

**General Services Committee**  
**June 11, 2019**  
**Minutes**

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

**Others Present:** Legislator Allen Drake, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Probation Director Martin Morrison, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Watertown Daily Times Report Abraham Kenmore, Secretary Torri Richmire

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor. Larry Sorel, Executive Director of the Thompson Park Conservancy stated that he and Mark Irwin, Thompson Park Conservancy Board Chairman were here to thank Mr. LaLone and Mr. Danforth for the work that they do for the Center for Community Studies survey. Mr. Sorel stated that in 2014 there were questions regarding the zoo on the survey and the same questions were asked this year. They are interested in seeing if there are changes in those numbers as this will be very important as they move forward in planning the next phases at the zoo. The Chairman concluded privilege of the floor and 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 2019 Community Survey. Mr. LaLone advised that this was the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Center for Community Studies Survey conducted in Jefferson County. He stated that this is partially funded by Jefferson Community College, Jefferson County, Development Authority of the North Country and Northern New York Community Foundation. He advised that about 15 years ago Car Freshener Corporation left an endowment designated specifically to be used for the Center for Community Studies and that endowment fund has not been touched, they use the proceeds each year to offset costs for the 90 students who are paid and fed while conducting the survey.

Mr. LaLone and Mr. Danforth stated that 581 adults participated in the survey via telephone, email and face to face interviews during April 8-25, 2019. They stated that the interviews included five sectors of community related questions, Quality of Life in Jefferson County, Personal Opinions on Issues in our Society and Community, Tracked Local Community Characteristics, Thompson Park Conservancy and Public Transportation.

They reported that the survey revealed an overall decrease in ratings compared to last year's results, the exception being an increased rating for Downtown Watertown where residents indicated an improvement over last year. Quality of Life Indicators for Excellent or Good were at 60% or better for Access to Higher Education, Quality of the Environment, Overall Quality of Life in the Area and Quality of K-12 Education. Lowest Excellent or Good results coming in for Availability of Good Jobs and Real Estate Taxes. Mr. Danforth advised that though results showed a decrease from last year, they are where they were five years ago, which is the average instead of the high point.

The last 10 years residents were asked What is the Largest Issue Facing our Nation Right

Now, responses have certainly changed over the years with Economy/Jobs in 2009, to Government/Leadership, Politically-polarized Society and Immigration being the big ones in 2019. They also asked personal opinions of residents with two opposing statements with results showing that it was all right for same sex adults to be romantically involved, second amendment gun rights should not be compromised, abortion is a woman's right, social security should not be privatized and that President Trump is good for our country. Results were pretty even on whether to build a physical wall on the US-Mexico Border.

When questioned about the Thompson Park Conservancy, results indicated that visitation was down from 2014, residents visit for family time and recreational value, they would like to see more variety of animals and the biggest barrier to visiting was price.

Mr. Lalone encouraged Legislators to contact him or Mr. Danforth with any questions that they would like to see on next year's survey.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2019 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery and Transfers within the Road Machinery Fund and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Jareo. In response to a question from Legislator Doldo, Mr. Hagemann stated that they will be replacing one dump truck at this time and that they are still working with the insurance company. He stated that these trucks are hard to come by at such short notice and that this one is a display model. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2019 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Lake Ontario Flooding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Jareo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2019 County Budget in Relation to Recycling & Waste Management and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Jareo and seconded by Legislator Doldo. In response to a question from Legislator Maxon, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence stated that they have had a failure with one of their rolloff trucks used for collecting recycling within the county. He stated that they looked at investing \$40,000 into a rebuilt engine to place in one of their trucks that has over 400,000 miles on it but he is optimistic that they may receive grant money from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, if so then they will invest in a new truck. Until then they are trying to bide their time to see if they need to further invest, further rent or if they have the opportunity to make a purchase. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

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 Doldo and seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with AutoMon, LLC and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo and seconded by Legislator Jareo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

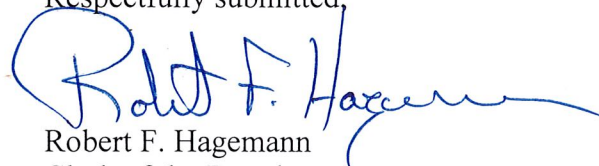
Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2019 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery and Allocating Same in Sheriff's Department Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Jareo and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Mr. Hagemann advised that the next General Services Committee Meeting will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Watertown International Airport conference room. Chairman Reed stated that there are a number of projects at the Airport in the works, the runway intersection reconstruction and the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Vehicle building are out to bid and they are working on the final design for the baggage claim and the Air Methods hanger.

Mr. Hagemann stated that in January Mr. Lawrence presented to the committee a sign designed by the County Highway Department symbolizing Jefferson County as a Purple Heart County. He reported that in May signs were placed on a variety of roads as you enter Jefferson County.

There being no further business, on a motion by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Doldo and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. Hagemann  
Clerk of the Board