

AGENDA

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

NOVEMBER 21, 2014

10:30 AM Call to Order
Pledge to Flag
Opening Prayer
Roll Call

Accepting Minutes of November 6, 2014

Public Comment Period

Reports of Standing/Special Committees

11:00 AM Public Hearing – 2015 Tentative Budget

Public Hearing – Proposed Local Law No. 10 of 2014 A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit for Hamilton County for 2015 and Authorizing the Adoption by Hamilton County of a Budget for 2015 that will Require a Tax Levy that is Greater than the Tax Levy Limit for the 2015 Fiscal Year

11:15 AM Stephen Sams – Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor

RESOLUTIONS:

- No. 1 Supporting Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Recommendations to Amend the Adirondack State Land Master Plan
- No. 2 Authorizing Acceptance of Back Taxes
- No. 3 Approval to Extend Use of Office Space to the Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council of Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery Counties
- No. 4 Authorizing County Fleet Coordinator to Purchase Automobile for Community Service Department

Review of 2015 Tentative Budget

Adoption of 2015 Tentative Budget

☞ LUNCH COURTESY OF PHIL ☜

Correspondence:

Delaware County – Resolution Calling on the State to Develop a 100 Percent State Funded Indigent Legal Defense System as a way to Provide Mandate Relief and Lower Property Taxes

Fulton County – Resolution Supporting Repeal of the New York State “Scaffold Law”

RESOLUTION NO.

**SUPPORTING ADIRONDACK PARK LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD
RECOMMENDATIONS TO AMEND THE ADIRONDACK STATE LAND MASTER
PLAN**

DATED: NOVEMBER 21, 2014

BY

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board have long advocated for a comprehensive review of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP) – the document that governs the use of all 2,614,000 acres of state-owned land in the Adirondacks, and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency is currently initiating a process to review and amend the SLMP – which has not had a major review in a quarter century – and is in need of significant revisions to reflect the realities of today’s Adirondacks and the needs of the people who seek to make their homes and earn their livings here, and

WHEREAS, upon passage of the Adirondack Park Agency Act by the New York State legislature, the Act required the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) to draft the Adirondack State Land Master Plan for approval by the Governor, and

WHEREAS, Governor Rockefeller’s Memorandum in Support of the Act, and the Press Release he issued when he signed the SLMP in 1972 make it evidently clear that both he and the state legislature intended that the state interest in the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the Adirondacks be balanced with the needs of the residents for a strong economy and healthy communities, and

WHEREAS, the Statement of Legislative Finding and Purposes of the APA Act (Section 801) states “...the complementary needs of all the people of the state for the preservation of the park’s resources and open space character and of the park’s permanent, seasonal and transient populations for growth and service areas, employment, and a strong economic base, as well. In support of the essential interdependence of these needs, the plan represents a sensibly balanced apportionment of land to each.” and

WHEREAS, for the past four decades, state land purchasing and management policy in the Adirondacks have been tipped decidedly against economic sustainability. During that time, many traditional uses have been severely restricted or prohibited, and 320,000 acres of productive private forest lands have been purchased and converted to “forever wild” state forest preserve lands, and

WHEREAS, today, as documented in the 2014 Adirondack Park Regional Assessment, Adirondack populations continue to dwindle, schools continue to lose students, and emergency services continue to struggle financially and lose volunteers, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the Agency's current willingness to review and amend the SLMP, it is incumbent on local government to take this once in a lifetime opportunity to support amendments to the SLMP that reflect the need for economic development sensibly balanced with the character of the Adirondacks, and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board (Review Board) and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages (AATV) have prepared the attached list of their recommendations for changes in the SLMP, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors hereby states its support for the recommended amendments to the State Land Master Plan attached hereto, and encourages the AATV and the Review Board to pursue said recommendations with all due haste, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Deputy Director of Planning, Kathy Regan, Adirondack Park Agency, PO Box 99, Ray Brook, NY 12977 and via email to SLP_Comments@apa.ny.gov, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senator Elizabeth Little, Senator Hugh Farley, Senator James E. Seward, Senator Joseph A. Griffo, Senator Patty Ritchie, Senator Kathy Marchione, Assemblyman Dan Stec, Assemblywoman Janet L. Duprey, Assemblyman Marc Butler, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, DEC Commissioner Joe Martens, Adirondack Park Agency Chair Lani Ulrich, DEC Region 5 Director Bob Stegemann, DEC Region 6 Director Judy Drabicki, the Twelve Counties of the Adirondacks, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

Seconded by

Amending New York's State Land Master Plan:

Return Balance to the Plan: The introduction to the Plan contends that “the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state lands within the Adirondacks must be paramount.” However, when the APA was created, and the **SLMP** was developed, the guiding information from the state legislature and governor made it clear that the **complementary needs of the environment and the economy should be balanced** on state lands. For the past four decades, state land purchasing and management policy in the Adirondacks have been tipped decidedly against economic sustainability. During that time, many traditional uses have been severely restricted or prohibited, and 320,000 acres of productive private forest lands have been purchased and converted to state forest preserve lands. Today, as documented in the 2014 Adirondack Park Regional Assessment, Adirondack populations continue to dwindle, schools continue to lose students, and emergency services continue to struggle financially and lose volunteers. The time is here to amend the **SLMP** to reflect the need for economic development that is complementary with the character of the Adirondacks.

Maintain Scenic Vistas: The writers of the **SLMP** were visionary in creating roadside pull-offs where visitors and local residents alike could enjoy a multitude of scenic vistas. Currently, however, there is no provision in the Plan to allow the trimming or removal of vegetative growth that blocks these views. We propose a provision be added to restore and maintain these vistas through trimming or cutting.

Expand Mountain Bike Uses: Modern visitors bring bikes to explore the Adirondacks, but cannot see some of our most majestic areas. Currently, mountain bikes are not allowed in areas designated as Wilderness, Primitive or Canoe. The Plan should be updated to allow bicycles to use existing roads and state truck trails in those areas – corridors that would be designated for such uses if the road infrastructure exists to support it. Bikers, like hikers, hunters and those who fish, bring money into our communities and return regularly to use state land.

Address Invasive Species: As is all too apparent from the challenge now confronting Lake George, in the southeastern Adirondacks, we need to protect our lakes from the threat posed by invasive species – something that was not envisioned when the Plan was created. We propose adding a provision in the Plan that calls on the state DEC to create boat inspection and washing stations in Intensive Use areas on major water bodies and/or major Adirondack entry points to help block invasive species.

Improve Snowmobile Trails: The current Plan calls for snowmobile trails in the Adirondacks to be "essentially the same character as a foot trail." While that might have made sense with the snowmobiles being ridden in 1972 – due to the use of approved mechanical groomers and rider safety - it does not make sense in 2014. Snowmobile trails can certainly exist and be maintained over some existing hiking trails, as the Plan suggests, but in order to be safe today's modern snowmobiles need wider paths, deeper snow pack and wider turns than what would be expected of a foot trail. We propose changing the language to ensure that snowmobile trails are not required to be of the same character as foot trails.

Allow For More Grooming of Cross Country Ski Trails: The current Plan allows cross-country ski trails to be groomed only on Intensive Use areas. We propose that grooming also be allowed in Wild Forest areas to open up more state land to be used by the passive recreational skier. Grooming is currently not permitted in Wild Forest areas, though the current guidelines call on the state to “provide the types of outdoor recreation that will afford public enjoyment without impairing the Wild Forest atmosphere.”

Powder Skiing: We support the call by the Adirondack Powder Skier Association to create a provision in the Plan that would allow low-impact ski touring trails to be created in certain Wilderness and Wild Forest areas. Once again, it would bring a low-impact wintertime activity to certain areas of the Adirondacks that would help local and regional economies.

Improve Float Plane Access: When Lows Lake in St. Lawrence County was closed to float planes, the DEC promised to designate areas in the Adirondacks where float planes would be allowed to land, leave visitors and take off again. That designation has not yet happened and we call on the APA to study alternative lakes for landings and to make good on that DEC promise!

Natural Materials/Bridges: New and existing bridges are currently required to be constructed of natural materials. Suspension bridges, such as the existing bridge at Whitehouse on the Northville-Placid Trail, are scheduled for removal because steel cables were used in the original construction. Likewise, a new bridge proposed over the Cedar River in the Essex Chain Lakes, would have a lower profile, if permitted to be constructed of “man-made” materials, such as steel. The plan needs to take a common sense approach to new bridge construction and maintaining existing infrastructure.

Amend the Signage Policies: Many small businesses are located off the main highways on side roads where the travelling public are not aware of their existence due to current sign restrictions. Small business is the largest segment of our economy and promoting such with appropriate signage may be the difference to their survival. Additionally, there are few signs alerting tourists to our major attractions, such as the Adirondack Museum and the Wild Center. Exit 29 on the Northway is a prime example where tourists could exit for these attractions, yet there are no signs on the Northway or at the exits when they get off. We propose amending the SLMP to allow standardized signs on the Northway, other main highways and state right of ways directing visitors to lodging, gas, food, local businesses, and tourist destinations.

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF BACK TAXES

DATED: NOVEMBER 21, 2014

BY

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has been contacted by Priscilla Maguire, as part owner, concerning the 2011, 2012 and 2013 taxes owed on property located in Benson, with parcel ID #160.006-1-5, and

WHEREAS, they have submitted a written explanation of the circumstances of why the taxes have not been paid to date and a request to rectify the situation by paying the 2011, 2012, and 2013 back taxes, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Treasurer is hereby authorized to accept payment of the taxes owed in the amount of \$3,918.33 together with an administrative charge of \$1,000.00 for a total of \$4,918.33.

Seconded by

RESOLUTION NO.

**APPROVAL TO EXTEND USE OF OFFICE SPACE TO THE ALCOHOLISM &
SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL OF HAMILTON, FULTON AND MONTGOMERY
COUNTIES**

DATED: NOVEMBER 21, 2014

BY

WHEREAS, the Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council of Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery Counties was granted permission for temporary use of office space in the Hamilton County Courthouse Complex, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors hereby approves that the Council be granted an extension for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, and be it further

RESOLVED, the County may terminate said agreement anytime with thirty (30) days written notice, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the written agreement with Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council of Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery Counties dated May 2, 1996 be extended by the adoption of this resolution.

Seconded by

RESOLUTION NO.

**AUTHORIZING COUNTY FLEET COORDINATOR TO PURCHASE AUTOMOBILE
FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

DATED: NOVEMBER 21, 2014

BY

WHEREAS, the Community Services Department is in need of replacing a vehicle and the County Fleet Coordinator does recommend the replacement of the said vehicle, and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Chevrolet Impala Limited 4 Door Sedan is available on New York State Contract at a cost of \$18,172.40 including delivery from Emerling Chevrolet of Boston, NY, and

WHEREAS, the vehicle that is to be replaced will be turned down to another department to be utilized and the Fleet Coordinator will determine where the most need is and place the used vehicle there, be it

RESOLVED, the 2015 vehicle will be purchased under New York State Contract for a total of \$18,172.40 for one (1) automobile delivered, and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$18,172.40 be transferred from Account A4310.110 Case Manager Community Services to Account A4310.201 Automobile Community Services to cover the cost of the said vehicle and the Fleet Coordinator is hereby authorized to order said vehicle and the County Treasurer be so authorized to transfer the funds and the Fleet Coordinator, Clerk of the Board and Community Service Director be so notified.

Seconded by