

General Services Committee
June 14, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Philip Reed, Legislators Patrick Jareo, Jeremiah Maxon, Jennie Adsit, Anthony Doldo, Chairman of the Board Scott Gray

Others Present: County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Legislator William Johnson, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Interim Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Secretary Torri Richmire

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor. The minutes of the May meeting were approved without objection or correction.

Joel LaLone, Research Director, and Larry Danforth, Research Coordinator, Jefferson Community College, Center for Community Studies, presented the committee with results of the 2016 Community Survey. Mr. LaLone advised that this was the 17th Annual Center for Community Studies Survey conducted in Jefferson County. He stated that there were over 70 questions on the survey and students at the college completed 416 telephone interviews over a two day period.

Mr. LaLone and Mr. Danforth stated that compared to last years survey there was a positive “Excellent or Good” trend in the region of *Quality of Life, Healthcare Access and Healthcare Quality, Quality of K-12 Education, and Policing and Crime Control*. They found the most dramatic improvement in *Availability of Housing* since 2012.

Areas of the survey where “Excellent or Good” decreased from last year was *Opportunities for Youth and Cultural/Entertainment Opportunities*. They found it very interesting that the perception of *The Downtown of Watertown* had also decreased dramatically.

This year they presented potential community issue questions, asking *How Large of an Issue Do You Believe the Following Are in Your Community*, poverty, heroin or opiate abuse, alcohol abuse, criminal acts and mental illness. The overwhelming issue felt by those taking the survey was heroin or opiate abuse (65%), followed by alcohol abuse (35%), poverty (31%), criminal acts (27%) and mental illness (26%). Although, when asked *Have You, or Any Immediate Family Been Impacted by these issues in the Past Twelve Months?* “yes” was the answer for mental health (27%), poverty (25%), alcohol abuse (23%), heroin or opiate abuse (18%) and criminal acts (16%).

Upon a request from Development Authority of the North Country to ask questions on recycling in Jefferson County, they obtained the following information; *At Your Home, What Process do you Currently Use for Recyclables?* 69% said source separation, 22.4% single-stream, *Which Process at your Home Would You Prefer to use for Recyclables?* 47% said source separation, 31.9% single-stream and *If There was a Fee for Recycling Similar to Paying for Disposing of Bags of Trash, Would You...?* 50.5% would recycle regardless and 20.8% would not recycle at all.

In conclusion, Mr. LaLone and Mr. Danforth stated that the full survey can be found on their

website at www.sunyjefferson.edu/community-business/center-community-studies and they urged Legislators to advise them of any questions they would like included in next year's survey.

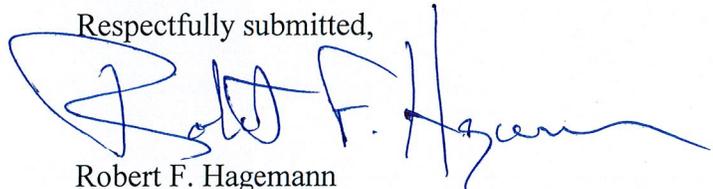
Chairman Reed announced that the second resolution on tonight's agenda, Authorizing the Execution of a Tri-County Energy Consortium Intermunicipal Agreement and Electricity Purchasing Agreement will be pulled to allow Legislators the opportunity to ask more questions and get a better understanding prior to bringing it before the Finance and Rules Committee.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement in Relation to the State Alternatives to Incarceration (Pre-Trial Release) Program Funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Jareo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed reported that the most recent report from the Sheriff's Department regarding outboarding of inmates was favorable, stating that the 2016 budget allowed \$400,000 for outboarding and as of the end of May they have only used \$112,000.

There being no further business, on a motion by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Maxon and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. Hagemann
Clerk of the Board