

April 1, 2024

Operations Committee: 3-11-2024

RESOLUTION NO. 101-2024

**SUPPORTING EMERGENCY SERVICE COMMUNICATION TOWERS
FOR STAR LAKE AND CRANBERRY LAKE IN THE ADIRONDACK PARK**

By Ms. Curran, Chair, Operations Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County has secured funding to upgrade emergency communication towers and equipment throughout the County, and

WHEREAS, existing communication gaps in the Star Lake and Cranberry Lake areas are unacceptable and have the potential to put the health, safety, and welfare of emergency responders, law enforcement, residents, and visitors in dangerous situations with no communication apparatus, and

WHEREAS, two new tower locations in the hamlets of Star Lake and Cranberry Lake within the Adirondack Park have been identified as preferred locations to fill potential life-threatening emergency communication coverage gaps in the Clifton-Fine region, and

WHEREAS, these proposed new emergency communication towers, at maximum coverage heights, will substantially improve the current gaps and provide critical public safety upgrades, and

WHEREAS, the new emergency communication towers will significantly improve the communication needs for first responders, law enforcement, emergency management, NYS Forest Rangers, Clifton-Fine Hospital, North Country Life Flight, Fort Drum Medevac Services, SUNY ES&F Ranger School, SUNY ES&F Cranberry Lake Biological Field Station, Clifton-Fine Central School, Town of Clifton Highway Department, Town of Fine Highway Department, Snowmobile Groomers, Potential Cellular Providers, and the general public, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is open to and is discussing co-locations with other providers that could reduce additional visual intrusions, and

WHEREAS, the 2019 New York Upstate Cellular Coverage Task Force report states that one key challenge in forested locations is that dense foliage rapidly weakens signal strength, and carriers have traditionally mitigated this issue by placing antennas well above the tree line, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is applying for an Adirondack Park Agency Permit to install these new towers that will alleviate many of the emergency communication complications in the region; however, County staff have been met with a resistance by the APA to approve towers at certain elevated heights, and

WHEREAS, the approval of the two proposed emergency communication towers, at increased heights, would eliminate the need for an additional two relay towers (should the APA disapprove of the elevated heights) at an additional taxpayer cost of approximately \$1.5 million each for a total of \$3 million, which would also have significant environmental impacts (access

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roads, electrical services, additional visual impacts), cause severe delays in coverage areas while additional funding is sought, and increase long term operation and maintenance costs to the taxpayers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators supports Emergency Service Communication Towers for Star Lake and Cranberry Lake within the Adirondack Park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to NYS Governor Hochul, Senator Dan Stec, Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Scott Gray, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Commissioner Jackie Bray, Adirondack Park Agency Executive Director Barbara Rice, Adirondack Park Agency Board Members and Designees, NYS Association of Counties (NYSAC) Executive Director Stephen Acquario, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board (APLGRB) Executive Director Gerry Delaney, and Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages (AATV) President Stephen McNally.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss:
COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE)

I, Kelly S. Bigwarfe, Deputy Clerk of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that I have compared this Resolution No. 101-2024 Entitled "Supporting Emergency Service Communication Towers for Star Lake and Cranberry Lake in the Adirondack Park", adopted April 1, 2024, with the original record in this office and that the same is a correct transcript thereof and of the whole of said original record.

Kelly S. Bigwarfe
Kelly S. Bigwarfe, Deputy Clerk
St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators
April 2, 2024