

General Services Committee
December 1, 2020
Minutes

Members Virtually Present:

Committee Chair Philip Reed, Legislators Robert Cantwell, Daniel McBride, Jeremiah Maxon, Robert Ferris, Corey Grant, Anthony Doldo

Present:

Chairman of the Board Scott Gray, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs and I.T. Director Gregory Hudson, Highway Superintendent Jim Lawrence, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones, Secretary Torri Richmire

Others Virtually Present:

Legislator William Johnson, Allen Drake, Michael Montigelli, John Peck, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Frances Calarco, Fire and Emergency Management Coordinator Joseph Plummer, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Airport Manager Grant Sussey, Probation Director Kristine Maloney, Public Health Director Ginger Hall, Insurance Director Lisa Jock, Community Services Director Tim Ruetten, OFA Director Christine Ingersoll

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that the meeting is being conducted under the extraordinary circumstance of a public health emergency (COVID-19), and under Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1; without permitting public in-person access to the meeting, authorizing the meeting to be held partially or completely with members appearing by remote conference call or similar service, and the meeting is being live streamed via the web and recorded, including the participation of the members appearing by remote link.

The Committee approved the minutes of the October meeting, as written.

James Lawrence, Highway Superintendent, gave a presentation regarding tipping fees for mattress recycling. He explained that the recycling center/transfer facility is an enterprise fund which means that all revenues and expenditures must match. He stated that the past few years they have tried a few initiatives, such as a New York State mandated computer and e-waste initiative that was very successful until the bottom dropped out and they were required to pay for recycling of the products, fortunately they have found a vendor who will take the items for nothing. Another initiative started by the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) was mattress recycling within the Tri-County region. He stated that Jefferson County didn't start participating until February 2020 and has not charged a fee to residents for recycling of any size mattress, though the cost to the county to pay for transport is \$7.75. He stated that this is a good initiative because it takes it out of the landfills and out of the airspace. He advised that mattresses are very unforgiving and are hard to compact when whole, taking up much airspace. He stated that through the end of October they have taken in 4,045 mattresses in various sizes with an average weight per mattress of 40 pounds, equaling out to approximately 50 mattresses per ton. They surmise that the cost to private haulers going over the tipping scales with a mattress is approximately \$1.40 and that

residential customers are paying approximately \$2.40. He stated that it is estimated that Jefferson County took in \$5,000 revenue and lost approximately \$25,000 - \$26,000 since February.

Mr. Lawrence is requesting that the Committee approve a charge of \$10 per mattress brought to the recycling center for disposal. He stated that Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties are charging fees of \$8 - \$9. He advised that this would cover the cost of stacking them in the tractor trailers to meet the volume that is required for recycling transport and sorting the soiled mattresses which go in the landfill. He stated that they never thought that they would be dealing with the volume that they have seen come across the scales in the eight months of this initiative. In response to a question from Legislator Johnson, Mr. Lawrence stated that Towns are collecting mattresses at a fee and then bringing them in large volume to our recycling facility.

Discussion ensued with Legislators Cantwell and Doldo requesting a higher charge be implemented. Chairman Reed stated that he feels that the charge of \$10 is fair and Legislator Ferris agreed. Mr. Lawrence stated that \$10 per mattress is reasonable considering that neighboring counties are getting a similar fee and it does cover the cost and labor. Chairman Reed advised that they would revisit the subject and share the information with the Board prior to a resolution going forth. There was a consensus of the Committee regarding that suggestion.

Mr. Lawrence also addressed the subject of a large volume of brush that has accumulated at the transfer station. He advised that when the transfer station moved out on Route 12, years ago, there was an agreement with the Town of Pamela that Jefferson County would take green waste from the town as they had no other place to put it. Since then the county has continued it with the town, residents of the community and commercial haulers as well. In the past recycling had a wood grinder that the public could use at a minimum cost. On occasions the pile was taken to the co-generation plant on Fort Drum by vendors but it is no longer cost effective for them to do that. At this point there is a significant pile of green waste and he wanted to bring it to the committee's attention that in the future it will need to be addressed.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2020 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Runway 7/25 and Intersection Rehabilitation Construction Project and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2020 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Facility Construction Project and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride and seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Changing the Membership and Terms and Appointing Members to the Jefferson County Fire Advisory Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell and seconded by Legislator Ferris. Legislator Doldo is in favor of keeping both the Fire Advisory Board and the EMS Advisory Board

as a combined board and not separating them, stating that it is important for both sides to know what is going on. Chairman Reed stated that in order to have some continuity there will be representatives on both boards and that many of the topics discussed do not apply to one or the other board. Fire and Emergency Management Director Joe Plummer advised that the two boards deal with separate issues and it would be a timesaver to each group by separating them. Legislator Cantwell stated that he would volunteer to be on the EMS Advisory Board if they are looking for a legislative representative. Chairman Reed stated that the primary goal will be cross communication between the two boards. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented except Legislator Doldo who is opposed.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2020 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Lake Ontario Flooding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2020 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery and Allocating Same in Highway Department Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Cantwell. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2020 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to a County Road Account and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Cantwell. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Professional Services Agreement with VHB for the County's Online Map Viewer and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Maxon. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with the Community Action Planning Council to Promote Fair and Equal Housing and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented except Legislator Doldo who abstained as he is a member of the CAPC Board.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Approving Reappointments to the Jefferson County Planning Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Grant. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements in Relation to Juvenile Secure Detention and the Supervision & Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as

presented.

It was determined that Legislator McBride has lost internet contact.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Rubenzahl, Knudsen & Associates for the Provision of Psychological Testing, Evaluation and Recommendations for Treatment of JDs, PINS at Risk of Out of Home Placement, and Adult Sexual Offenders and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements for The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's Stop-DWI Crackdown Enforcement Grant and Amending the 2020 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Approving the 2021 Stop DWI Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Cantwell. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Airport Manager Grant Sussey stated that the airline service has been consistent in providing reliable, safe and efficient air service to our community for essential travel. He reported that passenger numbers statewide are down 75% and the Watertown International Airport is down 44%, and said that most of that is essential travel of community members and approved government or Department of Defense travel that is occurring. He reported that Runway 7/25 construction project is completed and the runway is open. He stated that they have seen an uptick in flight training activities by local soldiers working on their civilian conversion and add on licenses. He reported that the Air Ambulance Hanger is expected to be bid in the next month. Chairman Reed was happy to report that they are projected to meet 10,000 enplanements and that is a testament to the community utilizing this resource and asset.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Grant and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah H. Baldwin
Deputy Clerk of the Board