

## Health & Human Services Committee

May 25, 2021

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Committee Chair John Peck, Legislators James Nabywaniec, Jeremiah Maxon, Robert Ferris, Corey Grant, Anthony Doldo, Board Chair Scott Gray

**Others Present:** Legislators Robert Cantwell, William Johnson, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, Patrick Jareo, and Frances Calarco, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Office for the Aging Director Kathleen Kazakoff, Community Services Director Tim Ruetten, Public Health Director Ginger Hall, Social Services Commissioner Teresa Gaffney, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Alex Gault, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Peck called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor however no one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the April meeting, as written.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Appointing Members to the Jefferson County Long Term Care Advisory Council and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Appointing Members to the Jefferson County Office for Aging Advisory Council and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Maxon and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending Agreement for Provision of Personal Emergency Response Systems Funding with the Henry Keep Home and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending Agreements for Provision of Services to Elderly of Jefferson County and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Appointing Member to the Community Services Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Maxon and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget to Reappropriate Funding From NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for Homeless Services Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by

Legislator Maxon and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget to Reappropriate Funding From NYS Office of Children and Family Services for Family First Transition Funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Legislator Drake arrived at the meeting. Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget Relative to Additional Revenue from NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for Emergency Rental Assistance Program Funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Grant. In response to questions from Legislator Maxon, Commissioner Gaffney advised that this funding is strictly to pay for signing people up for the program and not for the actual back rent. The larger grant for rent will be forthcoming and will go directly to the landlords. The grant will pay for staff, advertising, training and equipment, to help tenants apply for assistance with back rent, and staff will also be going out to locations throughout the County to assist people in doing that. She said this grant runs through September, 2022 and the money can not be used for any other purpose. Each County that did not receive a direct allocation from the Treasury Department is eligible for the federal grant and the amount received is based on population. Legislator Maxon felt the grant amount was excessive. Administrator Hagemann pointed out that there is a need for this service. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented with Legislator Maxon opposed.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget Relative to Social Service Department Accounts and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Establishing Time and Place for Public Hearing Related to the 2020 Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 Response - CARES Process and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Maxon and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board