REGULAR BOARD

Monday, August 3, 2025 - 10:00 AM

Stephen McNally, Chairperson
Matthew Brassard, Vice-Chairman

Chairman McNally called this Regular Board meeting to order at 10:00 A.M., with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Matthew Brassard, Chris Clark, Timothy Follos, Mary Lamphear, Tracie McGill, Stephen McNally, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Matthew Stanley, Davina Thurston, Michael Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Meg Wood. Kenneth Hughes and Cathleen Reusser were excused.

Department heads present: Laura Carson, Chelsea Merrihew, Mary McGowan, Jim Dougan, Mike Mascarenas, Josh Favro, Dan Manning and David Reynolds.

Deputies present: Dina Garvey, and William Tansey.

Also present: Arin Burdo - CATS, Stacy Dedring - Regional Food Bank, and Lindsay Java.

MCNALLY: Let's call the Regular Board Meeting, Monday, August 3rd into session. We already did the salute to the flag, roll-call, please.
Thank you, good morning. Today we're going to have two guests, and we'll start off with our first guest is Julia LoVullo, Advocacy Manager for the Regional Food Bank.

DEDRING: Good morning, my name is actually Stacy Dedring, Julia and I work together. I am the Director of Advocacy and Education for the Regional Food Bank. We are here today, because September is National Hunger Awareness Month and we're here just to come before you all to give you a few statistics about Essex County food insecurity. The first, I want to tell you a little bit about the Regional Food Bank. We are an organization, our main headquarters is in Latham, we also have one in the Hudson Valley in Montgomery and we're also going to be expanding the North Country to be able to better serve your constituents here. Our mission is to lead a network of partners to alleviate hunger, prevent food waste and nourish the communities that we serve. Again, we serve 23 counties in New York, almost 40% of the geographic area of New York State. We also partner with 10 food pantries and other community partners, some of which are here today. We have Mary Lawrence from the Essex County Health Department, we are Carol VanOrtt from Schroon Lake School District Backpack Program and Food Pantry and Amy Weaver from the Lake Placid Thrive and Thrift. Thank you, again, Essex County legislature for allowing us to recognize Hunger Action Month next month. A few quick statistics about food insecurity in Essex County. Essex County's food insecurity rate is almost 13%, which is a little higher than the average for our region. There are 4,800 people who are considered food insecure in the County, 1,050 of those are children. Now, this data comes from Feeding America's Map and Meal Gap data that comes out on a yearly basis. We take it, synthesize it on a countywide basis. You can see in front of you, we have given a report, just to give you more numbers as to what the most recent findings are. We provide about 390,000 meals for Essex County per year. But there is a gap of, I want to say 580,000 that we need to bridge. Given the SNAP situation that is happening and inflation, cost of living going up, we expect those numbers to rise in the coming year, so we just wanted to make you aware, and we look forward to working with you in the future and appreciate the time today. Thank you so much.

MCNALLY: Thank you, anybody have any questions or comments, while she's here? If not, we would like to read a proclamation.
Proclaiming September 2026 as Hunger Action Month
Whereas, The Regional Food Bank and its 1,000 partners, including 20 partners in Essex County provide vital hunger relief services to our most vulnerable neighbors; and
Whereas Essex County shall work with hunger relief organizations to make New York Hunger Free by supporting access to three healthy meals a day for our residents in need, and
Whereas there are 4,550 people who are food insecure in Essex County, with one out of six children who don't have access to the food they need to thrive; and
Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, I, Stephen McNally, Chairman of the Essex County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2026 to be, Hunger Action Month and urge all the citizens of Essex County to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance. Presented at the Regular Board Meeting, this 3rd Day of August, in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

DEDRING: Thank you so much.

MCNALLY: Thank you very much.

DEDRING: Thank you.

MCNALLY: Thank you, our next guest is Arin Burdo from CATS.

BURDO: Good morning, everyone. Thank you so much for having me here today. Good morning, Chairman McNally, thank you for adding me to the agenda.
My name is Arin Burdo, and I am the Executive Director of Champlain Area Trails. It is a pleasure to be here and thank you for your time. I am here to provide an update on Twin Valleys, where we are in the process, what we learned from the community, the vision that's beginning to emerge and where we're headed over the next several months. I'm also here to share some ways this project has the potential to benefit the broader region and why we want to keep the County informed as the project develops.
I apologize about the slideshow, before I dive into Twin Valleys, I just want to give a reintroduction about Champlain Area Trails, I had the opportunity to present to the Economic Development Committee in December and some of you are new faces, now. So, thank you for welcoming me back if I saw you before. If it didn't see you before, it's a pleasure to meet you this morning.
CATS mission is a 4-part with all of the parts working together in harmony and I apologize that it's a little fuzzy up there right now, but our mission is to create and maintain trails in the Champlain Valley, to protect land, to promote economic vitality, and connect people with nature. Trails help improve public health, support local businesses, attract visitors, protect working landscapes and strengthen rural communities. They all work together, not just about recreation. Trails help improve public health in many, many ways and we work together with local organizations to promote that. We work together with local businesses because many of them list us as amenities on their websites, whether they're lodging or local recreation organizations, we're sited often. We protect landscapes, strengthen rural communities in many ways, by participating in our local strategic planning, and in coming in and being part of the County planning. We're excited to do more of that.
Twin Valleys in unlike anything CATS has ever taken on. The property offers lodging, dining facilities, meeting space, office space, an observatory with a working telescope and the darkest skies in New England. I really wish you could see this photo that I have up here right now of the dark skies, because you can really see the stars.

This next slide shows our growing trail network and that's the map that I handed out this morning that's right in front of you. From the campus there is direct trail access to 40-miles of contiguous trails without walking on a single road. You can see the dotted red line in front of you and all those trails stem out from the green property that shows you where Twin Valleys is. So, Twin Valleys is located on the corner of Lewis, Wadhams, and Essex, if you can envision that on a border map. So, at the corner of Lewis, Wadhams and Essex sits this green property, Twin Valleys and all of those red trails, 40- miles of continuous trails, stem out from Twin Valleys. On the far left side of the map you'll see your property, the Thrall Dam system. So, that blue rectangle, all the way on the left side, that's Thrall. You can see the blue dotted line which represents Mount Inez; which I hope at this point you've all heard of, because it has been one of the most popular trails right now in Essex County, even in the Adirondack Park. Heat maps show regular and consistent visitation and Tim, and I have been speaking regularly about how often we see that parking lot jammed packed full of cars. So, it's become a really popular place and we're very, very close to being able to connect fully the Twin Valley system, in green, through our trail system, to Inez, the blue dotted line, to Thrall Dam, connecting Westport to Wadhams, to Lewis and to Whallonsburgh, which is pretty exciting. This has long been a goal of a lot of different planning projects, is to connect town to town and especially town to town hiking, adding in lodging in the middle just makes it that much sweeter. It also has good proximity to I-87.

Where we are today; so, we are currently in fact finding phase. No final decisions have been made about how we're using Twin Valleys and what the future of the property is. We've focused on listening before planning. We've hosted public open houses, we've met with local government leaders, we've spoken to non-profit organizations including ROOST, ANCA and ARCH, who also hold spots on our Twin Valleys Advisory Committee, so they've been a critical part of the planning process, as has Tim Pierce, as the Supervisor of the Town of Lewis and it has been a pleasure to partner with the Town of Lewis on this project. We have engaged business leaders, we've surveyed community members, we have invited ideas from visitors, and we have toured the facilities with potential partners. We have asked one central question; What community needs could Twin Valleys help meet? Ideas have been thoughtful, diverse and encouraging.

What we're hearing is several consistent themes. People see Twin Valleys as a place that can strengthen year around, outdoor recreation. We were pleasantly surprised by the results of our survey, which had over 200 respondents, most of them local, but also representation from visitors and seasonal residents who use Twin Valleys, already, year around. They use it to cross-country ski, they use it to snowshoe, so this isn't just a few months out of the year hiking. People are using Twin Valleys and are interested in using Twin Valley more year around, particularly is there are better parking options and bathrooms; which tends to be really key in outdoor recreation, particularly, in making sure that women and children can use outdoor recreation facilities.

We know that Twin Valleys can support tourism, not just in the town that it sits in, but throughout the Adirondacks. Post educational programming; and we're already working with local schools and Plattsburgh State. Providing gathering space for community organizations, accommodate conferences and retreats, I hope you all consider going there for a retreat sometime soon, celebrating local history and culture and creating opportunities for youth programming, supporting arts and cultural events and serving residents, not just visitors. Most importantly, people consistently tell us they want Twin Valleys to remain a place where the public feels welcome. We don't want this to become a resort. We don't want this to become a place where local residents drive in and feel like they don't have a place there. We want this to stay part of something that makes our community better.

The economy and community benefits could be so many in partnering with other area organizations, with local businesses and with municipalities and with the County. They includes supporting tourism, knowing that the people who come into Twin Valleys will support restaurants, stores, gas stations, outfitters, attractions, it will support local organizations by being able to host non-profit meetings, educational programs, workforce training, community events. It can support

local businesses, because services will be needed to operate the facility, from maintenance to food service, to construction, all will be sources locally. It will strengthen quality of life. Residents will benefit from having additional gathering places, recreational opportunities and educational sources close to home.

The emerging vision for Twin Valleys, while we're still gathering information and I keep telling our Board that we are right now in the phase of putting everything on the table. So, that's what we've been doing. In partnering with ROOST, we've been collecting information. In partnering with ANCA and finding out about the Northern Regional Border Grants. We're collecting information and getting everything on the table. We're still in that phase, before we start to take things off the table. The emerging vision is that we want Twin Valleys to be a welcoming community and outdoor recreation center that serves local residents while attracting visitors, supporting education, celebrating the region's natural and cultural heritage and operating through a diversified mix of programs, partnerships and earned revenue. We see it having year around activity. Financial sustainability is important to us. We won't move forward with a plan that's not financially sustainable. We want to develop community partnerships. We're in a beautiful position as a non-profit organization that we don't have to turn a profit; we don't have to answer to investors. We are here to fill in the gaps as non-profits so beautifully do, between government entities and businesses. Government entities and businesses work together to perform really, really important roles in our economies and in our communities, but they don't feel all the gaps. That's where non-profits can step in and fill the gaps and I see so many ways that Twin Valleys and Champlain Area Trails, as a non-profit can step in and fill gaps.

Our timeline; you might want to know, so through summer and fall of this year we're going to continue with community engagement, stakeholder interviews, facility assessments, there are many, many facility assessments going on. I am meeting next week with the septic engineer, and we'll have a septic plan soon, I am checking off all the boxes of the Department of Health has, they have many, many boxes. We'll be doing a financial analysis, and we have some great support from really good resources, like Adam DeSantis and the Adirondack Economic Development Corporation is providing really, really assistance for us and I think that's going to be another partnership that really solidities the success of our plan. This fall we hope to refine some operational models, evaluate revenue opportunities and develop some recommendations. Late this year, and early into next year we'll start to develop long term direction, develop and implementation strategy and begin fundraising and partnership development.

Looking ahead; as the vision become more defined there may be opportunities for county partnership to help advance projects to benefit the border region. So, I am not here today to ask for anything at all, you're welcome (laughter), but I do want to keep you in the loop for opportunities that might be a good fit, that might include economic development initiatives, tourism promotion, infrastructure improvements, workforce and educational partnerships, grant collaborations and regional planning efforts. If any of those ring true to you and if this excites you, I would love to talk to you more about it.

Finally, we'd love for each of you to see Twin Valleys firsthand. Seeing the property provides a much better understanding of the potential then these poorly lit photographs that I can't get to cooperate on the screen to present to you. I will also get this to you in print. I would be happy to arrange some individual or group tours at your convenience. I would love to try and have an open house there and I will be in touch with Steve to see if we can get something on the calendar and I just thank you for your time and your service to Essex County. I appreciate all of you, I appreciate your time today and I would love to answer any questions.

MCNALLY: Well, thank you, does anybody have any questions?

STANLEY: Do you know how many people use your trail system and the economic impact of those people?

BURDO: That is a fantastic question. I do not. We are trying really hard to get that information together. As a 16-year organization, we've tried to start collecting metrics. We have registers at our trailheads, some of them, not all of them. We've talked about using QR codes, but there's not consistent enough cell service at all of our trailheads to be collected from each that way. We're talking with ROOST right now, to see if we can get information that they gather by cell phone data that will give us heat maps. So, you know using Alltrails and apps like that, Strava, those will give us heat maps. So, right now we're really trying to find out what are the best ways that we can gather that kind of data. We know how many supporters that we have. We know that throughout our 16 year history, most of our operational budget comes from private donations, which is fantastic. It means that we have a lot of supporters, it means that we have trail users, it also means that we need to diversify revenue and become more resilient fiscally. So, we're interested in gathering more of that data as we go.

STANLEY: Now, I know the Rail Trail is only one trail.

BURDO: Yes

STANLEY: But I think they were able to find out a lot of information from trail cameras. So, they can see where people come on and off the trail, I don't know if there's grant money out there.

BURDO: Did they buy their own? Do they own those?

STANLEY: That would be a question, I think reaching out to the Rail Trail would be a good partnership to get some information.

BURDO: Yes, absolutely, thank you for that.

MCNALLY: Anybody else?

PIERCE: One quick question and I don't know the answer to this; the survey was completed in June. Is that still opened up? Is that still an ongoing survey?

BURDO: The survey was closed so we had it in time to use that data for our Twin Valleys strategy session in July. So, it's currently closed, but that's not to say we won't do another one and I am happy to make the results of that survey available if that's helpful. I can follow up with that and a printed version of the slideshow that you couldn't see.

MCNALLY: Anybody else? Alright, well thank you very much.

BURDO: Thank you so much.

MCNALLY: We will be in touch.

WILSON: Thank you.

MCNALLY: On to resolutions, please.

RESOLUTION #148 - AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AWARD BIDS, ISSUE CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS OR PURCHASE ORDERS.

This resolution was moved by Mr. Barber, seconded by Mr. Tyler, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

RESOLUTION #149 - AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER EXECUTE A CONTRACT (52-08-0066) BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES MARSHALL SERVICE AND ESSEX COUNTY FOR THE HOUSING IF INMATES IN OUR COUNTY JAIL
This resolution was moved by Mr. Stanley, seconded by Mr. O'Bryan, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

RESOLUTION #150 - RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PRETRIAL, PROBATION AND PAROL SUPERVISION WEEK JULY 19-25, 2026.
This resolution was moved by Brassard, unanimously seconded and adopted.

RESOLUTION #151 - APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE ESSEX COUNTY CAPITAL RESOURCE CORPORATION OF CERTAIN TAX-EXEMPT REVENUE BONDS, NOT TO EXCEED $60 MILLION, TO FINANCE A PROJECT FOR CIDC ESSEX, LLC., IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW YORK AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING MORTGAGE TAX ABATEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF $736,971.00.
This resolution was moved by Ms. Thurston, seconded by Mr. Pierce, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

MCNALLY: Questions, concerns?

TYLER: What is this about?

MASCARENAS: This is the new CVTec building that is being built in the Town of Moriah.

TYLER: Okay, thank you.

MCNALLY: Anybody else? If not, roll-call, please.

RESOLUTION #152 - AUTHORIZING VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANTS
This resolution was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Tyler, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

RESOLUTION #153 - AUTHORIZING THE ESSEX COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT FOR BID/RFP FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS
This resolution was moved by Mr. Stanley, seconded by Mr. Preston, and adopted.

RESOLUTION #154 - AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF VALERIE LONGWOOD TO THE ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD DEVELOPMENT DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE FOR A TERM BEGINNING JULY 10, 2026 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026.
This resolution was moved by Ms. Thurston, seconded by Mr. Barber, and adopted

RESOLUTION # 155 - AUTHORIZING MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING PRESCHOOL CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS
This resolution was moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Ms. Wood, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

MCNALLY: Questions, concerns?

STANLEY: I am just wondering in this resolution if it should include the mileage rate or should it just say, the current IRS rate?

MASCARENAS: I just read it and underlined the same thing. I think it should just say, the IRS as the mileage rate changes frequently. If it is twice a year, I don't know that we need to keep revisiting that. If we simply say, the IRS mileage rate, it makes it a long term resolution until a real change is needed, I agree. So, I don't know, Dan, do you need an amendment to get rid of the .76¢?

MANNING: We can take that out.

MASCARENAS: We'll just take it right out, okay. That's a very good point.

MCNALLY: All in favor, opposed, carried.

GARVEY: That one requires a roll-call.

MCNALLY: Okay, roll-call, please.

RESOLUTION #156 - AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS
This resolution was moved by Mr. Barber, seconded by Mr. Stanley, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

RESOLUTION #157 - AUTHORIZING CONTRACT AMENDMENTS/CHANGE ORDERS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS
This resolution was moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Brassard, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes

ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

RESOLUTION #158 - AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT ALLOWING THE USE OF COUNTY ROADWAYS FOR THE ADIRONDACK MARATHON DISTANCE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN SCHROON LAKE
This resolution was moved by Ms. Wood, unanimously seconded and adopted.

RESOLUTION #159 - ACCEPTING AND PLACING ON FILE THE 2025 ESSEX COUNTY SELF-INSURANCE ANNUAL REPORT
This resolution was moved by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Pierce and adopted.

RESOLUTION #160 - AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF A CERTAIN ACTION ENTITLED ANGEE CORROW V. ESSEX COUNTY ET AL VENUED IN THE ESSEX COUNTY SUPREME COURT BEARING INDEX NUMBER CV21-0511 BROUGHT AGAINST THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.
This resolution was moved by Ms. McGill, seconded by Mr. Preston, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

RESOLUTION #161 - AUTHORIZING ESSEX COUNTY TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF AUSABLE FOR PLACEMENT OF AN ANTENNA AND TRANSMITTER AT THE TERRY MOUNTAIN TOWER SITE.
This resolution was moved by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Stanley, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

RESOLUTION #162 - ACCEPTING THE OMITTED AND PRO-RATA TAXES FOR THE 2027 TAX ROLLS
This resolution was moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Brassard, and adopted.

RESOLUTION #163- AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE REAL PROPERTY FEE SCHEDULE
This resolution was moved by Ms. Tyler, seconded by Ms. Wood, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

RESOLUTION #164 - RECOGNIZING LONG TERM EMPLOYEES OF ESSEX COUNTY
This resolution was moved by Mr. McNally, unanimously seconded and adopted.

MCNALLY: Okay, we have a resolution from the floor. Do I have twelve to allow that on the floor?

MASCARENAS: You have to read it first.

MCNALLY: Oh, go ahead. Now do I have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARVEY: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #165 - APPROVING THE 2026-2027 NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPERATING BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF $17,645,322.00 AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF $2,757,400.00 TOTAL SPONSOR CONTRIBUTION WITH $1,378,700.00 BEING ESSEX COUNTY'S SPONSOR SHARE ($1,328,700.00 OPERATING AND $50,000.00 CAPITAL FUND ACCOUNT)
This resolution was moved by Mr. Stanley, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARVEY: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #166 - OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH LEAD AGENCY DECOMMISSION AND TRANSFER OF FISH HATCHERY SITE
This resolution was moved by Mr. Brassard, seconded by Mr. Menser, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

MCNALLY: Questions, concerns?

FOLLOS: Can someone describe the plan for the site? I thought I understood what the plan was and then I got some different information. A couple of sentences or a quick paragraph on what the plan is going forward.

MANNING: Jim, can answer the exact specifics, basically we're going to be closing and decommissing the fish hatchery and also transferring approximately 9.2 acres of property located in the Old Frontier Town property to the Town of North Hudson and then it will all be incorporation easement with a large piece of land, where they already built the Gateway to the Adirondack trailer park.

MASCARENAS: This is the fish hatchery that we're talking about.

MANNING: Oh, yeah, what am I doing.

MCNALLY: That is a good story, too.

MANNING: That's a good story, but the fish hatchery.

MCNALLY: Did that answer your question?

MANNING: It's just to decommission the fish hatchery.

FOLLOS: I know, but

MASCARENAS: Yeah, Mr. Follos, we're decommissing the fish hatchery. The expectation is we'll be doing our fall stocking. It will close by the end of the year. We don't necessarily have in front of us what we need to do from the DEC exactly to remedy the SPDES permit, but that's really what we're looking to do there. We've worked out a deal for lack of a better term with the Town of Crown Point, where we're reviewing contracts and trying to transfer that property to the Town of Crown Point, because their public water source sits on that site. So, we've been working with DEC, Town of Crown Point and our own folks on coming up an agreement on what that decommissing will look like. We kind of have an idea, but not the specifics because we don't know from the DEC what their expectation is in terms of what that decommissing plan will look like, but that SEQR is the first step in kind of informing everybody of our plans and what we're trying to do.

FOLLOS: Thank you.

MCNALLY: Okay, roll-call, please. Thank you.

MASCARENAS: Dina, would you like me to do these, or would you like to do them from DPW?

GARVEY: I can do them, if you would like.

MASCARENAS: Okay

GARVEY: We have a couple from DPW, there are copies on your desks.

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARVEY: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #167 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH ALL STATES CONSTRUCTION, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,495,572.55 FOR GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRADFORD HILL ROAD OVER PUTNAM CREEK BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF CROWN POINT, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BRIDGE NY/BUDGETED FUNDS, CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL BY NYSDOT, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID CONTRACT
This resolution was moved by Mr. Menser, seconded by Mr. Piece, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2703 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 150 votes (Reusser, Hughes)

MCNALLY: Questions, concerns?

MENSER: I have a question, once this is awarded how soon will they shut the bridge down and start the process?

MASCARENAS: We can ask Jim to come up and answer that question, if the Board will allow him courtesy of the floor.

MCNALLY: Courtesy of the floor to Mr. Dougan.

DOUGAN: The plan is to do it this year. First, we've got to get a contract signed. The determining factor is going to be the steel. The steel that's in it is really the only long lead time item. Different project, I think I let you know that we're got a trout prohibition period, so we've got to be out of the water by the middle of September. The goal is to start right away. We already bid our recommendation of award to DOT. They are already reviewing it. I think about the time that it takes us to get a contract prepared we'll have DOT's authority to award it. The plan is to build it this year as soon as I can tell the contractor that they're fully awarded and they'll be ordering that steel and we'll give you plenty of notice, but the goal is to build it this year.

MENSER: Yeah, I think it's important for the Town of Crown Point to know when approximately when it's going to be shut down and even more so the Town of Moriah, because people from Moriah use that road every single day to get down to Ticonderoga and once that bridge closes, that's going to change a good portion of their shortcut.

DOUGAN: There is a permanent detour plan, and so we'll get that out and I think the plan is even to put out digital message boards, a couple of weeks before the contractor mobilizes to the site, so everybody gets a chance to know. If that's not on the contractor, then we can have our sign shop.

MCNALLY: I do have one question, Jimmy, is it on a town or a county road?

DOUGAN: Inaudible (microphone issue)

MCNALLY: Roll-call, please. Motion carries.

GARVEY: The next resolution from DPW, you should have copies on your desk.

MCNALLY: Do I have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARVEY: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #168 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH KUBRICKY-JOINTA LIME, LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,215,061.80 FOR GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE MULTI SITE CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT ON TRACY ROAD AND WITHERBEE ROAD, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF MORIAH, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM CULVERT NY/BUDGETED FUNDS, CONTINGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF NYSDOT, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN AND/OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE SAME

This resolution was moved by Mr. Brassard, seconded by Mr. Clark, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2504 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 349 votes (Barber, Reusser, Hughes)

MCNALLY: Questions, concerns?

BRASSARD: Jim, you and I have talked. I talked with Andrew, also, just having some kind of access, temporary access for those people that live out on the other side of Roe Pond.

DOUGAN: Yeah, we're going to have the contractor work with that since it's your property.

BRASSARD: Yeah

DOUGAN: Something that's acceptable to you guys for temporary access.

BRASSARD: Just mainly, for fire and EMS reasons it's a long ways around.

DOUGAN: The one that we're most concerned about is the one outlet of the pond itself and that has a maximum shutdown period for the structure itself is 3-weeks. So, the contractor has to get in there and move pretty quickly and we plan to do that work this fall. We have a separate contract; we ordered the pre-cast concrete culverts sections ahead of time.

MCNALLY: I mean if that road's going to be closed for a period, is Ensign Pond Road good to go, right now?

DOUGAN: It's been operating, it's been operating fine. Additional work around that one culvert and so far, it's held up this year. Another reason why we have a very short, 3-week period of construction.

MCNALLY: Any other questions on that? If not, roll-call please.

GARVEY: Another one from the floor, Mike, would you like to speak on it?

MASCARENAS: Yeah, request to enter into a contract with Comsource, for an incident response plan for the Information Systems Department in the amount of $12,800.00. The Board has previously allowed a resolution for us to go out to bid for this. It will be paid for by the Department of Homeland Security and is a grant.

MCNALLY: Do we have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARVEY: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #169 - AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN AND/OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH COMSOURCE, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $12,800.00 FOR AN INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT
This resolution was moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Ms. Thurston, and adopted a roll-call vote as follows:
AYES: 2504 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 349 votes (Barber, Reusser, Hughes)

MCNALLY: Do we have anything from the floor, anything additional?

TYLER: Yeah, I would just like to say that I have been going to the Essex County Fair for a little over 60 years, and this year I went and the County's input throughout the years is really coming to fruition and the Ag Committee working on it, and the Fair this year was fantastic. If you didn't get to the Fair this year, you really missed out on something, because they had great music, different kinds of shows and the midway was in the best shape it's been in in 30 years, and I think it's just fantastic. Not just for the Fair, but for other things that can happen at the fairgrounds and thank you to the Supervisors for support of that and moving on, I expect really fantastic things to come out of those fairgrounds.

MCNALLY: Thanks, anybody else?

MANNING: You all have before you a map which I have distributed. Mr. Pierce has requested that we grant the Town of Lewis a limited license for the use of existing trails and a new proposed trail located on the Thrall Dam property. The map that you have, you'll see at Tax Map #47.3-2-17, it says CATS Trails, those are trails, it is my understanding and Tim, you can correct me, that currently exist?

PIERCE: That's correct

MANNING: And those trails have been grated…

PIERCE: It's the Thrall Dam ones that are grated with the County. We have been running those trails for several years on the Thrall Dam side.

MANNING: Right

PIERCE: And the CATS Trails on the other side is the Mount Inez Trail. We want to connect the two.

MANNING: So, great. So, the CATS Trails have been being used and being maintained by the Town of Lewis.

PIERCE: No

MANNING: No?

PIERCE: The Thrall Dam trails have been being maintained by the Town.

MANNING: Okay, where is that on the map?

PIERCE: It's there.

MANNING: Okay, I got that wrong then. So, the Thrall Dam, over to the left on the map is the Thrall Dam trails. So, that's all being maintained by us, but we can't find an agreement. I am sure there was probably a limited license granted for that. So, what I would like to ask today, part of what I would like to ask is that we enter into a limited license to grant the Town of Lewis the right to continue to use the Thrall Dam trails. It's for snowmobiling, horseback riding, snowshoeing, hiking, all those types of things.

PIERCE: We have been running those trails, at least for 10-12 years, before Mr. Monty's time on the Board. We just couldn't find the agreement for that and we're looking to extend that to connect our current trail system with the Mount Inez Trail.

MANNING: Okay, on that map then, Tim, where it's saying proposed trail?

PIERCE: Right

MANNING: Is that the connection?

PIERCE: That's the connection.

MANNING: And the CATS has nothing to do with this?

PIERCE: Right, CATS is their own trail across the road.

MANNING: Okay

PIERCE: Ours is the Thrall Dam Trails.

MANNING: Okay, great. So, the limited license, just for your edification, this is reforestation land, there's debate and I wouldn't get into that, but generally in reforestation land you can't build any permanent structures, so that deals with the reforestation issue. The limited license can be revoked at any time, we would prepare an agreement, I have already prepared an agreement that will provide for a defense and indemnification for insurance, which I am sure it already being done. Also, maintenance, and grading and things of that nature.
So, to recap, I am having a good day here today, the Thrall Dam, over on the left and the proposed trail, which is small, hooks to CATS, we're asking for a limited revokable license to be granted by the County of Essex to the Town of Lewis over the Thrall Dam properties for the purposes of their trail system, hiking, biking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, ATV use will be allowed and other trail use.

PIERCE: It currently is only on the Thrall Dam Trails; those are our trails.

MCNALLY: Do I have twelve to allow that on the floor?

GARVEY: Yes, we do.

RESOLUTION #170 - AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN AND/OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LIMITED REVOKABLE LICENSE BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX AND THE TOWN OF LEWIS OVER THE THRALL DAM PROPERTY, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF LEWIS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THEIR TRAIL SYSTEM AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
This resolution was moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Follos.

MCNALLY: Questions, concerns?

TYLER: Just as we sit in these in seats in our towns and municipalities, the first questions we ask is lawyer questions and insurance questions and is there an insurance issue?

MANNING: Part of the agreement is that they provide us with a certificate of insurance, listing us as additional insured and certificate holder. So, if there's, which is a good point, because people use this thing, if there's any problem there, they would be, that insurance company would cover everything. I am not going to guarantee, and we'll get it in sufficient limits, I am not going to guarantee that if someone does get hurt, what's common parlance amongst lawyers is, shotgun the complaint and sue everybody in sight, which would be the town, the county, anybody else, the maker of the bike, the gasoline that was thrown into the snowmobile, they just sue everybody, but to protect us, we will have an insurance policy from the Town and we have our own coverage, too.

TYLER: Thank you

MCNALLY: Any other questions on this?

PRESTON: Trail use, the current trails and the proposed trails run into the CATS Trails?

PIERCE: Right

PRESTON: Are the CATS Trails the same use?

PIERCE: No, they're separate. Arin would be able to explain that better, what the CATS Trails, that's more hiking, is that correct?

BURDO: Can I speak?

MCNALLY: Yes

BURDO: Yeah, hiking, foot traffic, not motorized.

PRESTON: So, there will be a barrier or something that will prevent ATVs?

BURDO: There are now.

PRESTON: Okay, thank you.

PIERCE: There are goals to connect our Thrall Dam Trails, because we actually have one trail called the Inez Millholland Trail, we want to connect our trail system with the CATS Trails which goes up Mount Inez.

PRESTON: Thank you

MCNALLY: Anyone else? All in favor? Opposed? Carried
Anybody else?
Motion for adjournment? Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Barber, all in favor? We are adjourned.

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THIS REGULAR BOARD MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:04 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina L. Garvey, Deputy Clerk
Board of Supervisors