

General Services Committee

November 16, 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: Legislators William Johnson, Allen Drake, John Peck, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Frances Calarco, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Probation Director Kristine Maloney, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Community Services Director Timothy Ruetten, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Alex Gault, Secretary Torri Richmire

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. following the conclusion of a Special Board of Legislators Meeting. The Committee approved the minutes of the October Committee meeting as presented. Chairman Reed offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to address the Committee.

Planning Director Michael Bourcy introduced Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency (JCIDA) CEO David Zembiec and stated that the Planning Department and JCIDA have worked on a number of projects together and have a great working relationship. He thanked Dave for stepping up and taking the lead on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) five year plan update.

Mr. Zembiec advised that a CEDS plan is required for receipt of funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. He stated that the partnership consists of two dozen participants, such as education institutions, workforce development, economic development and business communities who work together as a team discussing ways to maximize economic growth in the community and how to move past barriers. He advised that Camoin Associates were hired as consultants to provide data analysis and their economic development expertise.

Mr. Zembiec reviewed "driving imperatives" identified by the committee, those being Improving business development in Watertown and neighboring communities; Develop local workforce; Partnerships with surrounding counties; Manufacturing; Energy Production; Tourism and Agriculture. He advised that the group will develop overall strategies for the final document and present it to Legislators, once adopted they will start on implementation. He stated that the Planning Department and the CEDS group meet annually to review the goals and strategies to re-assess any modifications that may be needed.

Brandi Smith, Volunteer Transportation Center Greater Watertown Mobility Manager and Frank Doldo, Regional Mobility Manager, reviewed the Jefferson County Coordinated Transportation Plan Update. Ms. Smith stated that this Plan is a requirement of New York State and the Federal Transportation Administration to receive funds for public transportation and that this

evening she is seeking approval of the plan only. She advised that on April 21, 2021 she had a virtual work session with 62 individuals including participants from local not-for-profit agencies, educational facilities, human service agencies, medical professionals and public transportation passengers from Jefferson County and surrounding areas with the focus to identify transportation barriers, goals and strategies to include transportation in Jefferson County and improve transportation in the City of Watertown. Some of the transportation barriers identified were no public transportation outside the City, alternate and evening work shifts, no connection to Fort Drum, or to surrounding counties.

Ms. Smith stated that they have a First Mile, Last Mile program that provides transportation to rural residents. It would bring residents from their home to the closest bus stop, which would be located in the bigger towns or villages, and then be transported into the City of Watertown and from the City to the bus stop and back home.

She stated that their goals and strategies are to provide the City of Watertown and Jefferson County residents with safe, reliable, affordable, efficient and easy to access public transportation. Her goal for the plan is to be adopted by Watertown City Council and this Board of Legislators to submit to NYS Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration. She stated that by adopting this plan it would allow her to apply for funds for a countywide transportation program.

In response to Legislator questions, Ms. Smith stated that she does not have an estimate of the cost for countywide transportation at this time as it is a 2-3 year plan. Mr. Doldo advised that the survey was done by Nelson Nygaard and paid for by the Metropolitan Planning Organization. He stated that Nelson Nygaard has given an estimate of what the cost would be to Jefferson County but it seems to be on the high side. He stressed that approving this plan is the first step in the process and once approved the City of Watertown and Jefferson County will be involved in the cost of each phase that is put into place.

Mr. Doldo stated that St. Lawrence County has offered public transportation to their residents for the past five years, currently they have nineteen routes and mobility management has been able to secure funding to provide a service that is getting people employed, educated, to food sources and medical appointments. He advised that 65% of residents using the First Mile, Last Mile program are using it for appointments. He stated that in 2017 they had 56,000 rides (a one way trip) and last year, due to the covid pandemic, there was a significant drop but they estimate 66,000 rides for 2021.

In response to Legislator questions, Mr. Doldo stated that Legislators will be kept abreast every step of the process pertaining to the cost to launch and expected revenue and expenses, then prior to starting the program they can decide whether to proceed or not. He advised that from experience Legislators will find that human service agencies will now be able to provide access so residents can get services, get to work and get education once public transportation is available. He stated that approving the Jefferson County Coordinated Transportation Plan would allow Jefferson County to receive Federal and State funding to implement the project.

He stated that at any point Legislators can decide to say no but he would like them to wait until they know the bottom line. He stated that no money is invested until the Volunteer Transportation Center (VTC) gets the approval from this board to file the application. He is

requesting that VTC be given a chance to present the numbers and routes that they would like to create for Jefferson County.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Endorsing Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee 2021 Plan Update and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride and seconded by Legislator Cantwell. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Adoption of the Jefferson County Coordinated Transportation Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris 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 2021 County Budget to Recognize Reserve Funds in the District Attorney's Office and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo and seconded by Legislator Grant. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented except Legislator Maxon who was opposed.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget - Dispatch and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal Aid and State "Marchiselli" Program Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project (Noble Street over West Creek) and Appropriating Funds Therefor and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Adopting Guidelines and Administrative Procedures in Relation to the County's Housing Improvement Program Funded by a 2020 NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Award and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant and seconded by Legislator Cantwell. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

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

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 Doldo and 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 Credo Community Center for the Provision of Court Ordered Evaluations, Assessments, Treatment and Counseling and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride and seconded by Legislator Cantwell. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

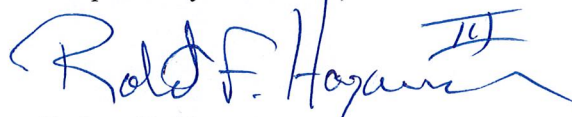
Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation to Recycling & Waste Management and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo and seconded by Legislator Cantwell. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation to Sheriff - Corrections and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo and seconded by Legislator Maxon. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed advised that the Watertown International Airport has been partnered with American Airlines for 10 years with 390,000 passengers during that time. He thanked the General Services Committee members for the time and effort put forth during this term.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Ferris and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is stylized and includes a small mark above the "I" in "III".

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board