

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE TOWN OF WALES PARTICIPATION
IN THE COUNTYWIDE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY PLAN**

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature enacted the Property Tax Freeze Credit to provide property tax refunds to homeowners as part of the 2014-2015 State Budget; and

WHEREAS, the new law encourages local governments to generate long-term tax relief for taxpayers by sharing services, consolidating or merging, and demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, in year one of the program, which is 2015 for local governments, homeowners will receive the Freeze Credit if their local government stays within the property tax cap; and

WHEREAS, in year two of the program, which is 2016 for local governments, homeowners will receive the Freeze Credit for property taxes from any taxing jurisdiction in which the homeowner resides that stays within the property tax cap and puts forward a State-approved Government Efficiency Plan demonstrating savings equivalent to one percent of their property tax levies in each of the following three years; and

WHEREAS, while local governments may take a variety of approaches to develop their Government Efficiency Plans, the State has strongly encouraged they convene and facilitate a process to develop and submit county-wide Government Efficiency Plans; and

WHEREAS, as exemplified in the recent establishment of the Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation in 2012, this community has a history of receiving recognition by the State for demonstrating successful regional collaborations involving many municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Erie County has offered to coordinate the development of such Government Efficiency Plans as the 'lead agency' on behalf of all other interested municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wales is interested in intergovernmental cooperation with Erie County and other municipalities in submitting a county-wide Government Efficiency Plan and desires to memorialize its intention to participate in a coordinated Plan to allow its homeowners to receive the Freeze Credit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Wales seeks to ensure that Town homeowners will receive the Freeze Credit as part of this new State law; and

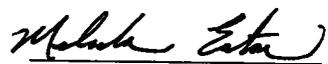
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Wales did not exceed its designated property tax cap for fiscal year 2015 and memorializes that it has no intention of exceeding the cap for fiscal year 2016, which if exceeded would disqualify the town from participation in the Property Tax Cap Freeze Credit Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wales Town Board does hereby express its support for, and participation in an Erie County-wide Government Efficiency Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board urges the New York State Division of the Budget to approve Erie County's coordinated Government Efficiency Plan with local governments with the understanding that the Town has played an active role in the identification of preexisting and implementation of new shared services, consolidations or merges, and operational efficiencies within the Town of Wales for inclusion in the county-wide plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Legislature: the Erie County Executive; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; the County Comptroller; the County Attorney; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; and the Association of Erie County Governments.

Motion approved by Councilman Gerald Klinck and second by Councilman Donald Butcher. CARRIED February 10, 2015


Melinda Eaton, Town Clerk