

Finance & Rules Committee

July 27, 2021

Minutes

Members Present: Acting Committee Chair William Johnson, Legislators Robert Cantwell, William Johnson, Allen Drake, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Frances Calarco, Board Chair Scott Gray

Others Present: Legislators: Philip Reed, Daniel McBride, Corey Grant and Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Undersheriff Brian McDermott, County Treasurer Karen Christie, Veterans Services Director David Pavey, Drescher & Malecki, LLC Partners Luke Malecki and Nichole Ruf, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Alex Gault, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Acting Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to address the Committee.

Nichole Ruf, Partner, Drescher & Malecki, LLP made a presentation to the Committee regarding their audit of Jefferson County's 2020 financial statements, noting that she has worked on Jefferson County's audit for several years in different positions, but this was her first year in the role of Partner for the engagement. She thanked Administration and the County Treasurer's Office for their cooperation throughout the audit as it went very smooth.

With regard to the financial statements she said their opinion was unqualified which is the highest opinion that you can receive, and their Government Auditing Standards (GAS) opinion which speaks to internal controls was also clean. With regard to the Single Audit (risk assessment of federal expenditures) they tested five programs for 2020 (Airport Improvement, Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, Social Services Block Grant and Medicaid) and there were no findings of questionable costs or unallowable activities within those programs. There were also no findings in the two required audits they perform; New York State Department of Transportation (CHIPS) and Passenger Facility Charge Report (Airport).

She outlined five year graphics of trends for revenues vs. expenses for the General Fund noting that for 2020 revenue gains were offset by decreases in state aid and interest earnings for a net increase of \$1.2 million; expenses decreased primarily due to programs not needing to be fully utilized as there were other mechanisms in place for people to receive funding for those programs, and a decrease in education expenses for a net decrease of \$2.6 million for 2020. She also outlined a five year graphic of trends for fund balance noting that the fund balance grew, and the adjusted available balance for 2020 is in line with the County's fund balance policy of within 10% of two months annual expenditures. She said the Audit documents will be printed and received by the County very soon. Ms. Ruf provided contact information and encouraged legislators to contact her should they have any questions.

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

Acting Chairman Johnson introduced a resolution Authorizing the Vacating of Judgment of Foreclosure for Owners of Certain Parcels of Real Property and Discontinuance of Foreclosure Proceeding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec and seconded by Legislator Cantwell. County Attorney Paulsen advised that tomorrow is the final day of the online tax foreclosure auction and live bidding will be taking place. He said there may be people who have filed hardship declarations under the NYS Legislatures' moratorium program that runs through the end of August; they can still come in and pay their taxes before the end of August under the Buy Back program. There being no discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairman Johnson introduced a resolution Accepting Funding and Authorizing Agreement for the New York State Board of Elections Early Voting Expansion Grant and Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Jareo seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairman Johnson introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement for the New York State Board of Elections Technology Innovation and Election Resource Grant and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Jareo and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairman Johnson introduced a resolution Authorizing Appointment to the Workforce Development Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell and seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec. Legislator Jareo said a different procedure needs to be undertaken in filling vacancies on our Advisory Boards. He appreciated the Administrator's response to his email earlier in the week and said he realized that we have difficulty selecting people to serve, however the Advisory Boards spend millions of dollars and the Board should have more input prior to appointments being put on an agenda. He said he was not in any way disparaging the person/people being appointed, but would be voting no on all appointment resolutions until a different procedure is in place to make sure we are selecting the best candidates. The Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented, with Legislator Jareo opposed.

Acting Chairman Johnson introduced a resolution Authorizing the Local and Regional Plans Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairman Johnson introduced a resolution Appointing Member to Jefferson Community College Board of Trustees and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Drake seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no

discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented with Legislator Jareo opposed.

Acting Chairman Johnson introduced a resolution Amending 2021 County Budget Relative to Salary Adjustments and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Jareo seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairman Johnson introduced a resolution Authorizing Grant Agreements, State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Determination, and Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation to a 2020 Community Development Block Grant Award from the NYS Office of Community Renewal and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Jareo and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

On a motion by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislators Drake and Cantwell and carried, the Committee approved the following General Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Authorizing FY 2019 Operation Stonegarden Grant Agreement and Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ 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; **(Legislator Jareo opposed)**

With regard to the 2019 Operation Stonegarden Grant Agreement resolution Legislator Jareo appreciated the efforts of the Sheriff's Department in going back to look at this grant, and said it is the first Stonegarden Grant resolution he has supported.

Undersheriff McDermott answered questions of legislators related to the UTVs that were being purchased with Stonegarden Grant funds. He advised that: the current UTVs are 2009 models with odometer readings of 900 (lowest) to 1200 (highest); the Department has condition reports on each; they are utilized about 2,000 time a year and can be utilized anywhere in the County they are needed; the new ones are stock UTVs but have much better reflective and lighting equipment, and will cost \$15,000 - \$16,000 each; they would be utilized less than 10% for border enforcement. He said their first choice for this grant was license plate readers, but they went back and looked at the parameters of the grant and worked with the New York State Department of Homeland Security (NYSDHS) as the grant can be spent on anything that would provide safe and secure borders. He said UTVs are an approved use of the grant and NYSDHS actually purchased the original ATVs. Legislator Jareo felt that with the defeat of the original Stonegarden Grant resolution that would have purchased license plate readers it was a decided issue and the purchase of license plate readers would not be revisited. Undersheriff McDermott said if legally possible he and the Sheriff would like to bring it back up again with a future grant

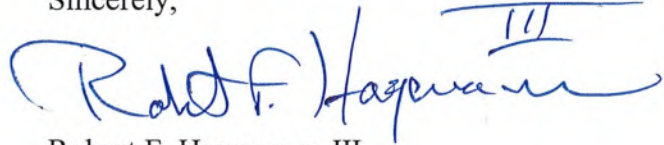
or in the budget.

On a motion by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislators Cantwell and Jareo and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following Health & Human Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

- ✓ Authorizing Agreements for Provision of Personal Chores Services and Home Modification Program with Community Action Planning Council and Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Amending 2021 County Budget Relative to Additional Revenue From NYS Office of Children and Family Services for Enhanced Adult Protective Services

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Jareo seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name and the Roman numeral "III" written above the final "n".

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board