

General Services Committee
July 20, 2021
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Philip Reed, Legislators Robert Cantwell, Daniel McBride, Jeremiah Maxon, Robert Ferris, Corey Grant, Anthony Doldo, Chairman of the Board Scott Gray

Others Present: Legislator Frances Calarco, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen,, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Fire and Emergency Management Director Joseph Plummer, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Secretary Torri Richmire

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Reed offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to address the Committee. The Committee approved the minutes of the June Committee meeting as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements in Relation to Construction of the Airport Air Ambulance Hangar at the Watertown International Airport and Amending the 2021 County Budget and Capital Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator McBride. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement in Relation to the FY2020-2021 NYS Public Safety Answering Points Operations Grant 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 Authorizing FY 2019 Operation Stonegarden Grant Agreement and Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Cantwell. Legislator Maxon expressed his appreciation that the Sheriff's office worked with NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYSDHSES) to replace the purchase of license plate readers with Utility Task Vehicles (UTV's) after the concerns raised when this resolution was first presented. Legislator Doldo stated that he had questions regarding the purchase of the new UTV's and was under the impression that someone from the Sheriff's office would be here. He is interested in the age of the UTV's that are currently being used, how much has been spent on repairs, the number of hours on them and how often they are used, to name a few. He stated that he has issues moving forward with this resolution as there may be more responsible ways of using the money within the Sheriff's office. He advised that he will not support the resolution at this time without a member of the Sheriff's department in attendance to answer questions.

When asked if there is a time table for spending this grant, Mr. Hagemann stated that this grant is one year old and the funds are currently available even though the board has already approved the FY20 Operation Stonegarden grant but he believes that it will soon be withdrawn if action is not taken this time around. Legislator Doldo stated that he would be more apt to approve the license plate readers and doesn't feel that purchasing UTV's is a good use of the money. He requested that the

resolution be tabled until next month and hopefully someone from the Sheriff's department will attend and answer his questions.

Chairman Reed entertained a motion to table the resolution. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo and seconded by Legislator McBride. The request to table the resolution was defeated with Legislators Cantwell, Reed, Maxon and Ferris opposed.

Legislators Ferris and Maxon stated that they are in favor of moving the resolution forward with a request that someone from the Sheriff's office attend the Finance and Rules Committee meeting on July 27th to answer questions regarding the purchase of new UTV's. Legislator Maxon advised that the reason he is in favor of this resolution is that included in the agenda was a document stating that they are replacing the UTV's due to age and the need for costly repairs. He stated that he is not in favor of revisiting the use of the grant after NYSDHSES in good faith modified it as per the Committee's request. Legislator McBride stated that his concern is that because the license plate readers were denied the Sheriff's Office decided to use the money for UTV's. He would like to get more information. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented except Legislators McBride, Grant and Doldo who were opposed.

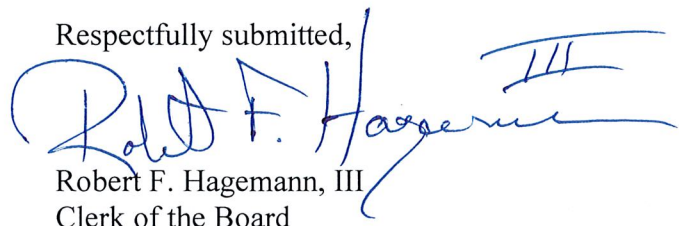
Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements for an Additional Allocation for The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's Stop-DWI Crackdown Enforcement Grant and Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Maxon. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed advised that next month's General Services Committee meeting will be held at the Watertown International Airport with a tour of the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting building. He stated that activity at the Airport for June was the busiest on record with 4,588 departures and arrivals compared to 2012 with 3,000.

Mr. Hagemann stated that yesterday there was a gathering on Point Peninsula at the isthmus to view the modifications made to the road by Jefferson County Highway Department to allow for a turtle crossing. He advised that during Governor Cuomo's briefings on Covid 19, he usually reports something positive going on in the state and last night it was the construction of a turtle crossing on County Route 57 in the Town of Lyme. Chairman of the Board Gray reported that the project was funded by the Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) which raised the road bed three feet and installed shoreline stabilization.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Grant and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H" and "M".

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board