

**County of Jefferson**  
**Office of the County Administrator**



**Historic Courthouse**  
195 Arsenal Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Watertown, NY 13601-2567  
Phone: (315) 785-3075 Fax: (315) 785-5070

September 14, 2023

**TO:** Members of General Services Committee

**FROM:** Robert F. Hagemann, County Administrator *R.F.H.*

**SUBJECT:** General Services Committee Agenda

Please let this correspondence serve as notification that the General Services Committee will meet at the **Watertown International Airport** in the Conference Room, 22529 Airport Drive, Dexter, NY. The meeting will take place on **Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** with a tour of the Air Ambulance Facility following the meeting. Due to technical limitations, this meeting will not be broadcast.

Following is a list of agenda items for the meeting:

**Presentation:**

Airport Update - Grant Sussey, Director of Aviation

Resolutions:

1. Amending the 2023 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the Watertown International Airport for Purchase of Ground Service Equipment
2. Amending the 2023 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Federal and State Reimbursements of Administrative Expenses for Runway Protection Zone Land Acquisitions at the Watertown International Airport
3. Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation to the County Road Fund
4. Amending the 2023 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the County Bridge Account
5. Accepting Funding and Authorizing Agreement for Highway Department Equipment and Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation Thereto

6. Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation to Recycling & Waste Management
7. Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation to the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Program
8. Authorizing an Agreement with the Community Action Planning Council to Promote Fair and Equal Housing
9. Authorizing Jefferson County to be Lead Agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the Purpose of the 2023 Inclusion of Viable Agricultural Land to Existing Agricultural Districts, and Making a Determination of Non-significance
10. 2023 Inclusion of Viable Agricultural Land in Certified Agricultural Districts Before the Districts' Established Review Periods
11. Authorizing Jefferson County to be Lead Agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the Purpose of Conducting an Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County North Agricultural District #2, and Making a Determination of Non-Significance
12. Adopting Modifications Pursuant to the Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County North Agricultural District, No. 2
13. Authorizing Agreements in Relation to the Supervision & Treatment Services for Juveniles Program
14. Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation To Assigned Counsel Costs
15. Amending the 2023 County Budget for Corrections Insurance
16. Authorizing Agreement with the NYS Unified Court System for Cleaning and Maintenance of Court Facilities

If any Committee member has inquiries regarding agenda items, please do not hesitate to contact me.

RFH:tlr

cc:	Airport	Dog Control	Probation/Stop DWI
	Buildings & Grounds	Fire & Emerg. Mgmt./E-911	Public Defender
	Code Enforcement	Highway/Recycling & Waste Mgt.	Sheriff
	District Attorney	Planning	Weights & Measures



**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Amending the 2023 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the Watertown  
International Airport for Purchase of Ground Service Equipment

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, Pursuant to Resolution 119, This Board of Legislators authorized a budget amendment in relation to Ground Service Equipment purchase for aircraft charter handling operations, and

Whereas, Bids have been received and additional funds are needed to cover the procurement of two belt loaders, and

Whereas, Funds are available within the airport capital facility account.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Expenditure		
01561000 02068	Airport Ground Service Equipment	\$ 25,000
Transfers		
01899200 95031	From Capital Fund	\$ 25,000
20990100 09000	To General Fund	25,000

**Decrease:**

20561000 02001	Airport Facility	\$ 25,000
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and be it further

Resolved, That the six year Capital Plan is amended accordingly.

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Amending the 2023 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Federal and State  
Reimbursements of Administrative Expenses for Runway Protection Zone Land  
Acquisitions at the Watertown International Airport

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, Per Resolutions 187 of 2016, and 123 and 170 of 2019, This Board of Legislators authorized agreements and settlements in connection with acquisition of certain real property for the Watertown International Airport, and

Whereas, Said resolutions amended the County Capital Plan assuming 95% funding from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with the remainder expected to be state and local funding, and

Whereas, Actual FAA funding has come in at 100% for some expenses, and

Whereas, Various expenses were incurred by the County Attorney in relation to land acquisition projects at the Watertown International Airport which should be charged to the appropriate capital project, to offset the grant funding that has been received, and

Whereas, The capital expenditure and related revenue accounts should be reconciled, allowing for reimbursement of associated expenses incurred by the County Attorney.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Capital plan is amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Revenue

20900600 94589	Federal Aid – Capital Projects	\$ 162,547.04
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Expenditure

20561000 020995	RPZ Land Acquisition	\$ 158,265.78
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**Decrease:**

Revenue

20900600 93589	State Aid- DOT	\$ 5,883.63
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Expenditure

20698900 02064	Property Improvements	\$ 1,602.37
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and be it further

Resolved, That the six year Capital Plan is amended accordingly.

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation to the County Road Fund

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, The Highway Department needs to purchase a snow plow for the pickup truck which was ordered last year and could not include the snow equipment due to increased costs, and

Whereas, The Highway Superintendent has requested a transfer between accounts to provide funding for the purchase.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Expenditure		
10513000 02460	Snow Removal Equipment	\$ 6,290.70

**Decrease:**

Expenditure		
10513000 02404	Dump Truck Replacement	\$ 6,290.70

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

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State of New York    )  
                                  ) ss.:  
County of Jefferson )

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board of Legislators

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**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Amending the 2023 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the County Bridge Account

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, The Superintendent of Highways has requested transfers between accounts to provide funding for increased costs for Bridge E016 on County Route 4, and

Whereas, Funding is available for transfer in another Bridge account.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Increase:**

20511300 02886	E016 - CR4	\$ 4,871.03
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**Decrease:**

20511300 02822	R017 - CR69	\$ 4,871.03
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and be it further

Resolved, That the six year capital plan is hereby amended accordingly.

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

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State of New York    )  
                                  ) ss.:  
County of Jefferson )

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In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board of Legislators

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**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Accepting Funding and Authorizing Agreement for Highway Department Equipment  
and Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation Thereto

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, The Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition applied for a NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project grant in response to a new requirement for street sweeping/vacuuming to continue permit compliance of small municipal separate stormwater sewer systems (MS4s), and

Whereas, Jefferson County will receive up to \$325,000 from New York State designated for purchase of a vacuum truck for this purpose, and

Whereas, The County Highway Superintendent has requested that this additional revenue be recognized and the 2023 County Budget be amended.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby accepts said funding and authorizes the Chairman of the Board of Legislators to sign any and all documents necessary to accept said funding, subject to approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Revenue		
10900400 93089	State Aid - Transportation	\$ 325,000

Expenditure		
10513000 02415	Broom/Vacuum Truck	\$ 325,000

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

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State of New York    )  
                                  ) ss.:  
County of Jefferson )

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board of Legislators

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**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation to Recycling & Waste Management

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, This Board of Legislators has allocated funding for purchase of a replacement baler at the Transfer Station, which has been ordered and is expected early in 2024, and

Whereas, The current baler hydraulic ram requires repair, and

Whereas, NYSDEC now requires updating of Operations and Maintenance Manual by certified engineers as a permit requirement due to modifications at the Transfer Station, and

Whereas, Funds are available for transfer within the Recycling and Waste Management Fund including revenue from equipment sale.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Revenue		
15910100 92665	Sale of Equipment	\$ 23,800

Expenditure		
15816000 04211	Building Property Maintenance	\$ 23,800
15816000 04416	Professional Fees	10,000

**Decrease:**

Expenditure		
15816000 04311	Gas and Oil	\$ 10,000

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_



**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation to the HOME  
Investment Partnership Grant Program

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, By Resolution 105 of 2020, Jefferson County, acting as lead County on behalf of the North Country HOME Consortium, was authorized to submit applications to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for HOME Investment Partnership Program Grants for Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023 to assist in providing affordable housing resources within the Consortium area, and

Whereas, Jefferson County, as lead County of the Consortium, has been awarded a 2023 HOME Grant in the amount of \$903,345 for the purpose outlined above.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget be amended as follows:

**Increase**

Revenue		
30866800 94995	Federal Aid - HOME Program	\$ 903,345
Expenditure		
30898900 04001	HOME Program	\$ 903,345

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

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State of New York    )  
                                  ) ss.:  
County of Jefferson )

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In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board of Legislators

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**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Authorizing an Agreement with the Community Action Planning Council  
to Promote Fair and Equal Housing

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, Jefferson County is the grant recipient of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs, and said funds are committed to housing assistance programs for income eligible County residents, and

Whereas, To ensure compliance with funding requirements the County is obligated to promote and further fair and equal housing opportunities for residents of Jefferson County consistent with federal legislation and regulations, and

Whereas, To accomplish this objective the County has annually entered into a contract for the provision of fair housing services including acting as the County's fair housing office for public education, information and referral, and complaint assistance, and

Whereas, Funds for a fair housing contract are appropriated in the 2023 County Budget.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Community Action Planning Council in the amount of \$9,000 for promoting and furthering fair and equal housing opportunities in the County for the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

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State of New York    )  
                                  ) ss.:  
County of Jefferson )

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board of Legislators

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**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Authorizing Jefferson County to be Lead Agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the Purpose of the 2023 Inclusion of Viable Agricultural Land to Existing Agricultural Districts, and Making a Determination of Non-significance

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25AA, Section 303-b requires Counties to establish an annual thirty day period within which to accept requests by landowners to have viable agricultural land included in a certified Agricultural District, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Board of Legislators passed Resolution 98 of 2004, Establishing an Annual Thirty Day Period from June 1 to June 30 for Landowners to Submit Proposals to Include Viable Agricultural Land within an Existing Agricultural District Before the District's Established Review Period, and

Whereas, In accordance with Section 303-b of Article 25AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, the requests for inclusion during the 2023 request period were referred to the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board for review and recommendation, and

Whereas, The inclusion of viable agricultural land within an existing Agricultural District before the District's established review period is an action subject to environmental review in accordance with Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Act, and

Whereas, An Environmental Assessment Form has been completed which reviews potential environmental impacts and determines that no significant impacts will occur.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County shall assume lead agency status for this action pursuant to SEQR and has determined that this is an unlisted action and will not have any adverse environmental impacts, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to sign the Environmental Assessment Form\ Determination of Significance and forward same to all involved agencies.

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_



**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

2023 Inclusion of Viable Agricultural Land in Certified Agricultural Districts Before  
the Districts' Established Review Periods

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25AA, Section 303-b requires Counties to establish an annual thirty day period within which to accept requests by landowners to have viable agricultural land included in a certified Agricultural District, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Board of Legislators passed Resolution No. 98 of 2004, Establishing an Annual Thirty Day Period from June 1 to June 30 for Landowners to Submit Proposals to Include Viable Agricultural Land within an Existing Agricultural District Before the District's Established Review Period, and

Whereas, In accordance with Section 303-b of Article 25AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, the 2023 requests for inclusion were referred to the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board for review and recommendation, and

Whereas, The recommendation of the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board has been submitted to this Board, and

Whereas, A public hearing was held on October 3, 2023 to receive public comments, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Board of Legislators has reviewed the requests for inclusion, the recommendation of the Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, and the Public Hearing record concerning the inclusion of viable agricultural land in certified agricultural districts before the districts' established review periods.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That, pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25 AA, Section 303-b, the Jefferson County Board of Legislators does hereby approve the inclusion of 11 parcels consisting of 802.71 acres to existing Agricultural Districts.

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

**2023 REPORT ON THE INCLUSION OF VIABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS  
TO THE EXISTING NYS CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS**

JEFFERSON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL & FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD

JULY 31, 2023



## **Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board**

Douglas Shelmidine, Chairman

John Peck, Vice-Chairman

Al Gehrke

Steve Watson

Jan Martusewicz

Michael Kiechle

Pat Crast, Jefferson County Soil & Water District

Dan McBride, Jefferson County Board of Legislators

Roxanne Burns, Real Property Director

Michael Bourcy, Planning Department Director

Amanda Rae Root, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County



## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This report presents the findings of the Jefferson County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board's (AFPB) review and recommendations to the County Legislature for the 2023 Agricultural District Inclusion Requests.

Article 25-AA of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law was enacted in 1971 to help keep farmland in agricultural production through a combination of landowner incentives and protections that discourage the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses, including:

- providing reduced property tax bills for agricultural lands (agricultural landowners must apply to the local tax assessor for an annual agricultural assessment);
- providing the framework to limit unreasonable local regulation on accepted agricultural practices;
- providing Right to Farm provisions that protect accepted agricultural practices from private nuisance suits;
- modifying state agency administrative regulations and procedures to encourage the continuation of agricultural businesses;
- modifying the ability to advance public funds to construct facilities that encourage development;
- limiting the power to impose benefit assessments, special ad valorem levies or other rates or fees in certain improvement districts or benefit areas such as water, sewer or nonfarm drainage; and
- reducing the ability of public agencies to acquire farmland through eminent domain.

Agricultural districts primarily benefit owners of land that is farmed. Being part of an agricultural district does not require that the land be used for agriculture and it does not directly affect tax assessments (agricultural landowners must apply to the local tax assessor for an annual agricultural assessment).

There are two processes at the county level for the addition and review of these districts. Each Certified Agricultural District is required by New York State to undergo an Eight-Year Review to determine if the district still consists of predominantly viable agricultural land. There is also an annual individual inclusions process where agricultural land may be added to an existing certified agricultural district. There are three Agricultural Districts in Jefferson County comprising over 243,000 acres.

The New York State Agricultural Districts Law requires counties to establish an annual 30 day period to allow parcels of predominantly viable agricultural land to be added to existing New York State Certified Agricultural Districts. The Jefferson County Board of Legislators has set **June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>** of each year for this purpose.

Viable agricultural land is land that is actively farmed as well as inactive and non-farm acreage which is highly suitable for agricultural production. A parcel of land is "predominantly" viable if a minimum of 51% of the parcel meets the above definition.

There are three NYS Certified Agricultural Districts in the County. The Southeast District #1, North District #2, and Southwest District #3.

**Jefferson County NYS Certified Agricultural Districts in GIS Acres\***

Southeast	#1	52,144.4
Towns of Wilna, Champion, Rutland, Rodman, Worth, and parts of Watertown, Adams, and Lorraine.		
North	#2	113,821.46
Towns of Brownville, Lyme, Cape Vincent, Clayton, Orleans, Pamelaia, Alexandria, Theresa, Antwerp, Philadelphia, and LeRay.		
Southwest	#3	77,168.6
Towns of Hounsfield, Henderson, Ellisburg, and parts of Watertown, Adams, and Lorraine.		
<b>Total GIS acres in Districts</b>		<b>243,134.51</b>

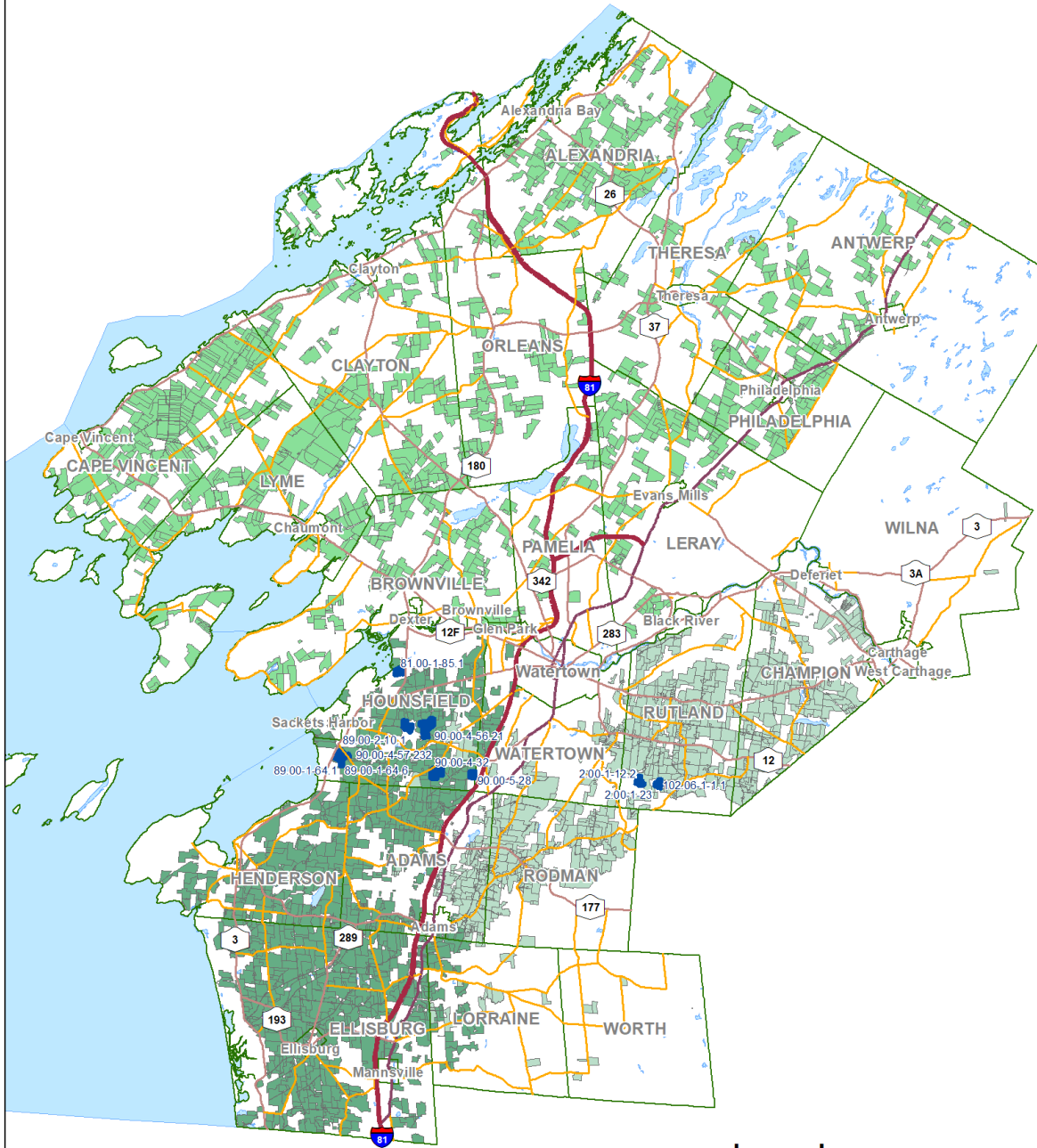
\* Includes 2022 Annual Inclusions.

**LANDOWNER REQUESTS**

The County received requests from six landowners in the towns of Hounsfield and two in Rutland to consider the addition of 11 parcels consisting of a total of 802.71 GIS acres.

# Proposed 2023 Agricultural District Inclusions


## Jefferson County, New York




### Legend

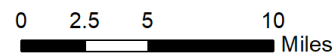
 Requested 2023 Inclusion

### Agricultural Districts

 Southeast

 North

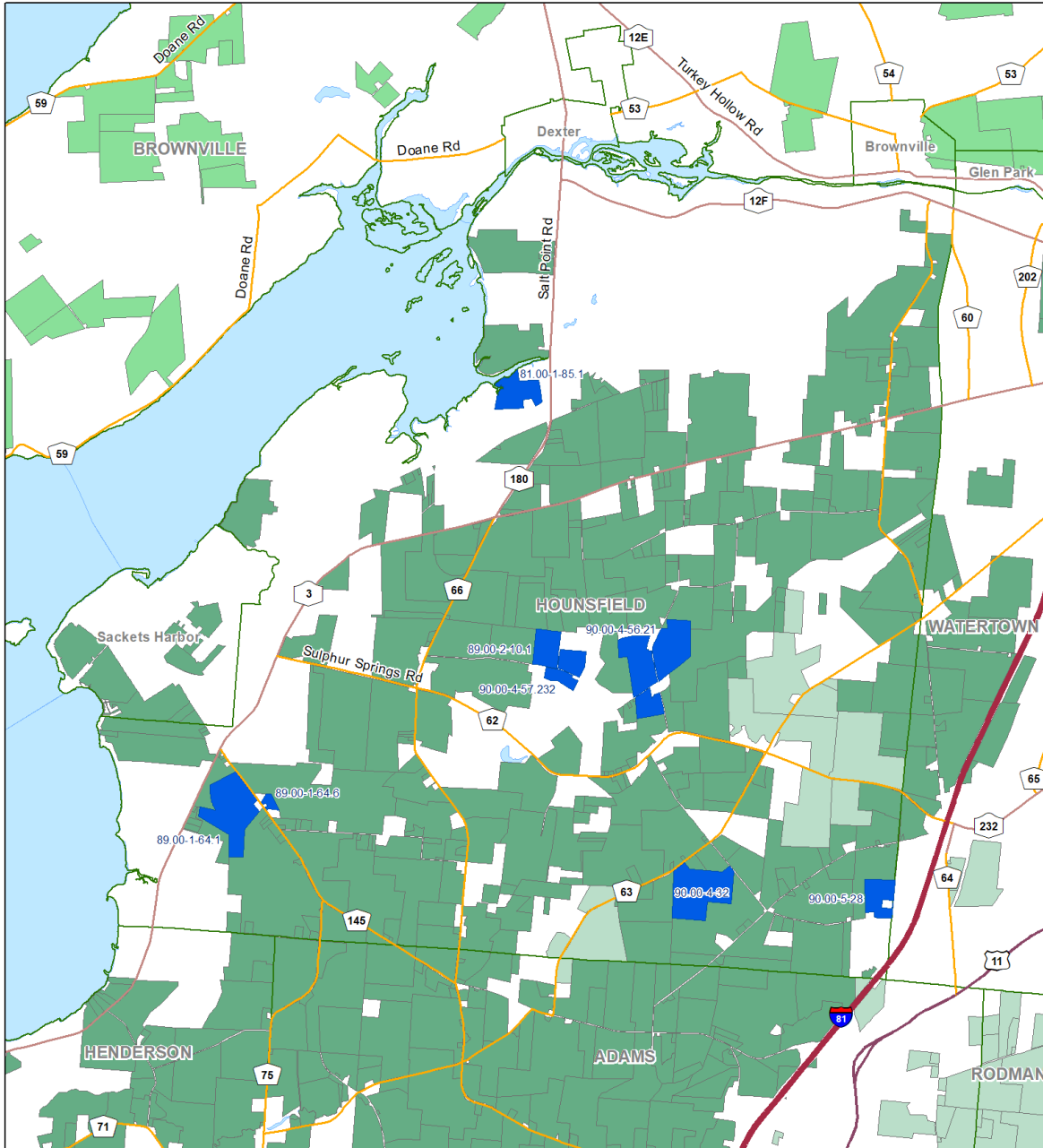
 Southwest





# Proposed 2023 Agricultural District Inclusions

## Hounsfield, New York



Created by Jefferson County Planning Dept, July 2023

**Legend**

- Requested 2023 Inclusion
- Agricultural Districts**
- Southeast
- North
- Southwest

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Sources: Jefferson County Office of Real Property Services, CSCIC

Sara Freda and Sam Wilson from the County Planning Department and Jay Matteson, the County Agricultural Coordinator, conducted a windshield survey of the requested parcels. Notes from that survey are included in this report.

**1. Robert Bendwell**

Parcel Number	Town	GIS Acres	District
89.00-2-10.1	Hounsfield	67	SW: 3
90.00-4-57.232	Hounsfield	31.26	SW: 3

The applicant is requesting to add two parcels to the Southwest District. The applicant stated the land is rented to a local farmer and used to grow crops. During the site visit staff observed corn growing and signs of haying.

**Robert Bendwell 89.00-2-10.1 & 90.00-4-57.2332, Parker Rd. & Martin Rd.**





NYS ITS GIS Program Office, Westchester County GIS

## Proposed Agricultural District Inclusion

**2023 Inclusion Process**  
**Bendwell, Robert C**  
**16221/300 Parker Rd**



July 2023

**Legend**

-  Proposed Inclusion
-  Agricultural District





**2. Eugene Thomas**

<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>GIS Acres</b>	<b>District</b>
89.00-1-64.1	Hounsfield	139.57	SW: 3
89.00-1-64.6	Hounsfield	8.84	SW: 3

The applicant is requesting to add two parcels to the Southwest District. The applicant stated the land is used for field crops. Staff observed signs of agricultural activities including haying on the two parcels.

**Eugene Thomas, 89.00-1-64.1 and 89.00-1-64.6, CR Rt. 75**





## Proposed Agricultural District Inclusion

2023 Inclusion Process  
 Thomas, Eugene  
 17553 Co Rte 75



July 2023

Legend	
	Proposed Inclusion
	Agricultural District



0 250 500  
 Feet



**3. Thomas Whitmore**

<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>GIS Acres</b>	<b>District</b>
90.00-4-56.21	Hounsfield	196.67	SW:3

The applicant is requesting to add one parcel to the Southwest District. The applicant stated the land is rented out as tillable acreage. A recent site visit confirmed the presence of agricultural activities such as haying and the keeping of horses.

**Thomas Whitmore, 90.00-4-56.21, 18543 Jericho Road**







## Proposed Agricultural District Inclusion

2023 Inclusion Process  
 Whitmore, Thomas A  
 18543 Jericho Rd



July 2023

Legend	
	Proposed Inclusion
	Agricultural District



0 250 500  
 Feet

**4. Roger Brunet**

Parcel Number	Town	GIS Acres	District
81.00-1-85.1	Hounsfield	61.47	SW:3

The applicant is requesting to add one parcel to the Southwest District. The applicant stated the land is used for haying. Staff observed agricultural activities such as haying and growing vegetables along with a barn on site.

**Roger Brunet, 81.00-1-85.1, 16075 Military Road**





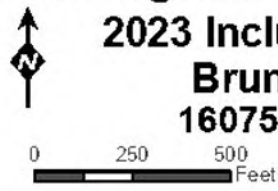


## Proposed Agricultural District Inclusion

2023 Inclusion Process  
 Brunet, Roger  
 16075 Military Rd



Legend	
	Proposed Inclusion
	Agricultural District





**5. Harold Nohle**

Parcel Number	Town	GIS Acres	District
90.00-5-28	Hounsfield	49.92	SW:3

The applicant is requesting to add one parcel to the Southwest District. A recent site visit confirmed the presence of soybeans.

**Harold Nohle, 90.00-5-28, Waite Road**







## Proposed Agricultural District Inclusion

**2023 Inclusion Process**  
**Nohle, Harold W**  
**Waite Rd**

**Legend**

-  Proposed Inclusion
-  Agricultural District




Jefferson County  
 Planning Department  
 July 2023



**6. Edward Amelio**

<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>GIS Acres</b>	<b>District</b>
90.00-4-32	Hounsfield	136.7	SW:3

The applicant is requesting to add one parcel to the Southwest District. The applicant stated the land is used for corn and/or soybean production. A recent site visit confirmed the presence of corn, haying and various species of grasses.

**Edward Amelio, 90.00-4-32, 17376 CR 63**







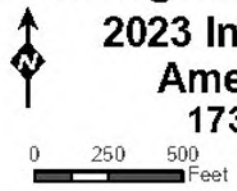
## Proposed Agricultural District Inclusion

**2023 Inclusion Process**  
**Amelio, Edward J**  
**17376 Co Rte 63**



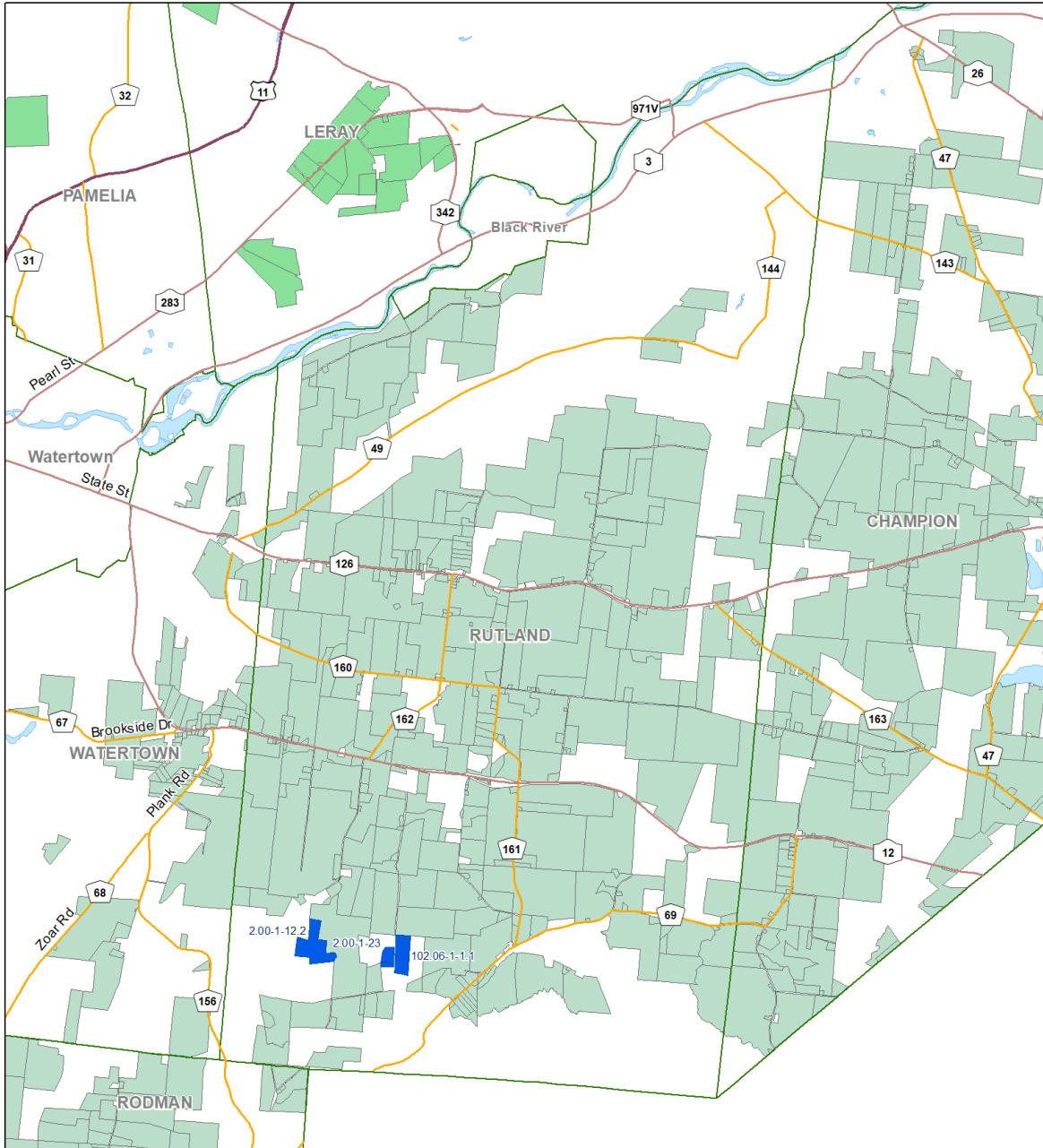
**Legend**

- Proposed Inclusion
- Agricultural District



# Proposed 2023 Agricultural District Inclusions

## Rutland, New York



Created by Jefferson County Planning Dept, July 2023

**Legend**

- Requested 2023 Inclusion
- Agricultural Districts**
- Southeast
- North
- Southwest

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Sources: Jefferson County Office of Real Property Services, CSCIC



**7. Reuben Peachy**

Parcel Number	Town	GIS Acres	District
102.06-1-1.1	Rutland	39.57	SE: 1
2.00-1-23	Rutland	11.78	SE: 1

The applicant is requesting to add two parcels to the Southeast District. The applicant stated the land is used for growing produce and maple harvesting. Staff observed signs of agricultural activities and numerous maple trees.

**Reuben Peachy, 102.06-1-1.1 & 2.00-1-23, Archer Road**







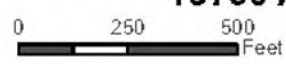
NYS ITS GIS Program Office, Westchester County GIS

## Proposed Agricultural District Inclusion

**2023 Inclusion Process**  
**Peachey, Reuben**  
**15790 Archer Rd**

**Legend**

-  Proposed Inclusion
-  Agricultural District

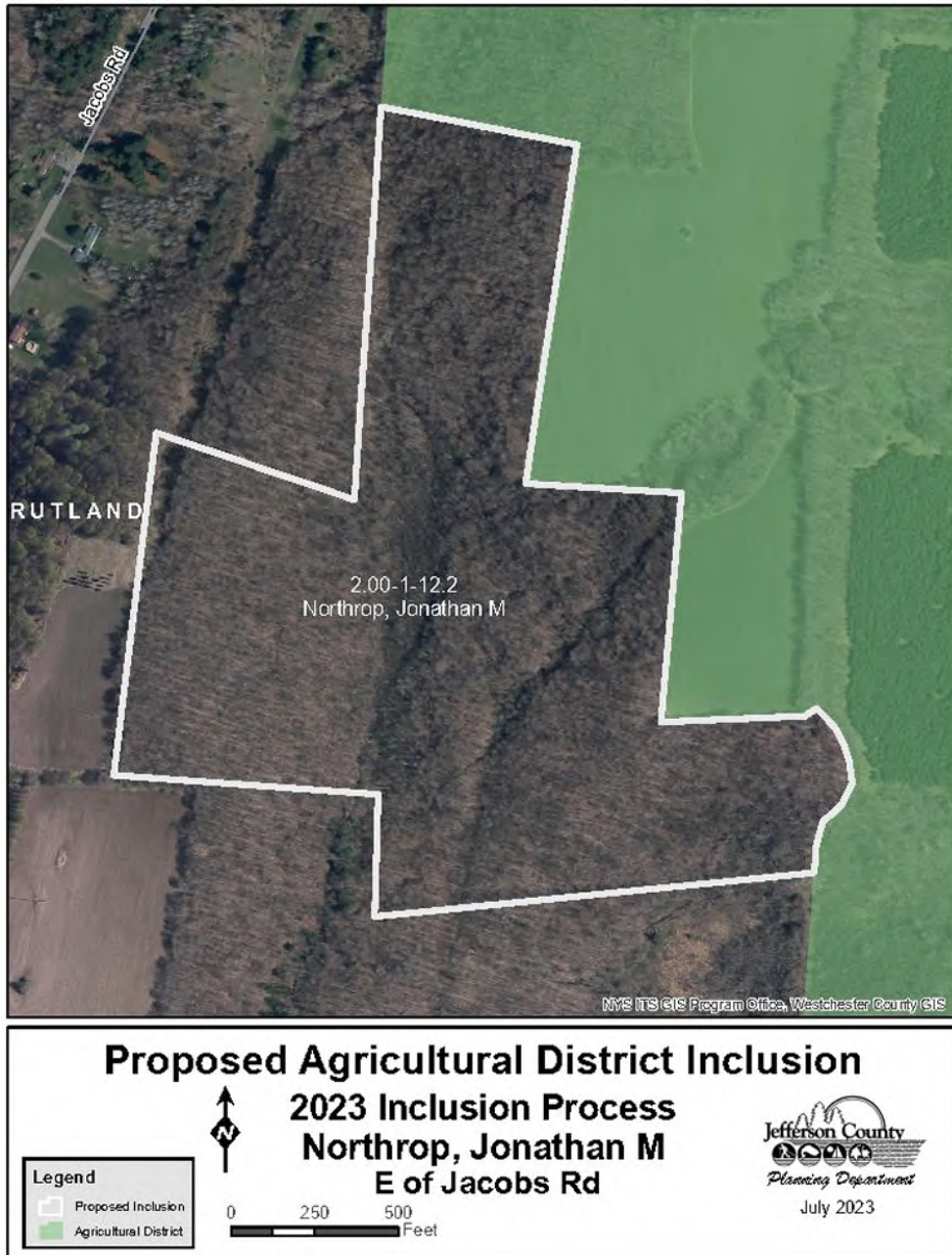


July 2023

**8. Jonathan Northrup**

Parcel Number	Town	GIS Acres	District
2.00-1-12.2	Rutland	59.93	SE: 1

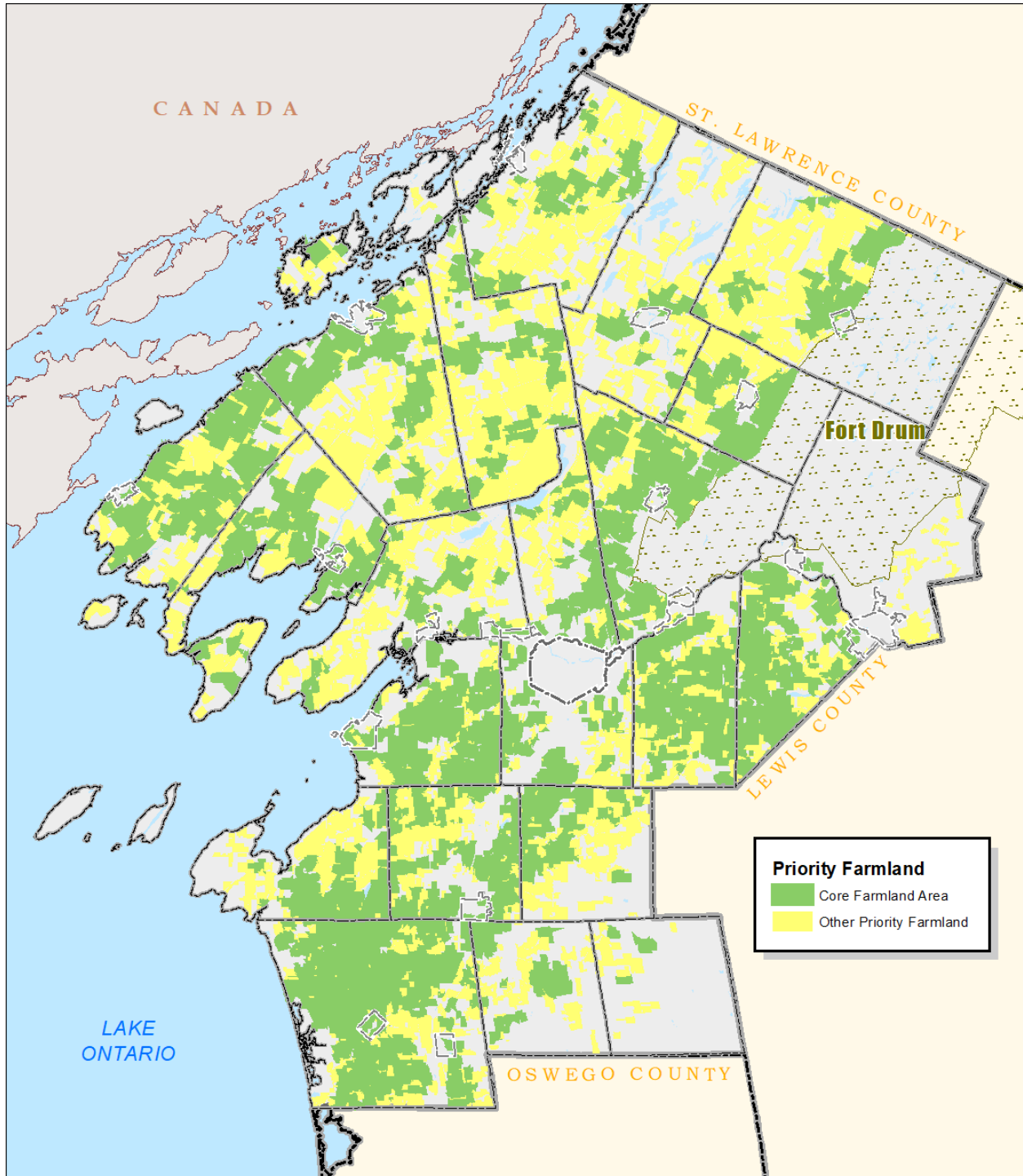
The applicant is requesting to add one parcel to the Southeast District. The applicant stated the land is used for maple products. Staff observed numerous maple trees in the area. Staff was unable to obtain a photograph of the exact parcel since it is landlocked.





## PRIORITY FARMLAND – JC Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, 2016

The recently adopted Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan indicated priority farmland in the County. The map below identifies the areas. Most of the requested additions are within one of the areas or in close proximity.





## PRIORITY AGRICULTURAL SOILS

While the identification of specific soil type’s location is not possible, this general soil map shows that all of the proposed additions contain one or more of the soils identified below.



Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, ESRI, Jefferson County Real Property Tax Services, Fort Drum Engineering

**Recommendation of the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board  
for the 2022 Agricultural District Inclusion Requests**

The Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board recommends that the following parcels, totaling 802.71 GIS acres, be added to existing agricultural districts:

Recommendation		Parcel Number	Landowner	Town	GIS Acres	Ag. District
Approve	Disapprove					
X		89.00-2-10.1	Bendwell	Hounsfield	67	SW
X		90.00-4-57.232	Bendwell	Hounsfield	31.26	SW
X		89.00-1-64.1	Thomas	Hounsfield	139.57	SW
X		89.00-1-64.6	Thomas	Hounsfield	8.84	SW
X		90.00-4-56.21	Whitmore	Hounsfield	196.67	SW
X		81.00-1-85.1	Brunet	Hounsfield	61.47	SW
X		90.00-5-28	Nohle	Hounsfield	49.92	SW
X		90.00-4-32	Amelio	Hounsfield	136.7	SW
X		102.06-1-1.1	Peachey	Rutland	39.57	SE
X		2.00-1-23	Peachey	Rutland	11.78	SE
X		2.00-1-12.2	Northrup	Rutland	59.93	SE

Motion made by: John Peck, seconded by Michael Keichel.

All in favor: Douglas Shelmidine, John Peck, Jan Martusewicz, Michael Kiechle, Roxanne Burns, Michael Bourcy.

Opposed: N/A.

Absent: Al Gehrke, Steve Watson, Pat Crast, Dan McBride, and Amanda Rae Root.

Motion carried.



**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Authorizing Jefferson County to be Lead Agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the Purpose of Conducting an Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County North Agricultural District #2, and Making a Determination of Non-Significance

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, The Board of Legislators formally received notification from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to commence the Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County North Agricultural District No. 2, and

Whereas, The Eight Year Review process is an action subject to environmental review in accordance with Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law "State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR)" Act, and

Whereas, An Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) has been completed which evaluates potential environmental impacts, expresses the County's desire to serve as lead agency, determines that no significant impacts will occur, and is incorporated in this resolution.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County shall assume lead agency status for this action pursuant to SEQR and has determined that this is an unlisted action and will not have any adverse environmental impacts, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman is hereby authorized to sign the Environmental Assessment Form and forward same to NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

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State of New York    )  
                                  ) ss.:  
County of Jefferson )

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board of Legislators

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**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Adopting Modifications Pursuant to the Eight Year Review of the  
Jefferson County North Agricultural District, No. 2

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, The Board of Legislators formally received notification from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to commence the Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County North Agricultural District, No. 2, and

Whereas, In accordance with the provisions of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25AA, as amended, a review notice was published and the Jefferson County North Agricultural District, No. 2 was placed on file in the County Clerk's Office for a thirty (30) day review and modification period, and

Whereas, During the review period, 2,058.40 acres of land was requested to be added and 1,237.8 acres of land was requested to be removed from the District, and

Whereas, The District and proposed modifications were referred to the Jefferson County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board for its review and recommendations, and

Whereas, The report of the County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board with its recommendation to modify and re-establish the district for eight years has been duly received by this Board of Legislators, and

Whereas, A public hearing was held on October 3, 2023 at which time consideration was given to the original Agricultural District, the recommendations of the County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, and the proposed modifications to the District.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That pursuant to Section 303-a of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, the Jefferson County Board of Legislators does hereby modify and re-establish the Jefferson County North Agricultural District, No. 2, to consist of 115,286.6 acres of land, for a period of eight years. The modified boundary is depicted on a set of maps entitled Jefferson County North Agricultural District, No. 2 (2024).

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

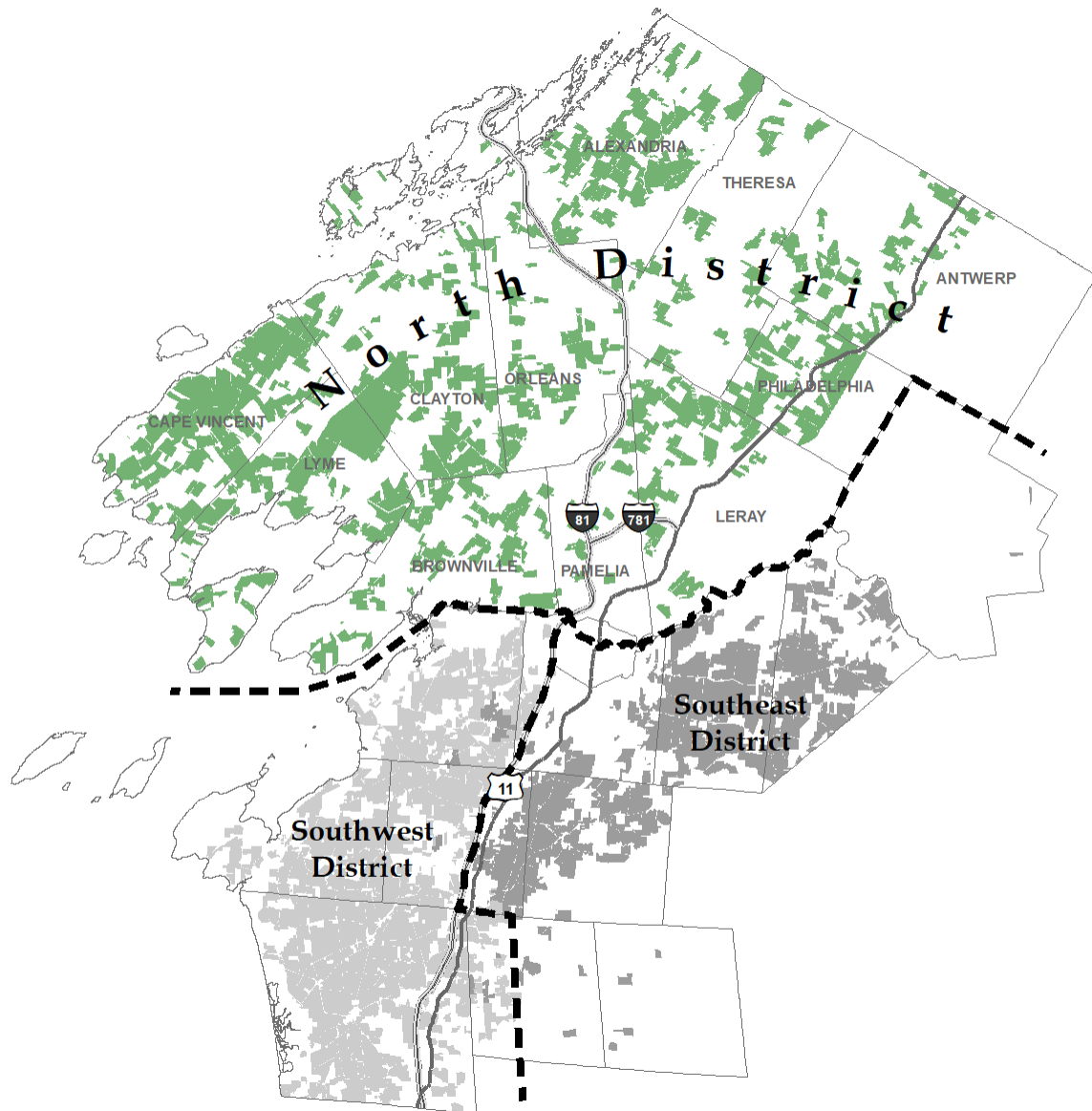
JEFFERSON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 2, NORTH

EIGHT-YEAR REVIEW

TOWNS OF ALEXANDRIA, ANTWERP, BROWNVILLE, CAPE VINCENT, CLAYTON, LERAY, LYME, ORLEANS, PAMELIA, PHILADELPHIA, AND THERESA.

Jefferson County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2023



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## **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

This report presents the findings of the Jefferson County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board's (AFPB) 2024, eight-year review and final recommendations to the County Legislature for Agricultural District 2 in the Jefferson County Towns of Alexandria, Antwerp, Brownville, Cape Vincent, Clayton, LeRay, Lyme, Orleans, Pamela, Philadelphia, and Theresa.

Article 25-AA of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law was enacted in 1971 to help keep farmland in agricultural production through a combination of landowner incentives and protections that discourage the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses, including:

- providing reduced property tax bills for agricultural lands (agricultural landowners must apply to the local tax assessor for an annual agricultural assessment);
- providing the framework to limit unreasonable local regulation on accepted agricultural practices;
- providing Right to Farm provisions that protect accepted agricultural practices from private nuisance suits;
- modifying state agency administrative regulations and procedures to encourage the continuation of agricultural businesses;
- modifying the ability to advance public funds to construct facilities that encourage development;
- limiting the power to impose benefit assessments, special ad valorem levies or other rates or fees in certain improvement districts or benefit areas such as water, sewer, or nonfarm drainage; and
- reducing the ability of public agencies to acquire farmland through eminent domain.

Agricultural districts primarily benefit owners of land that is farmed. Being part of an agricultural district does not require that the land be used for agriculture, and it does not directly affect tax assessments (agricultural landowners must apply to the local tax assessor for an annual agricultural assessment).

Agricultural districts are reviewed by the Jefferson County Legislature and recertified by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner every eight years. During the review landowners can decide if they want their property to remain in the district or be removed or added. The review is announced through public notices and announcements, a municipal notice letter, and a mailing to all landowners within the district, which includes a property owner notice letter, a removal and addition request form, and a farm survey.



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Article 25-AA of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law requires the AFPB to consider the following factors when creating and reviewing an agricultural district:

- the viability of active farming within and adjacent to the district;
- the presence of viable inactive farmlands within and adjacent to the district;
- the nature and extent of land uses other than active farming within and adjacent to the district;
- county developmental patterns and needs; and
- any other relevant matters.

“Viable agricultural land”, as defined in Article 25-AA of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law, Section 301, sub.7, means land highly suitable for a farm operation which is defined as “the land and on-farm buildings, equipment, manure processing and handling facilities, and practices which contribute to the production, preparation and marketing of crops, livestock and livestock products as a commercial enterprise”. In judging viability, Article 25-AA of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law requires the AFPB to consider:

- natural factors including soil, climate, and topography;
- markets for farm products;
- the extent and nature of farm improvements;
- the present status of farming;
- anticipated trends in agricultural economic conditions and technology; and
- any other relevant factors.

There are three Agricultural Districts in the County currently comprising **243,135 acres**.

The Jefferson County North Agriculture District #2 (North District) was formed in 2000 by consolidating the existing Agriculture Districts of Cape Vincent #2, Chaumont #5, Point Peninsula #7, Lyme #8, Gunns Corners #9, LeRay #12, Philadelphia #13, Brownville #14, and Evans Mills #16. It incorporates agricultural land lying within the Towns of Alexandria, Antwerp, Brownville, Cape Vincent, Clayton, LeRay, Lyme, Orleans, Pamela, Philadelphia, and Theresa.

The North District was last reviewed in **2016** and recertified with an anniversary date of **January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**. At the time of the recertification, **the North District encompassed 112,648**. During the Annual Individual Inclusion process for the past seven years, **1,173 acres were added to the North District, giving it a current total of 113,821 acres**.

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## **EIGHT YEAR REVIEW PROCESS**

New York State Agricultural Districts Law Article 25AA authorizes Counties to create Agricultural Districts when petitioned by farmers. Agricultural Districts are established to provide benefits to agricultural landowners and to strengthen the identity of the agricultural community.

After Agricultural Districts are established, NYS Agriculture and Markets Law requires a review every 8, 12, or 20 years to determine whether they are still viable agricultural areas and if they should be continued, modified or terminated. The review process provides the only opportunity to delete land.

According to Section 303-a of the New York State Agricultural Districts Law, the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board must prepare a report concerning the following:

- (1) the nature and status of farming and farm resources within such district, including the total number of acres of land and the total number of acres of land in farm operations in the district;**
- (2) The extent to which the district has achieved its original objectives;**
- (3) The extent to which county and local comprehensive plans, policies and objectives are consistent with and support the district;**
- (4) The degree of coordination between local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations that apply to farm operations in such district and their influence on farming; and**
- (5) Recommendations to continue, terminate or modify such district.**

Pursuant to the requirements of NYS Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25 AA, the Agricultural District review process begins with the County Board of Legislators (BOL) publishing a notice announcing the review and giving the public the opportunity to propose modifications to the District.

The BOL then refers the District to the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) for its review and recommendation.

After the BOL receives the recommendation, it holds a public hearing to allow the public and municipalities the chance to comment on the District and any proposed changes. The BOL then considers the recommendation from the AFPB and the record of the public hearing and makes a finding to continue, terminate, or modify the District. The BOL also completes a SEQR Review at this time. If the BOL finds that the District should be continued or modified, it submits a District Review Plan to the NYS Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets.

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## 1. DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL VIABILITY

Currently, there are **113,821 acres of land in the North District**, with about **85,157 acres of land with an active agriculture assessment**. The remaining **28,459 acres** are predominantly assessed residential (16,173 acres) or vacant land (12,286 acres).

There are **115,286 acres of land proposed in the North District**, with about **85,933 acres of land with a proposed agriculture assessment**. The remaining proposed **28,646 acres** are predominantly assessed residential (16,611 acres) or vacant land (12,035 acres).

The North District lies in the northern half of the County located in the St. Lawrence River Valley, stretching from Lake Ontario in the west, the Black River in the south to St. Lawrence County in the east. Elevations range from 246 feet mean sea level to 650 feet mean sea level.

The terrain is generally flat with gently rolling hills, which easily accommodates agriculture. The soils, climate, and topography of the area will generally support agriculture as a viable land use.

Below is a detailed analysis of Jefferson County farms, farmland, and agricultural economic characteristics. This information reflects data from the U.S. Census of Agriculture from 2007 to 2017. This data is not available for the North District area specifically. **The U.S. Census of Agriculture data for 2022 is not available yet.**

### Number of Farms

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, between 2007 and 2017 the number of farms in Jefferson County decreased by 10.5%, a net reduction of 93 farms. (As a point of comparison, between 2007 and 2017, the number of farms increased by 1.5% in Lewis County, decreased by 5.8% in St. Lawrence County, and decreased by 8.0% statewide.) The 2017 Census of Agriculture reported 792 farms in Jefferson County. Most of the decline, however, occurred between 2012 and 2017.

### Land in Farms

Land in farms in Jefferson County totaled 247,456 acres in 2017, a 14.9% decline from 290,811 acres in 2012. Total cropland in Jefferson County in 2017 was 168,757 acres, comprising approximately 68% of all farmland acreage. In the North District, the highest concentration of farmed parcels are found in the towns of Cape Vincent, Clayton, Lyme, and Philadelphia, all have 40% or more of their land area in agricultural use. The Town of LeRay contains significant portions of the Fort Drum Military base, which limits the area available for farming.



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### Average Farm Size

The average farm in Jefferson County in 2017 was 312 acres, a decrease from 332 acres in 2012. The New York State average was 205 acres, slightly up from 202 acres five years earlier. Farms in Jefferson County tend to be larger than those in Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties.

Jefferson County farms are relatively diverse in terms of size: 26.5% of the farms in 2017 had fewer than 50 acres, while 34.3% were in the 50 to 179 acres range. In the larger categories, 26.3% had 180 to 4,999 acres, while 12.9% had at least 500 acres. Between 2007 and 2017, the total number of farms in Jefferson County declined by over 10%. Most of the farms lost from the inventory were in the 260-to-499-acre range. It is not clear whether these farms sold off some of their acreage and became smaller or ceased operations altogether. A few may have gained acreage and become larger, as there was a modest gain of 13 farms in the 1,000 acres and up category.

The County has added more small farms, however. The number of farms with less than 100 acres increased 16% from 2007 to 2017. Most of the growth was among farms of less than 10 acres.

### Farm Products

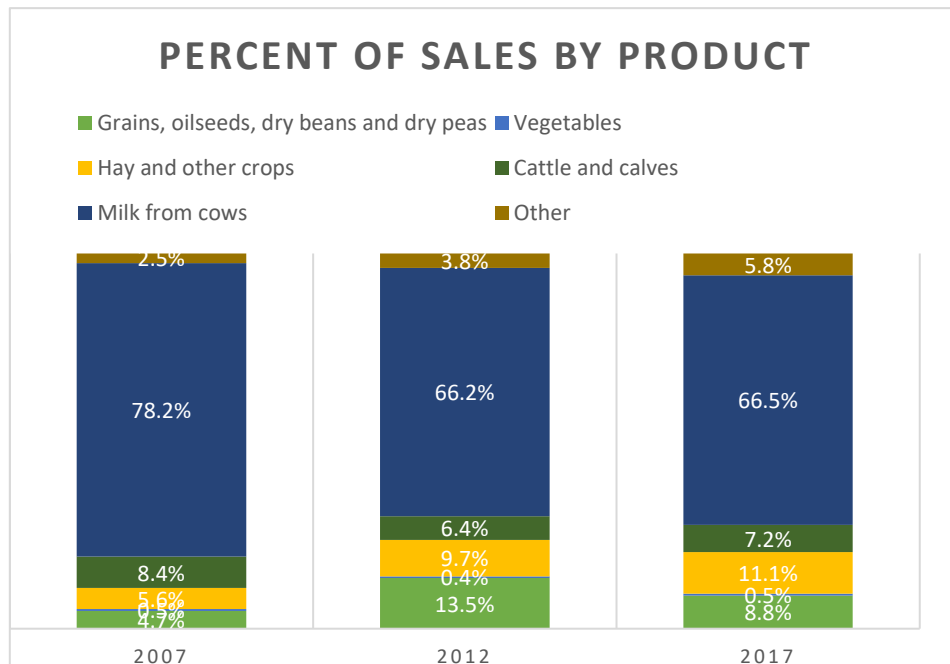
Jefferson County ranks 8<sup>th</sup> among NYS counties in Milk Production according to the USDA or the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Jefferson County farms generated roughly \$165.1 million in sales in 2017, with the livestock sector accounting for about 78% of the total. The leading agricultural commodities were dairy products (\$109.8 million), grain and soybeans (\$14.6 million), hay and silage (\$18.3 million), and beef cattle (\$12 million).

Farm sales as reported in 2017 have decreased 10.0% from 2012, although there has been an 18.5% increase from 2007. The decline comes from a 41.2% decrease in grain and bean sales and a 9.6% decrease in milk sales, both major products in Jefferson County. Sales of hay, cattle, vegetables, and a new category, nursery, and greenhouse, have all increased modestly.

Compared to 2012, 11 more farms are producing hay and other crops. Fewer farms are producing in other categories, which aligns with an overall decrease of 84 farms.

The most common crop in the County is forage, which is grown on 420 farms covering 93,814 acres, followed by corn for silage, raised on 23,388 acres. In 2017 Jefferson County was ranked second of all counties in the state in forage.

The table below shows classification of sales income in Jefferson County by agricultural product over three agricultural census years.



Conclusions

While the number of farms in Jefferson County decreased between 2012 and 2017, farming remains a very active and viable component of the local economy. The amount of farmland acreage is down 14.9%, but agricultural sales were only down 10.0%. The decline of farming in the County is in line with New York State’s overall decrease of agricultural production, but it has been more marked in Jefferson County than in its North Country neighbors. The amount of agricultural land will probably be less in the 2022 Ag Census due to the increase in solar development over the last few years.

Since the last North District review, through the Annual Inclusion of Viable Agricultural Land to Existing Agricultural District process 1,173 acres of agricultural land have been added to District 2 in Jefferson County, demonstrating the desire of farmers to utilize available programs to assist them in protecting their operations.

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## **SURVEYS**

As part of any Agricultural District Review Process, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets requires that a District Profile, which describes the characteristics of the District, be submitted. To complete the District Profile, the Department of Planning mailed 517 surveys to existing landowners.

Each survey listed the “In District” parcels for a particular landowner in our database and asked a series of questions: the use of the parcels; should the parcels remain in the District; farm name and phone number; total acres of crops owned and rented; principal farm enterprise; and whether any parcels are rented to or from another landowner.

Farm surveys and Addition/Removal Forms were also posted on the County’s website and publicized in local newspapers. Additionally, notices were distributed to the Tug Hill Commission, Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York Farm Bureau, Jefferson County Agricultural Coordinator, and each affected town clerk.

For the farm surveys, 251 surveys were returned out of the 517 mailed out, with a response rate of 48.5%.

Only two landowners requested their land (eight parcels) removed from the North District. There were 29 current landowners who requested to have additional land (44 parcels) added to the North District. The number of acres proposed to be removed from the North District is 1,237.8. The number of acres proposed to be added to the North District is 2,058.4.



<b>North Agricultural District #2 Modifications</b>				
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Parcels Proposed to be Added</b>	<b>GIS Acres Proposed to be Added</b>	<b>Parcels Proposed to be Removed</b>	<b>GIS Acres Proposed to be Removed</b>
T-Alexandria	0	0	0	0
T-Antwerp	2	465.7	0	0
T-Brownville	0	0	0	0
T-Cape Vincent	15	624.5	5	712.7
T-Clayton	6	88.3	0	0
T-LeRay	4	111.6	1	1
T-Lyme	5	272	2	524.1
T-Orleans	6	289.9	0	0
T-Pamelia	0	0	0	0
T-Philadelphia	3	114	0	0
T-Theresa	3	92.5	0	0
V-Brownville	0	0	0	0
V-Cape Vincent	0	0	0	0
V-Chaumont	0	0	0	0
V-Glen Park	0	0	0	0
V-Philadelphia	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2,058.4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,237.8</b>

The 2016 North District Profile established the District size at 112,648 acres. Since the last review of the North District, there have been 1,173 acres added through the Annual Individual Inclusion process.

Lot line adjustments, parcel splits, and parcel merges over the past eight years have changed the starting acreage to 114,466 acres. The proposed modifications shown above make the revised total acres for the North District 115,286.6.

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## 2. THE NORTH DISTRICT OBJECTIVES

The eleven towns within which the North District is located, and the County recognize that agriculture is an important part of the County's economic base and have demonstrated support for agriculture through their plans and policies.

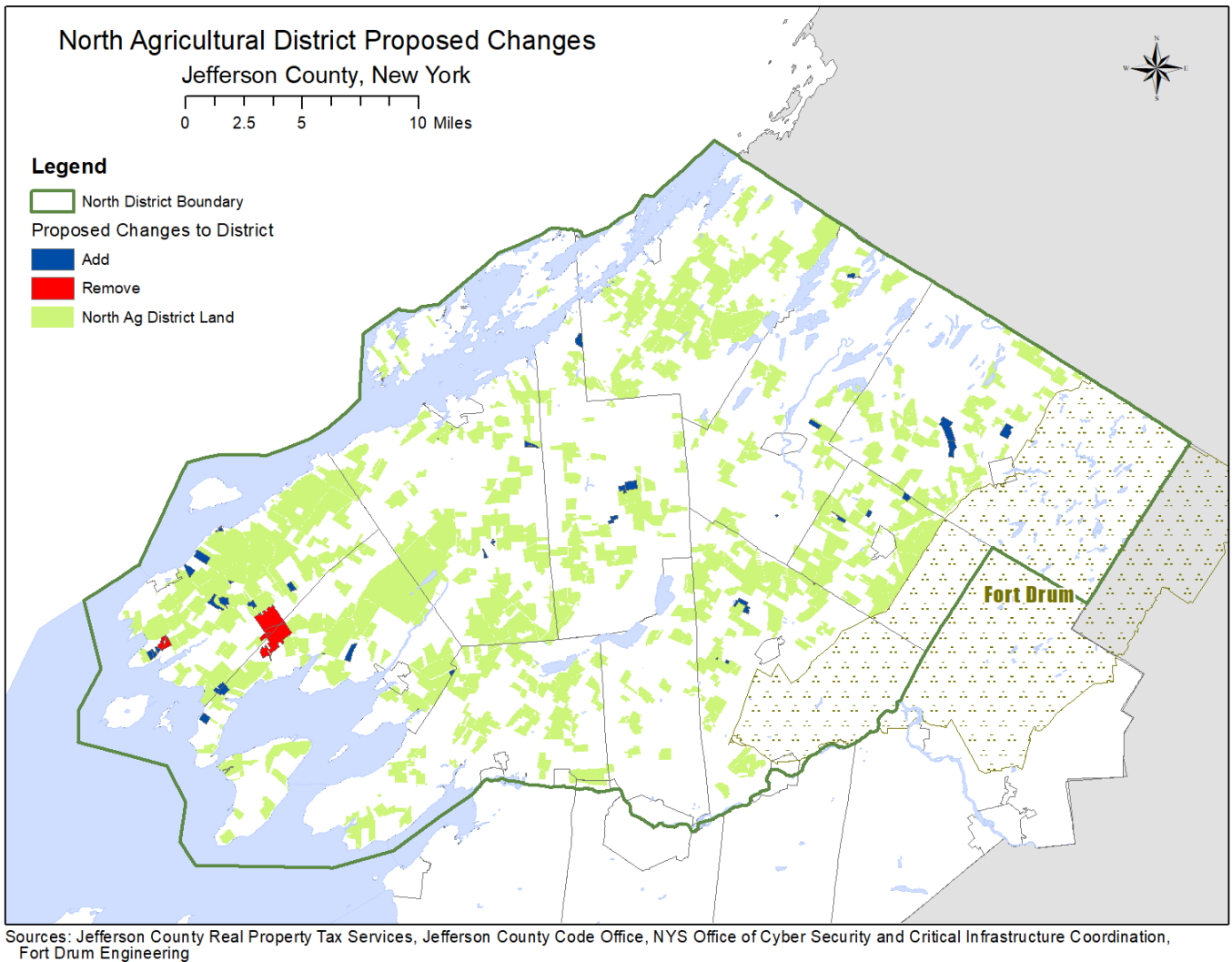
The original districts that made up the North District were created to preserve and protect the farmers' livelihood, to prevent the enactment of codes and regulations that would be detrimental to agriculture and to help protect farms from development pressure from the villages, hamlets, and growth associated with the Fort Drum expansion. Evidence that these purposes have been furthered can be seen in the continued commitment by the farmers to remain in agriculture.

Jefferson County has adopted a local law recognizing the right to farm. It includes legislative findings and intent that recognizes agriculture as an important industry in the County that contributes to the economy, maintains open space, enhances the quality of life, promotes environmental quality, and places minimal demands on services provided by local governments. It also recognizes that when non-agricultural land uses extend into agricultural areas, agricultural operations may become threatened due to high land values and nuisance lawsuits. The law is designed to help maintain and enhance the agricultural industry of the County, to permit the continuation of acceptable agricultural practices, to protect the existence and continued operation of farms, to encourage the initiation and expansion of agricultural businesses, and to promote new ways to resolve disputes concerning agricultural practices and farm operations. It accomplishes this by limiting the circumstances under which farming may be deemed to be a nuisance and to allow agricultural practices inherent to and necessary for the business of farming to proceed and be undertaken free of unreasonable and unwarranted interference or restriction. It also establishes a voluntary mediation program and includes notification of real estate buyers and neighbors through the use of a disclosure notice.

The Jefferson County Board of Legislators continually provides financial support to agricultural agencies and organizations, aided in creating and funding a County Agricultural Coordinator Position, approved the creation of a Purchase of Development Rights Program, Fort Drum and area Land Trusts have developed an Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program, and the County's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) includes policies and strategies for agriculture. The Towns' land use policies, carried out through Town Zoning Laws, promote agriculture, and are relatively uniform. A review of the Zoning Laws for the Towns indicated that a majority of the land within these towns is zoned Agricultural-Rural Residential with agriculture as one of the permitted land uses. In 1998, Jefferson County passed a Right to Farm Law, and several Towns passed a similar motion that recognized the importance of farming and provided for procedures to address disputes between agriculture and non-agriculture property owners. The similarity of local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations between the Towns and the County has a positive influence on farm operations.

These findings confirm the extent to which the District maintains its original objectives.

### 3. & 4. AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES



Given the critical role agriculture plays in the economy and quality of life in Jefferson County, loss of farmland is of great concern. Farmland can be lost when it is converted to urban uses, abandoned, or converted to protected, but non-farmed open spaces. In Jefferson County farmland does continue to be converted to urban and suburban uses (commercial and residential). In the past few years the development of solar projects on agricultural land has been more of a concern.

Between 2010 and 2020, the Jefferson County population only grew from 116,229 to 116,721, an increase of only 492 people.

For the North District, the highest population increases were in the towns of LeRay, Theresa, Brownville, Clayton, Lyme, Orleans, and Pamela. LeRay had the highest population increase and includes the on-base housing on Fort Drum.



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Population changes can have a direct or indirect impact on farms and farmland. As population increases, the pressure for converting land for housing and commercial businesses increases. Population increases can also negatively affect farms by increasing traffic, creating farm/nonfarm conflicts, raising property values, and inducing other kinds of growth such as water and sewer infrastructure. In Jefferson County, increasing population levels are most likely related to the expansion of Fort Drum and much of the population growth is concentrated around and to the west of Fort Drum.

Jefferson County strives to counteract these measures through a variety of practices, some of which are listed in this section.

### ***Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan***

In 2014, using matching funds from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Jefferson County hired a consultant to assist in updating the 2002 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan for Jefferson County.

The Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan was officially adopted in 2016 with the following vision:

In the future...

*Agriculture in Jefferson County is a dynamic and growing industry. It is an integral part of our landscape and economy, and enjoys significant support among County residents and policy makers. Farmland is preserved and available for the production of a wide variety of farm products. Jefferson County is an agricultural commerce center serving New York State, national, and international markets.*

*The agricultural industry provides jobs, local food and beverages, and brings outside revenue into our communities. Our County includes a robust dairy industry; a growing grass-based livestock industry; vibrant craft beverage operations; agri-tourism businesses; and other related agri-business enterprises. Many of our farms are diverse businesses with vegetable, fruit and cash crops, other agricultural products, and value-added processing facilities marketing high quality products locally and globally. There is a strong agri-business infrastructure that supports the local farming industry. Our youth are interested in farming as a desirable career choice.*

The Plan establishes six goals:

- Goal 1: Enhance efforts to keep farmland in production and keep farms economically viable;
- Goal 2: Increase educational programming targeted to farmers, policy makers, and residents;
- Goal 3: Support the local dairy sector, production agriculture, and the remaining agricultural industry in Jefferson County;
- Goal 4: Enhance the financial success of farms and develop and promote new agricultural products, new

markets, and marketing efforts;

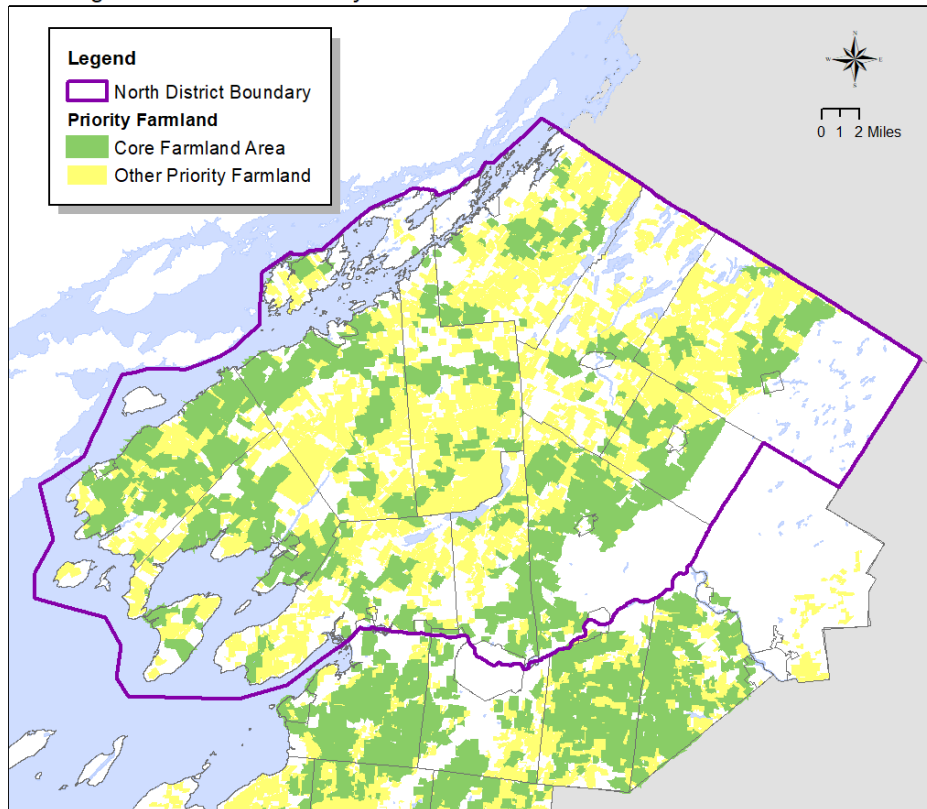
Goal 5: Address regulatory policies and programs that may negatively impact farming;

Goal 6: Strengthen the next generation of farmers.

The plan outlines 56 strategies to be implemented over time to enhance agriculture in the County. Priority projects include:

- Develop Agricultural friendly Local Land Use Laws
- Reduce Energy Cost through On-farm Energy Conservation
- Ensure Public Access to this Plan and the Implementation Strategies
- On-farm Water Development, Protection and Conservation
- Provide College Intern Assistance
- Maintain Jefferson County's Come Farm With Us Website

North Agricultural District Priority Farmland



Sources: Jefferson County Real Property Tax Services, Jefferson County Code Office, NYS Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination

As a part of this plan, critical farmlands were identified to be protected. Identification of priority farmlands is of further importance because landowners wishing to participate in the New York State Farmland

Protection Program must now show how their property is consistent with the location of any land or areas proposed to be protected in a County's or a municipality's agricultural and farmland protection plan.

While all the farmland identified in this plan should be considered a priority, as far as preservation efforts are concerned, there is a select, core area that is of special concern. The following map shows the Priority Farmland Area

described in this plan, and a special Core Area that is considered critical to the continued economic vitality of the agricultural industry in Jefferson County. These core areas, symbolized in green on the map, deserve extra attention beyond preservation efforts, especially when local or regional projects will have a significant impact on their continuation as farmland.

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## **RECOMMENDATION OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD**

Pursuant to New York State Agricultural Districts Law, Article 25-AA, Section 303-a, the following factors were considered by the Jefferson County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board before making their recommendations on the modification of the North Agricultural District # 2.

The nature of farming and farmland resources within such District;

The overall status of farming, the farm economy, and farm investment in such District as evidenced by information provided by farmers;

The extent to which the number of farms and farm acres in such District furthers the purposes for which such District was originally created;

The extent to which the District has achieved its original objective; and

Any county agricultural and farmland protection planning or implementation efforts pursuant to Article 25-AAA.

The Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board made the following findings:

Agriculture remains the predominant land use in the North Agricultural District #2 and the vast majority of respondents intend to remain in agriculture and are committed to remain in the District.

The original districts that made up the North Agricultural District #2, were created to preserve and protect the farmers' livelihood, to prevent the enactment of codes and regulations that would be detrimental to agriculture and to help protect farms from development pressure from the villages, hamlets, and rural residential growth. Evidence that these purposes have been furthered can be seen in the continued commitment by the farmers to remain in agriculture. In addition, requests were submitted by landowners to add 2058.4 acres while only 1237.8 acres were requested to be removed.

These findings confirm the extent to which the District maintains its original objectives.

The Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board presents this report and recommendation on the North Agricultural District #2.

Based on the findings outlined above, the Board recommends that the North Agricultural District #2 be modified and re-established for eight years.

The North District, as modified, will consist of 115,286.6 acres.



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Respectfully submitted,

Doug Shelmidine, Chairperson

John Peck, Vice-Chairperson

Al Gehrke

Steve Watson

Jan Martusewicz

Michael Kiechle

Pat Crast

Daniel McBride

Roxanne Burns

Michael Bourcy

Amanda Rae Root

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Authorizing Agreements in Relation to the Supervision & Treatment  
Services for Juveniles Program

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, New York State Office of Children and Family Services has awarded Jefferson County \$138,210 for the provision of services and programs as alternatives to detention through the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles (STSJP) Program, and

Whereas, Available funding has been included in the 2023 County Budget and it is necessary to authorize agreements with the Children's Home of Jefferson County for \$133,610 and the Resolution Center of Jefferson and Lewis Counties for \$4,600, for the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, for the provision of STSJP services.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby accepts said grant award, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute agreements with the Children's Home of Jefferson County(\$133,610 for a term ending 9/30/24) and the Resolution Center of Jefferson and Lewis Counties (\$4,600 for a term ending 9/30/24), and any and all documents as may be required to fulfill the requirements of this grant award on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to approval by the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

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State of New York    )  
                                  ) ss.:  
County of Jefferson )

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board of Legislators

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**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation To Assigned Counsel Costs

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, Under New York State County Law, Article 18-B, S. 722, counties pay for assigned counsel who represent indigent defendants at hourly rates set by the State, and

Whereas, The New York State Budget for FY 2023-24 increased the assigned counsel hourly rate to \$158 per hour effective as of April 1, up from prior \$60 per hour for misdemeanors and \$75 per hour for felonies, and

Whereas, The NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services Aid to Localities' budget for FY 2023-24 includes funding to reimburse counties for half of the rate increase for the period April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024, and

Whereas, The appropriations will be expended before year-end.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Expenditure		
01117100 04442	Family Court	\$ 50,000
01117100 04443	County Court	20,000
01117100 04444	City Court	45,000
01117100 04445	Justice Courts	10,000
01117100 04446	Appellate Court	10,000

Revenue		
01142000 93025	State Aid-Indigent Legal Services	\$ 67,500

**Decrease:**

Expenditure		
01199000 04963	Contingent Account	\$ 67,500

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_



**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Amending the 2023 County Budget for Corrections Insurance

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, Per Resolution 189, This Board of Legislators authorized an agreement with PrimeCare Medical of New York for comprehensive healthcare services for the County Correctional Facility effective October 1st, and

Whereas, Said agreement includes PrimeCare procuring its own insurance at that time, and

Whereas, Insurance coverage for medical professional liability covering county corrections medical staff must be extended for any claims made after October 1<sup>st</sup> related to incidents that happened before that date, and

Whereas, Such extended reporting period coverage cost exceeds the amount budgeted, and

Whereas, Funding is available in the Corrections Personal Services account due to vacancies.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Expenditure		
01315000 04219	Insurance	\$ 21,719

**Decrease:**

Expenditure		
01315000 01100	Personal Services	\$ 21,719

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

State of New York )  
                                  ) ss.:  
County of Jefferson )

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. \_\_\_\_ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board of Legislators

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Authorizing Agreement with the NYS Unified Court System  
for Cleaning and Maintenance of Court Facilities

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, Counties are required by law to furnish and maintain adequate court facilities for use by State Courts, and

Whereas, Pursuant to Chapter 686 of the Laws of 1996, New York State was designated with fiscal responsibility for managing interior cleaning and minor repairs within court facilities, and required to contract with counties for such maintenance, and

Whereas, Jefferson County desires to enter into an agreement with the NYS Unified Court System for the provision of cleaning and maintenance services to the local courts during the period April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2028 in consideration of reimbursement by the NYS Unified Court System to the County for actual costs for cleaning and maintenance, and

Whereas, The maximum compensation for the 2023-2024 period shall be \$243,460.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into an agreement with the NYS Unified Court System for the provision of cleaning and maintenance services to the local courts for the period April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024 in consideration of reimbursement by the NYS Unified Court System to the County for actual costs for cleaning and maintenance in the amount of \$243,460, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute such agreement on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to approval by the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

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State of New York    )  
                                  ) ss.:  
County of Jefferson )

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board of Legislators

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