25,286.83
Central Government Committee	12,707.73
Emergency Prep./Emergency Response.....	15,735.11
Publicity, Tourism, Economic Development & Planning Committee.....	1,622.07
Internal Management Committee	4,542.19

be it further

RESOLVED, that the bills audited this day in the following Capital Projects:

Halloween Storm Capital Project 2019-1\$ 5,300.00

are hereby approved.

Seconded by Mr. Mauro and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON

A motion was made to close the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2021 A Local Law Adopting the Hamilton County Best Value Procurement Law by Mr. Arsenault, seconded by Mr. Stortecky. Carried.

The Chairman called for a motion to adopt Local Law No.2 of 2021 A Local Law Adopting the Hamilton County Best Value Procurement Law.

Motion: Mr. Frey

Second: Mr. Stortecky

LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2021

State of New York

County of Hamilton

A LOCAL LAW ADOPTING THE HAMILTON COUNTY BEST VALUE PROCUREMENT LAW

BE IT ENACTED by the County of Hamilton as follows:

SECTION 1. Name of Local Law

This law shall be known as "Hamilton County Best Value Procurement Law".

SECTION 2. Findings and Intent

General Municipal Law § 103 provides local governments greater flexibility in awarding contracts by authorizing the award of purchase contracts, including contracts for service work on the basis of best value. The state requires a local law authorizing the use of the best value award process.

Enactment of this legislation provides additional procurement options to Hamilton County in ways that may expedite the procurement process and result in cost savings. The “best value” standard for selecting goods and services vendors, including janitorial and security contracts, is critical to efforts to use strategic sourcing principles to modernize the supply chain and ensure that taxpayers obtain the highest quality goods and services at the lowest potential cost, while also ensuring fairness to all competitors.

The federal government, approximately half of the states and many localities have added best value selection processes to their procurement options, in recognition of these advantages. With the increased complexity of the goods and services that municipalities must obtain in order to serve taxpayers, it is critical to consider selection and evaluation criteria that measure factors other than cost in the strictest sense.

Taxpayers are not well served when a public procurement results in low unit costs at the outset, but ultimately engenders cost escalations due to factors such as inferior quality, poor reliability and difficulty of maintenance. Best value procurement links the procurement process directly to the municipality’s performance requirements, incorporating selection factors such as useful lifespan, quality and options and incentives for more timely performance and/or additional services.

Even if the initial expenditure is higher, considering the total value over the life of the procurement may result in a better value and long-term investment of public funds. Best value procurement also encourages competition and, in turn, often results in better pricing, quality and customer service. Fostering healthy competition ensures that bidders will continue to strive for excellence in identifying and meeting municipalities’ needs, including such important goals as the participation of small, minority and women-owned businesses, and the development of environmentally-preferable goods and service delivery methods. Best value procurement will provide much needed flexibility in obtaining important goods and services at favorable process, and will reduce the time to procure such goods and services.

SECTION 3. Definitions

“Best value” means the basis for awarding contracts for services to the offerer which optimizes quality, cost and efficiency, among responsive and responsible offerers. Such basis shall reflect, wherever possible, objective and quantifiable analysis. Such basis may also identify a quantitative factor for offerers that are small businesses or certified minority or women-owned business enterprises as defined in the executive law to be used in evaluation of offers for awarding of contracts for services.

SECTION 4. The Best Value Award Methodology

When developing solicitation documents for competitive bids for the award of purchase contracts for goods and contracts for service work, a department head may and subject to the requirements herein below set forth and the applicable requirements set forth in the Hamilton County Procurement Policy, determine that an award of a purchase contract or applicable service contract shall be based upon best value methodology.

SECTION 5. Requirements

Where the basis for award of a purchase contract will be the best value offer, the department head shall in all instances:

- A. Where the basis for award is the best value offer, the department head shall document, in the procurement record and in advance of the initial receipt of offers, the determination of the evaluation criteria, which whenever possible, shall be quantifiable, and the process to be used in the determination of best value and the manner in which the evaluation process and selection shall be conducted.
- B. The department head shall select a formal competitive procurement process in accordance with guidelines established by the state procurement council and the Hamilton County Procurement Policy and document its determination in the procurement record. The process shall include, but is not limited to, clear statement of need; a description of the required specifications governing performance and related factors; a reasonable process for ensuring a competitive field; a fair and equal opportunity for offerers to submit responsive offers; and a balanced and fair method of award. Where the basis for the award is best value, documentation in the procurement record shall, where practicable, include a quantification of the application of the criteria to the rating of proposals and the evaluation results, or, where not practicable, such other justification which demonstrates that best value will be achieved.
- C. The solicitation shall prescribe the minimum specifications or requirements that must be met in order to be considered responsive and shall describe and disclose the general manner in which the evaluation and selection shall be conducted. Where appropriate, the solicitation shall identify the relative importance and/or weight of cost and the overall technical criterion to be considered by the County in its determination of best value.

SECTION 6. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance shall be adjudged by an court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgement shall not affect, impair, effect or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgement shall be rendered.

SECTION 7. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

AYES: ARIETTA (304), BENSON (192), INDIAN LAKE (1352), INLET (333),
LAKE PLEASANT (781), LONG LAKE (711), MOREHOUSE (86), WELLS (674) =
4,433

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: HOPE (403)

Other Reports:

The Chairman stated that this is the time of year when they discuss what they would like to convey to the Department Heads as the budget request forms are put out in terms of what the cost-of-living adjustment is going to be. This is so Personnel can start putting together the salaries.

Mr. Frey: Stated that the highest he is willing to go is 7% and 6% being the lowest. He further discussed how he felt the pay for the employees had been historically low. He feels that the Board has a lot of work to do this budget season. They need to give some guidance to the Department Heads to what the cost of living will be. The Chairman stated that when the Board was working on the 2021 budget, they had extraordinary help and cooperation from the Department Heads and the employees. They all helped us do what needed to be done at a point in time when nobody could predict what 2021 was going to look like in terms of state and sales tax revenues. They took the conservative approach. He agreed with Mr. Frey and stated that they have done very little to adjust for tier 6 and the fact that the County is taking 20% for health insurance has impacted the grade and step system in terms of being able to hire. He further discussed what has been going on around the County and what they have been seeing elsewhere. He again agreed with Mr. Frey and believes it's not only the right thing to do but that they need to do something. He also stated that they might hear from the private sector about the County trying to tip the scales as they too are having difficulty getting people. Mr. Frey asked if there was any opposition to 7%. He stated that if there hadn't been the pandemic last year, he would have pushed for 3% but that didn't happen. So, with the cost of living because of the pandemic this year, 3% would be doable but 7% comes from where you back track if they had done 3% last year and 3% this year. Even not having done anything last year where the employees sit, just in a single year increase, 7% makes sense to him with the way cost of living is right now. Ms. Bain stated that she agreed with 7%. Mr. Wilt stated that he was uncomfortable with 7%. He would like 5%. Mr. Frey stated that was too low. He would be in agreement if they had done something last year. The Chairman discussed how the County budget is different than the towns. In that, Department Heads have to know what the salaries are going to be because there are complex reimbursement programs and some of them have a fixed grant that they get "x" amount of dollars for. This is why the Board has been talking all along about salaries. Mr. Stortecky stated that he was in support of 7% and his logic behind it is that each of the Board members are elected at the town level but in this function, they represent all citizens in the entire County. When they are elected, they are held to a higher standard in the sense that they have to base their decisions not only on what they believe but what is best for the County as a whole. He agreed with Mr. Frey's logic. He supported the thought behind it and he

doesn't think they should be in the position of making any decision based on fear or politics. What is the right thing to do and stand up for doing it. Those that want a lower amount or no amount aren't wrong. They are giving their best effort at representing all the people in the County.

Steve Tomlinson joined the meeting during Mr. Stortecky's discussion.

Mr. Arsenault: Stated that if he remembered right a 7% raise would cost the County about \$434,000. The Chairman stated that it would be more than that and discussed that if nothing else happened, 7% on the salaries is 7% on the tax rate. Before everyone worries that Mr. Frey is setting the County up for a 7% tax increase, they have to take some factors into account. He further discussed those factors. He stated that it was a really early guess on the budget but he doesn't feel that Mr. Frey's recommendation would put them over the tax cap. Mr. Frey stated that at least 3% of the money that he is talking about, he feels, literally already comes from the money they had harped last year. The Chairman stated that he thought it would be 4%. Mr. Frey stated that they had done this on the support of the employees and on the backs of their employees. In his opinion they have the ability to go back and make the employees whole. Mr. Stortecky stated that the other problem is if they don't do something big now, they will continue to kick the can down the road and it will affect every other decision they want to make. It's a decision that has to be made and if not now than when. Mr. Tomlinson stated he was hoping for 5%. Mr. Mauro asked what had been done historically. The Chairman stated that they have looked at the adjustments based on cost of living, employer wage scales, social security and they have tried to stay in that range. They have done additional adjustments in the past to try to catch up the salaries knowing they were low in some of those years. It is not unusual for the Board to try to catch up if they know they are low. They have a unique circumstance this year and were conservative last year. Mr. Mauro agreed to meet in the middle with 6%. The Board started discussing salaries at the town level and Mr. Wells stated that with a bargaining unit agreement the employees favored it last year but won't for this year because they are still locked in for another year at the same rate. The current rate is 1.9%. Mr. Mauro stated that they did 2% last year and will probably do another 2% for this year. Mr. Stortecky stated that none of the towns are locked in to do what the County is. Mr. Mauro stated that it becomes a topic because when the highway departments are working with one another they talk.

The Chairman asked what COLA the Supervisors support:

Mr. Arsenault: 6%

Ms. Bain: 6%

Mr. Mauro: 6%

Mr. Frey: 6 or 7%

Mr. Wells: 6.5%

Mr. Wilt: 5%

Mr. Stortecky: 6-7%

The Chairman asked if the Board would be comfortable at 6%. Mr. Wilt stated that he wasn't. The Chairman stated that they all should be in agreeance. Mr. Tomlinson stated that he too thinks 5% but will go with the Board on the 6%.

Mr. Frey: Applauded Mr. Wells for his piece in the Albany paper and really would like to condemn the rebuttal that he had dropped on him in the Adirondack Almanack. He wasn't going to respond on the Adirondack Almanack just because he didn't want to push the narrative out there but it makes him mad that they had to yet again learn from their missteps. If there is another thought to support another State Land purchase the County needs to make sure that items are executed before the purchase happens so there is absolutely no wiggle room for these environmental groups to come back and say anything. Mr. Wells thanked him.

Mr. Tomlinson: Stated that there are 6 more positive cases this morning.

Mr. Stortecky: Stated that Benson has recently been the hub of activity with the road work on North Road. He was told that Cramer Bridge was shut down by the state. They had just done the decking on Rogers Bridge in Benson and also paved from there to the Fulton County line. It has been unbelievable the amount of help Benson has received from the County and Towns. Thank you all.

The Chairman: Stated that there was an InterCounty meeting in Warren County. The meeting was at Gore Mountain and there was a really impressive presentation on the Winter World University Games which is going to be a huge impact on the whole Adirondack region. They will be using venues down at Gore, as far north as Potsdam and Lake Placid, it will be January 12-22. It should be something really spectacular.

As there was no further business, motion to adjourn by Ms. Bain, seconded by Mr. Stortecky. Carried.