

2021

SECOND SESSION

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

The Board convened at 10:30 A.M. in the Supervisors' Chambers (via ZOOM) 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	Steven M. Tomlinson
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: County Attorney, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik and her District Director, Jonathan Carman

A motion was made to accept the minutes of January 7, 2021 by Mr. Arsenault, seconded by Mr. Mauro. Carried.

Public Comment: No one present.

Reports of Standings/Special Committees:

Mr. Frey: Stated that the Finance Committee met and how the ongoing conversation is regarding the promises made around paying those that worked through the pandemic. The discussions have been robust and believes there was a good resolution on the Agenda taking the first step. He asked for the Board's support on this. The meetings will continue and he's hopeful that this can be wrapped up by next month's meeting. He stated that the Board would be meeting with Department Heads. The Chairman stated that they would be discussing the COVID Policy later. After that he and Ms. Bain agreed on meeting with the Department Heads to go over everything.

Mr. Wilt: Stated that the County received the microwave path studies back for Oak Mountain and Morehouse. There needs to be work done on one of the sites. The FCC had suggested around 48 feet and Nokia came back with 107 feet. He doesn't feel that it's acceptable. Will have to get the engineering firm to do some work. There was a generator failure at East Mountain. This site is

remote and they knew the generator was not the correct one for that location. In August of 2020 there was a resolution adopted to purchase a new one but it hasn't arrived yet. There is a problem with the batteries that are there but in the next couple months they will be switching them to a lithium battery system. The power on the simulcast at Oak Mountain is turned down because of the use of combiners. They are using them because there isn't enough room on the tower to separate the antennas. It is a slow process but they are looking at a new tower for there. He discussed the conflict with the cell companies and some of the County antennas. The Chairman thanked him for a good report. He suggested having a committee meeting to have C&S in to completely talk through the issues so everyone is up to date and more involved. Mr. Wilt agreed.

Mr. Tomlinson: Shared his thanks to Public Health. He stated that they are doing a great job as usual. He also thanked the Sheriff for all his help. He stated that there was a resolution on the Agenda to pay down comp time for some of the staff in Public Health. There are staffing and pay issues being worked on. It has been a lot for everyone to go through in the Public Health Department and he thanked all the Supervisors for their help.

Ms. Bain: Stated how hard Kimberly Byrne, Personnel Officer, has been working on the COVID Policy. She hoped all the Supervisors had gotten a chance to read through the rough draft so they could discuss later.

County Attorney: Stated he had received emails from the Opioid Litigation attorneys. They were asking to add a party defendant, McKinsey & Company. Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC thought the addition was already included in the original authorization but he did not. He would like a resolution to authorize them to be added. The Chairman stated that they would add a resolution to the end of the agenda.

The Chairman introduced Congresswoman Elise Stefanik. He shared his thanks and stated how they are all fortunate to have her. She has been extraordinary during COVID. She is always following up on how everything is going along with making sure there isn't anything we need. She is always fighting for us and is heavily involved in the negotiations over another stimulus package.

Congresswoman Stefanik shared her thanks. Stated how she has been delivering updates regarding the COVID package that was passed at the end of December and the outlook moving forward. The package was attached to the overall government appropriations bill. In terms of COVID relief for the small businesses there were a number of important provisions. Small businesses aren't eligible to apply for an additional round of the paycheck protection program. It is currently open and they need to meet certain eligibility requirements. She further discussed the requirements. She stated what was also included in the bill was \$5 Billion allocated to the NYS K-12 schools districts. She has been talking with the school superintendents and it's a huge priority. These funds need to go to the schools in 2021 so they are pushing NYS to make sure those funds go as quickly as possible. For higher education there was \$71 Million allocated to the North Country. For North Country hospitals she has delivered \$140 Million, to date; focusing on critical access care hospitals. Moving forward they are working on the more permanent provisions to support critical access hospitals. Another priority is safely opening of the US/Canadian Border. This is a bipartisan push and she went on to discuss the work she has done as Co-Chair of the Northern Border Caucus. She

discussed how part of the COVID package was investing over \$1 Billion to NYS for vaccine distribution. This continues to be a challenge. There has been a lot of discussion and push back in terms of how NYS has handled this. Her priority is to make sure that the number of vaccines continues to meet the need of NY. To date the federal government has delivered 3.24 Million vaccines to NYS and NYS has administered 2 Million. They will be continuing to make sure that the first and second dosages are being sent. Going forward the Biden Administration has put out a \$1.9 Trillion package. The Republicans have put out a \$600 Billion counteroffer. Those negotiations are ongoing. The day before in the House, Speaker Pelosi passed a reconciliation budget which would be the legislative vehicle to move a COVID deal. With this also comes concerning provisions like increased minimum wage and stimulus payments for illegal immigrants. This will all be negotiated out and said she would keep everyone updated. She asked if there were questions and turned the floor back over to the Chairman. The Chairman asked about not being left behind. Concerned with the legitimate costs that are being absorbed and incurred. He feels that there should be some happy medium or reconciliations of the two sides that allow them all to get some funding. Congresswoman Stefanik stated that she was optimistic that there would be State and Local Aid in the final package. She went into the \$600 Billion counteroffer a little further and added there were Republicans on record stating how they wanted targeted State and Local Aid. She stated how she doesn't want this to be a blank check sent to NYS to be put in the General Fund and not flow to the counties and municipalities. She feels that it's very important there are guard rails so that any State and Local funding actually gets to the communities rather than just another slush fund and pot money for Albany to dictate what the priorities are. The Chairman discussed how he and the Congresswoman had talked about the need in terms of support for the local government side and the counties specifically to eliminate the population threshold that was around in earlier versions. That would have been a barrier for Hamilton County. He asked the Congresswoman what her predictions were around broadband and cellular in terms of what the opportunities may look like as well as how they may be able to engage the federal government for support. The Congresswoman stated that she was optimistic on broadband. The COVID crisis has highlighted the need for broadband in rural communities. She discussed how at the end of 2020 they saw the biggest investment made by the federal government in a long time. It was the \$100 Million Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. This is something that she and the Chairman worked on to make sure that NY was eligible because initially we weren't. She was hoping to have the FCC Chairman to the district and then COVID hit. She stated there was going to be open communication lines with the FCC. Mr. Wilt had mentioned that previous issue and she will follow up with the Chairman to see what they can do to be helpful on the bureaucratic side. She is optimistic and said if we were to look at the Broadband Bills, they are bipartisan. The Chairman asked if there were more questions. Ms. Bain shared her thanks, gave her support and told her to keep up the great work. The Congresswoman stated that she understood how hard it has been for everyone across the country. Her focus is going to continue to be to deliver direct results to the district. Doing the best she can to represent the voters of the district and making sure they are serving everybody. She told the Board to not hesitate to reach out to her. She gave her thanks to the County Public Health Officials and appreciated the chance to meet with the Board.

Congresswoman Stefanik and her District Director Jonathan Carman left the meeting.

The Chairman stated that in committee they had discussed not having a written policy around some of the COVID issues. Things are evolving so fast that they run the real risk that aspects of what

they try to put on paper today may well be obsolete by the March meeting. He thanked Ms. Bain and Ms. Byrne for all the time they put in above and beyond what he could contribute. This policy is not only to deal with some of the questions they have currently but also deal with issues going forward. He turned the floor over to Ms. Bain and Ms. Byrne. They will be leading the discussion and collecting everyone's input. Then the questions are; do they adopt it and it starts at the beginning of the next pay period, recognizing that it might need to be amended anyways or do they come up with something that is the consensus from the Board and have that draft ready for he, Ms. Bain and Ms. Byrne to take to a Department Head meeting to get their input before adoption.

Ms. Bain gave the floor to Ms. Byrne for her to review the policy. Ms. Byrne stated that once the policy was adopted, they were considering putting a copy in with the employee paychecks. She asked if the Board had had time to review and if they had questions. In the policy it says the employee will be eligible for two quarantines up to the 14 days and then the individual would have to use their own time. Ms. Byrne couldn't remember all the areas that herself, Ms. Bain and the Chairman had discussed so the Chairman offered to review them. The Chairman stated that the County is required, while under the Governor's Executive Order, to allow employees COVID time for their 14 days out under quarantine. The Order says the 14 days will not be charged to benefit time. That if subsequent to being quarantined for 14 days but not necessarily positive in that first instance, should that same employee end up positive the County is required to allow them another 14 days. The 14-day quarantine remains in the Executive Order even though NYS has evolved the length of time for quarantines. He feels the County is being more liberal in that where the Governor requires that in order to get a second 14 days without losing benefit time the person would have to be positive. The County has already had an employee out on quarantine being paid for 2 quarantine periods without yet testing positive. He would like to think that the number of times employees will be out is going to soon be on the down turn. The Executive Order goes on to contemplate an instance where an employee could be positive twice and in that case it would require the County to allow that employee to be out another 14 days. The County has to follow the Executive Order but feels they had gone further than that in how they are applying it under this policy. They had discussed whether or not it made any sense to look at the nature of the need for quarantine. The fear was that even though it should be considered it would probably end in the employee lying about where they were exposed to then make tracing and tracking more difficult. This is the kind of thing that they literally could let the perfect get in the way of the good and never get it done. He doesn't think that it's perfect as is and feels that changes can still be made. He discussed how quarantines are dictated by Public Health. If during tracing and tracking an employee is a B contact then they are being put out of work. There has been an instance where some B's do work. That has brought on an uncomfortable level of finger pointing back and forth. The conclusion is to set up this policy and going forward any B contacts that can be will be out. They are trying to encourage people to be out as well as making it easy for them by not charging their benefit time. Mr. Wilt stated that he had heard somewhere a person argued that the 14 days was considered working not consecutive days. He feels that it's minor but thinks the policy should read consecutive to prevent that from happening. The Chairman agreed and thought it was a good fix. Mr. Wilt discussed essential workers. He stated how he is an essential worker. He is allowed to travel all over for work and upon return he doesn't have to quarantine. He doesn't think it makes sense but that's how it's written. He stated that the policy doesn't talk a lot about essential workers. Ms. Byrne stated that they wanted to stay away from that. The Chairman further discussed the definition and the instance the county had with a B contact among the Corrections staff. He agrees

with Mr. Wilt in that the issue of essential has been a nightmare. It is why they had stepped over it with respect to drafting this policy. Mr. Wilt stated he doesn't think they should delay it and talk with the Department Heads. Ms. Bain stated that was what she thought would happen. This way they would have the chance to read and understand it before their employees started to ask questions. Mr. Wilt and the Chairman both agreed with Ms. Bain.

The Chairman stated that he wanted the Board to go over the vaccine piece. Ms. Byrne stated that when she researched this, she found that others were not mandating getting the vaccine. She did however state that they strongly recommended employees receive it. If the employee didn't, they would have to put a letter into the Personnel Office stating this and then the employee would be required to wear a mask during their scheduled work shift. There is also wording that the employee is responsible for disinfecting their work station. She asked for the Board's opinion. She did add that the rules are currently employees are allowed to remove their masks at their desks. Mr. Stortecky asked if that could be changed at this point or would it become discriminatory. The Chairman stated that it wouldn't be. They had borrowed what the nursing service requires for their staff around the flu vaccine. Within the nursing department they don't create a hard mandate that people be vaccinated or take the vaccine. It is optional to the employee but the 2 options are scripted within the policy. 1) Get the vaccine 2) The employee opts not to get the vaccine(s), you arrive to work wearing a mask and you don't take the mask off at any time during the workday. He stated that he feels the policy in nursing works very well and that a surprising amount of people get the flu vaccine. Mr. Stortecky asked what would happen to that employee who declines the shot and opts not to wear a mask. The Chairman stated the employee wouldn't work for the County then. He felt there should be a line drawn somewhere and they are County employees. There are plenty of employers out there that are making it a condition of employment to get the vaccine. He doesn't feel the County should go that far but also doesn't think they should risk the rest of the workplace because there are some people who want to be resisters. Ms. Byrne stated that there is a paragraph that also states that it's the Department Head/Supervisors responsibility to make sure their employee is adhering to that. If not both the employee as well as Department Head/Supervisor would be in non-compliance and subject to disciplinary action up to termination. She again asked for the Board's input. Mr. Frey and Ms. Bain thought it was perfect. Ms. Bain stated she had talked with a Department Head regarding an employee having a concern and that she may quit. Ms. Bain stated she had told the Department Head they should look at it as what's more important; protecting the rest of their employees or this one individual that's going to put everyone else at risk? Mr. Frey stated that this wasn't just walking around in public it was a workplace issue. Ms. Bain agreed. Mr. Wilt stated that President Biden came out with the rule that a person could fly and not wear a mask if they had a medical condition. The airlines are saying that people aren't allowed on the plane without a mask. So, it's local rule. Anything can go to litigation but there needs to be a line drawn. Ms. Byrne stated that she originally had in the policy that if there was a medical condition or religious belief but they had decided to remove it when they started to look at it. She stated that she would make the change regarding calendar days. The Chairman stated that it would go into effect at the start of the next pay period. He thought that himself, Ms. Bain and Ms. Byrne could set up the ZOOM meeting with the Department Heads, do the distribution of this and talk about the resolution on the Agenda that will hopefully pass regarding making the employees whole for the incurred loss around health insurance and the challenges encountered around essential. He stated that he was sure they would be amending this

with the ever changing and evolving guidelines but thought this was the start of the process that codifies where they were currently. He thanked Ms. Bain and Ms. Byrne for their great work.

RESOLUTIONS:

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; Mr. Frey stated that this was an important first step and they should keep going.

RESOLUTION NO. 38-21

AUTHORIZING ADJUSTMENT TO HEALTH INSURANCE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION FOR 2021

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 207-20 on August 6, 2020, for 0% COLA increase in 2021 due to the uncertainty of sales tax revenue and NY State reimbursement in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS, at that point in budget preparation, health insurance rates for 2021 were not available and unknown and have since come in with an increase for 2021 rates, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors do not want employees to bear the cost of the health insurance increase with no COLA, be it

RESOLVED, that due to these special circumstances the County will cover the increase in the health insurance premium and employees health insurance contribution will be adjusted back to the 2020 contribution rate of each employee retro to Payroll #1 for the year 2021 only, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Personnel Officer, Treasurer and Clerk of the Board be so notified and authorized.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 39-21

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF ANNUAL GIS APPLICATION HOSTING OF THE HOMS WEB APPLICATION (HAMCOMAPS.NET)

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. WILT:

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors initially authorized the original agreement with Fountains Spatial, Inc., for hosting and maintaining the server based County GIS Mapping application known as HAMCOMAPS.NET, and

WHEREAS, Fountains Spatial, Inc., has continued to host, maintain and modify the HOMS application through coordination with the Hamilton County Real Property Tax Services Agency since the inception in 2010, and

WHEREAS, on 2016 Fountains Spatial, Inc., merged operations with VHB, an engineering firm with offices in Albany, NY, and VHB will continue to provide the same service level agreements and application hosting to Hamilton County on a year to year basis going forward, and the Real Property Tax Services Agency recommends the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors renew the annual hosting agreement with VHB for 2021, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the renewal of a 1 year annual plan agreement (commencing January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021) with VHB, of 100 Great Oaks Boulevard, Albany, NY, and payment of the annual fee of \$6,000 (Six Thousand Dollars) in quarterly payments of \$1,500 (Fifteen Hundred Dollars) for hosting the Hamilton County Online Mapping System (HOMS) a.k.a HAMCOMAPS.NET.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; the Chairman stated that if there were aspects of amenity enhancement particularly outdoor recreation that are going on or if there is something that they want them to talk about and/or consider please let him know. They're looking at having a 4th meeting and are open to input for what is on the agenda. He was reminded by this resolution as Hamlet to Huts has been a big part of that discussion in a couple of ways.

RESOLUTION NO. 40-21

FUNDING ADIRONDACK HAMLETS TO HUTS IMPLEMENTATION

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MS. BAIN:

WHEREAS, Hamilton County was awarded CFA #76741 Adirondack Hamlets to Huts Implementation in the amount of \$219,375.00, and

WHEREAS, the funds have not been entirely spent, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized to fund Account No. A6326.0411 Adk. Hamlets to Huts at \$21,284.96 to be totally offset by funding Revenue Account No. A3902.0200 Adk. Hamlets to Huts in the amount of \$21,284.96.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 41-21

2020 – BUDGET CORRECTION – PUBLIC DEFENDER ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, the Public Defender Administrative Staff's hours were incorrectly figured for the 2020 budget, and

WHEREAS, due to this miscalculation there is a shortage of funds in Public Defender Account No. A1170.0102 Admin Staff, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized to transfer \$521.80 from Contingent Account No. A1990.0401 to Account No. A1170.0102 Admin Staff.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 42-21

**FUNDING STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS GRANT – SI17-
1003-D00**

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. WILT:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Emergency Management Department has been awarded the NYS 2017 Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula Grant SI17-1003-D00 through the NYS 2017 Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula Grant program (2017 SICG Formula) in the amount of \$540,339.00, and

WHEREAS, the funds have not entirely been spent, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be authorized to fund Account No. A3645.0418 Statewide Communications Grant SI17-1003-D00 at \$84,837.38 to be totally offset by funding Revenue Account No. A3389.0301 – Statewide Communications Grant at \$84,837.38 and the Director of Emergency Management and Sheriff be so notified.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 43-21

FUNDING STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS GRANT – SI18-1047-D00

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. WILT:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Emergency Management Department has been awarded the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Grant Project SI18-1047-D00 in the amount of \$544,803.00, and

WHEREAS, the funds have not entirely been spent, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be authorized to fund Account No. A3645.0402 Statewide Communications Grant SI18-1047-D00 at \$511,803.00 to be totally offset by funding Revenue Account No. A3389.0302 – Statewide Communications Grant at \$511,803.00 and the Director of Emergency Management and Sheriff be so notified.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 44-21

**FUNDING NYS DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY
SERVICES GRANT – SH19-1020-D00**

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. WILT:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Emergency Management Department has been awarded the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Grant Project SH19-1020-D00 in the amount of \$49,985.00, and

WHEREAS, the funds have not entirely been spent, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be authorized to fund Account No. A3645.0403 SHSP Grant SH19-1020-D00 at \$23,341.20 to be totally offset by funding Revenue Account No. A3389.0124 SHSP Grant SH19-1020-D00 at \$23,341.20 and the Director of Emergency Management and Sheriff be so notified.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 45-21

**AUTHORIZING AND FUNDING NYS DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES GRANT – SH20-1037-D00**

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. WILT:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Emergency Management Department has been awarded a NYS 2020 SHSP grant through the FY2020 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) in the amount of \$47,731.00, and

WHEREAS, the funds have not entirely been spent, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be authorized to fund Account No. A3645.0423 SH20-1037-D00 at \$47,579.00 to be totally offset by funding Revenue Account No. A3389.0127

SH20-1037-D00 at \$47,579.00 and the Director of Emergency Management and Sheriff be so notified.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 46-21

2020-2021 SUPPLEMENTAL FLU FUNDING

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. TOMLINSON:

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health through the Bureau of Immunization has amended our Immunization Action Plan (IAP) contract to award supplemental federal funding to expand and enhance influenza vaccine outreach, promotion and mass vaccination activities for the 2020-2021 flu season, and

WHEREAS, instead of amending the IAP contract NYSDOH has issued a standalone contract #T3101GG for the period June 5, 2020 through June 30, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the total grant contract is for \$13,565.95, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized to create and fund Account No. A4052.0407 Flu Funding Grant – Operating Expenses at \$13,565.95 to be totally offset by creating and funding Revenue Account No. AA4489.0401, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors be authorized to sign the Contract with the NYS Department of Health through Bureau of Immunization, 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, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT,
FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 47-21

2020 - TRANSFER OF FUNDS - SOCIAL SERVICES

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. STORTECKY:

WHEREAS, funds will be exhausted in the Hamilton County Department of Social Services Appropriation Account No. A6142.0401, Emergency Aid to Adults, during the month of December 2020, before the end of the 2020 Budget year, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the following transfers be made:

From: A6140.401 Safety Net	\$ 1,000.00
To: A6142.401 Emergency Aid to Adults	\$ 1,000.00

and the County Treasurer be so authorized.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 48-21

**AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW CONTRACT WITH BERKSHIRE FARMS
CERTIFIED FOSTER CARE HOMES**

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. STORTECKY:

WHEREAS, children placed in the care and custody of the Commissioner of Social Services as a result of abuse, neglect, maltreatment or voluntary surrender require out-of-home placement in Certified Foster Family Boarding homes, and

WHEREAS, these foster homes are certified by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), and

WHEREAS, maximum state reimbursable rates are established by OCFS, and

WHEREAS, the current contract needs to be renewed from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, upon review and approval of the County Attorney, is hereby authorized and directed to enter into an agreement with said Foster Family Boarding Home.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 49-21

2020 - AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR BUILDINGS AND SOLID WASTE

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. WELLS:

WHEREAS, the following accounts are over expended for 2020:

Account No. A1620.103 Laborer - \$0.01
Account No. A1620.107 Overtime - \$2,118.75
Account No. A1620.109 PT Cleaner - \$53.22
Account No. A8160.104 PT Laborer - \$251.42

be it

RESOLVED, the County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the following transfers:

Account No. A1620.103 Laborer - \$0.01
Account No. A1620.107 Overtime - \$2,118.75
Account No. A1620.109 PT Cleaner - \$53.22
Account No. A8160.104 PT Laborer - \$251.42

totaling \$2,423.40 from the Unappropriated General Fund Balance in accordance with Section 366 Subdivision 1 of the County Law and the County Treasurer be so authorized and the Clerk of the Board and DPW Superintendent be so notified.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 50-21

**AUTHORIZING COUNTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO ADVERTISE FOR
BIDS TO PURCHASE A WEIGH SCALE FOR LAKE PLEASANT TRANSFER
STATION**

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MS. BAIN:

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent has discussed equipment needs with the Public Works Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent is requesting to replace the weigh scale at the Lake Pleasant Transfer Station, and

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent recommends advertising for bids for said scale, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Highway Superintendent is hereby authorized to advertise for public bids to purchase the above mentioned weigh scale and the County Treasurer and Clerk of the Board be so notified.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 51-21

**AUTHORIZING COUNTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO ADVERTISE FOR
BIDS TO PURCHASE A SEMI-DUMP TRAILER**

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. MAURO:

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent has discussed equipment needs with the Public Works Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent is requesting to purchase a new tri-axle aluminum semi-dump trailer, and

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent recommends advertising for bids for said trailer, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Highway Superintendent is hereby authorized to advertise for public bids to purchase the above mentioned equipment and the County Treasurer and Clerk of the Board be so notified.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 52-21

AUTHORIZING PURCHASE AND PAYMENT FOR CARBIDE PLOW BLADES

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. WELLS:

WHEREAS, DPW owns and operates eight tandem axle plow trucks for snow & ice operations on county and state roads, and

WHEREAS, the department needed to purchase five full sets (head plow and wing) for five of the said trucks for the current winter operations, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent purchased these Built Blades from Chemung Supply Corporation under piggy back bid from Columbia County Contract, and

WHEREAS, the cost of the said blades are \$90.00 per foot or \$990.00 per set along with the purchase of 5 - 24" wing wear plates at a cost of \$180.00 ea for a total cost of \$10,800.00, and

WHEREAS, at said procurement level Board of Supervisor authorization is required, and

WHEREAS, the said blades have been received, be it

RESOLVED, the superintendent is hereby authorized to purchase the said blades, be it further

RESOLVED, that payment for the carbide blade sets is hereby authorized and the County Treasurer be so authorized to send a payment of \$10,800.00 to Chemung Supply, PO Box 527, Elmira, NY 14902 out of Account No. D5110.405 Other Supplies and the Clerk of the Board and DPW Superintendent be so notified.

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

AYES: WILT, STORTECKY, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT,

FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 53-21

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE IAMRESPONDING.COM

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Emergency Management Department was awarded a NYS SHSP grant through the FY2020 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) SH20-1037-D00 in the amount of \$47,731.00, and

WHEREAS, IamResponding.com is an immediate, reliable, automated and 100% web-based software-as-a-service solution through which emergency responders inform the department and/or response team with whom they are affiliated, other members of that department/team, regional response coordinators, and dispatchers that they are responding to an emergency event. With IamResponding.com, emergency departments, agencies, teams and dispatchers know within seconds whether a full crew is en route, or whether a second dispatch needs to be issued for additional personnel. This results in a significant time savings when compared to current dispatch processes and protocols, and

WHEREAS, the IamResponding.com program will be offered to any Hamilton County emergency agency that is dispatched by the Hamilton County PSAP Center, and

WHEREAS, \$16,000.00 of the SHSP Grant SH20-1037-D00 was allocated for the program of IamResponding.com, and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office received a cost proposal of \$16,000 from IamResponding.com for two years, and

WHEREAS, IamReponding.com has provided the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office a sole source letter for the program, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign the agreement with IamResponding.com pending the approval of the County Attorney, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office is hereby authorized to purchase the two-year subscription to IamResponding.com.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 54-21

**AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 26-21 – AGREEMENT WITH BERKSHIRE FARM
CENTER AND SERVICES FOR YOUTH FOR NON-SECURE DETENTION SERVICES**

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. STORTECKY:

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 26-21 adopted January 7, 2021 authorized the agreement with Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth for Non-Secure Detention Services, and

WHEREAS, said Resolution mistakenly stated the per diem rate for an unreserved bed as \$475.00 when it should have been \$485.00, be it

RESOLVED, that Resolution No. 26-21 is hereby amended to correct the per diem rate for an unreserved bed to \$485.00.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; the Chairman stated that this is an ongoing problem that he and Mr. Tomlinson have been struggling with in Nursing. There is a profound problem between the number of positives and the number of needles they are trying to get in arms. There are a lot of hours being run up again for Erica Mahoney, Public Health Director, and Avis Warner, RN. They are advertising for a Public Health Nurse position because there was a nurse on staff that has said this isn't what she came to work to do. There is a real problem with burnout. He feels that they all need to be sensitive to the amount of pressure that the nursing service is under and the number of hours a week they are putting in to get all this done. Just be forewarned that there probably will be more resolutions next month to deal with compensatory time. He is not sure of a way around it and feels that we aren't staffed at a level that is prepared to work 7 days a week.

RESOLUTION NO. 55-21

AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATORY TIME – AVIS WARNER

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. TOMLINSON:

WHEREAS, Avis Warner, Hamilton County Public Health Registered Professional Nurse, experienced an increased workload due to the COVID-19 Crisis, and

WHEREAS, this situation continues, including the accrual of additional compensatory time, and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Health Committee and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors discussed this issue and reviewed it with the Director of Public Health, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be authorized to transfer \$3,164.48 from Contingent Account No. A1990.0401 to Account No. A4050.0104 Reg. Nurse, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Avis Warner, Public Health Registered Professional Nurse shall be compensated for her accumulated compensatory time of 80 hours at the rate of \$39.556 for a total of \$3,164.48 to be paid in payroll ending February 6, 2021 and the Treasurer's Office be so authorized.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 56-21

**AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT FOR PROVIDER SERVICES
WITH ADIRONDACK HEALTH INSTITUTE ON BEHALF OF PUBLIC HEALTH
NURSING SERVICE**

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. TOMLINSON:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service is required to perform periodic full and updated Community Health Assessments (CHA), and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service supported and participated in development and implementation of a regional community health assessment, through grant funding obtained by the Adirondack Health Institute, for completion of the Community Health Assessment, and

WHEREAS, the cost share for the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service to remain a part of this valuable regional process is \$5,000.00, which has been proposed in the 2021 Municipal Budget and is reimbursable through the State Aid process at 100%, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Public Health Nursing Service with the Adirondack Health Institute, not to exceed \$5,000.00, for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 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, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT,
FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 57-21

**2020 - AMENDING AMOUNT OF APPROPRIATION AND ASSOCIATED REVENUES
FOR SOLID WASTE TIPPING FEES**

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. WELLS:

WHEREAS, the budget appropriation amount for 2020 was set and duly adopted for \$205,000.00 for Account No. A8161.401 Landfill, Tipping Fees, and

WHEREAS, the budget revenue amount for 2020 was set and duly adopted for \$205,000.00 for Account No. A2376.000 (Refuse and Garbage, Other Govt's Tipping Fees) to offset expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the 2020 budgeted amounts mentioned herein were estimated by the DPW Highway Superintendent based on the previous years' Solid Waste tonnage and expenditures, and

WHEREAS, Account No. A8161.401 (Landfill, Tipping Fees) has been over expended in the amount of \$ 30,285.21 due to an increase in the number of tons of solid waste hauled to Fulton County Landfill and the increase in tipping fees, and

WHEREAS, Revenue Account No. A2376.000 is also over due to an increase in the number of tons of solid waste billed to the towns and village, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2020 budget appropriation for Account No. A8161.401 Landfill, Tipping Fees be increased by \$30,285.21 and Revenue Account No. A2376.000 Refuse and Garbage, Other Govt's Tipping Fees be increased by \$30,285.21 and that the County Treasurer be so authorized and the Clerk of the Board and DPW Superintendent be so notified.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 58-21

APPROVAL OF AUDITS IN COUNTY HIGHWAY FUNDS

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. WELLS:

RESOLVED, that the bills in the Machinery Fund amounting to \$47,920.60 and bills in the County Road Fund amounting to \$89,403.84 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. Frey and adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 59-21

APPROVAL OF AUDITS IN THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

RESOLVED, that the bills audited this day in the County General Fund in the amount of \$404,363.24 by the following committees:

Public Works (Buildings) Committee.....	\$26,027.24
Public Works (Solid Waste) Committee	16,308.65
Finance Committee	162,901.71
Health Committee.....	33,493.80
Human Services Committee.....	33,646.38
Central Government Committee	36,440.24
Emergency Prep./Emergency Response.....	6,433.63
Publicity, Tourism, Economic Development & Planning Committee.....	87,546.86

Internal Management Committee 1,564.73

are hereby approved.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

The Chairman stated that there will be another resolution added. The County Attorney asked for a resolution to authorize the Opioid Litigation Attorney, Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC to add a party defendant, McKinsey & Company. They are a corporate consulting firm who was alleged to have provided advice to manufacturers in how to boost sales of opioids. The defendant will be added to the pending litigation. The Chairman stated that from that the Clerk of the Board will add a simple resolved. Moved by Mr. Wells and seconded by Ms. Bain. Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 60-21

**AUTHORIZING PARTY DEFENDANT TO BE ADDED TO PENDING OPIOID
LITIGATION**

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

BY MR. WELLS:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Hamilton County's attorney for the Opioid Litigation, Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC is hereby authorized to add a party defendant, McKinsey & Company, a corporate consultant who is alleged to have provided advice to manufacturers on how to boost sales of opioids, to the pending litigation.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Other Reports:

Mr. Wells: Thanked those of the Board that reached out to him during the last 14 days. Said that he was just starting to get back on his feet a little bit and how he appreciated the offers of help and support.

Mr. Wilt: Stated that he was able to travel to three different states in three days for work. He had had conversations while there about vaccine rollout. These states were Florida, Georgia and North

Carolina. Their vaccine rollout is not good. Those states are doing it wrong. From there looking back at New York we are doing it right. He feels that Hamilton County is doing an excellent job and told the Board not to always listen to the local news. The Chairman stated that there is a ton to brag about here but he watched how it played out on North Country Public Radio (NCPR). Hamilton County is way ahead of anywhere else in New York or possibly the US. The County will be up over 20% of the population vaccinated by the end of the week. Now if they can find a way to figure out how to turn the positives around while they continue to work on vaccinations, they can really be ahead of the rest of NYS in terms of turning this around and getting reopened. He really appreciates Mr. Wilt's observation from the other states.

Mr. Tomlinson: He stated how they have praised up Public Health and everyone else but when COVID started the Supervisors made the decision to help out as much as they all could. He feels this is a big part of why this is happening. The Supervisors have been on board with it and are on the ground every day. He thanked them all for playing a huge role. Mr. Frey stated that this is what they are supposed to be doing. He feels a call to do it not a want to or a have to.

Mr. Mauro: Stated that people can volunteer their time and get vaccinated at the end. This is a way to get help and the public involved. The Chairman stated that how people are universally stepping up to help and support in this is great. He cautioned that no good deed goes unpunished. By virtue of us taking volunteers and having those we have been inundated by the people making appeals. Unfortunately, the general public will continue to find selfish ways to criticize this depending on what they want personally.

Mr. Arsenault: Asked if the percentage the Chairman had said for Hamilton County residents vaccinated was the actual number because the graph and chart Ms. Mahoney had sent out to everyone showed 33.2%. The Chairman stated that he could well have an old stat. The Chairman discussed Ms. Mahoney's interview on NCPR. The County got killed over it because she had made it seem like we were ahead of everyone else for having all her ducks in a row and being organized. The reality is that Hamilton County got more vaccine per capita and we were able to do that through the Governor's Office. He was able to get the support of regional colleagues so we could get more vaccines as well. Mr. Arsenault stated that they should have the correct number since it's published. They discussed how everyone appreciates the information that is publicized and how they have been putting out information that everyone can feel good about. The Chairman discussed how they had done the same thing with tracing and tracking but as soon as they start talking about that the communities go back into relax mode. He just wanted to make sure that everyone understood the whole landscape that's out there and what they are trying to thread the needle in between. He said he would double check his numbers. Mr. Frey stated that his positive spin he tells his constituents is that for a small county never mind the 65+ that have been inoculated there is a high level of volunteerism and these are the ones getting inoculated. It's a positive way to say they wanted to make sure those first responders are being protected.

Mr. Stortecky: Asked the Board to take a journey with him as he shared his story. As a child there was an intellectual dog by the name of Professor Peabody. Professor Peabody had a pet boy named Sherman. He and his friends would go with them on this way back machine to look at history. Now the Board was too. The first stop on their journey is the recent inaugurations. It is inauguration day in 2021. They can see rows and rows of fences with razor wire on the top and

26,000 armed American forces. The theory is they are protecting the Capitol from people. The next stop on their journey is the year 1967 in the state of Kansas. They are at Gardner High School and it is senior year. The name of the song that is on the radio is For What It's Worth by Buffalo Springfield. Some of the lyrics he shared were:

Something happening here
But what it is ain't exactly clear
There's a man with a gun over there
Telling me I got to beware

Battle lines being drawn
Nobody's right if everybody's wrong
Young people speaking their minds
Getting so much resistance from behind

What a field day for the heat
A thousand people in the street
Singing songs and they carrying signs
Mostly saying "Hooray for our side"

Paranoia strikes deep
Into your life it will creep
It starts when you're always afraid
Step out of line, the men come and take you away

We better stop
Hey, what's that sound?
Everybody look, what's going down?

While they are all listening to the song on the radio, they are also reading a book written in 1949 by George Orwell titled 1984. He asked the Board to think about the following quote from that book "*Those who control the present, control the past and those that control the past control the future.*" Now they are traveling back to current day February 4, 2021. He asked them all to think about that while they go forward because they are all in this together.

Ms. Bain: Stated that she feels the County Health Department is doing a great job because they have also been able to segregate out of county folks to our folks that live within the county to get them vaccinated first. The Chairman stated that he and Mr. Tomlinson have been talking to Ms. Mahoney to figure out the best way to do that going forward. They will be getting back out to the communities to look for some additional help. They may look to impose upon communities to maybe help them make calls. He thanked those that put together the lists.

The Chairman stated that the Adirondack Council has taken exception to and rolled out the old rhetoric terms like frankenpine and the like around a couple cellular projects within Hamilton County. During a conference call with Verizon and AT&T he went through the projects with both applicants to make sure there was nothing valid about the nonsense and propaganda that was being put out by the Adirondack Council. He is pretty sure this seems to be more generated around stirring people up rather than getting better outcomes. This is not helping a county that has worked

hard to position themselves so they can get better cell service. He further discussed the tower sites. He had raised this at Adirondack InterCounty and he thinks they will be working more aggressively with NYSAC to try to level the playing field around some of this to help us out. If COVID hasn't shown everybody why technology, broadband and cellular is necessary then people just aren't watching. Mr. Frey stated he wasn't happy with the responses that he had received. They basically called him out for being oversensitive. They had used old data and old rhetoric in their press release. They hadn't even referenced the recent tower heights that Verizon had addressed in the pre-approval process that is in place. The Adirondack Council is completely off base with this. He stated that the fighting is interesting to watch but not sure why it gets dragged in at this point in time. The Chairman stated that he agreed and shared his frustration.

As there was no further business, motion to adjourn by Mr. Arsenault, seconded by Mr. Mauro. Carried.