

Finance & Rules Committee

September 28, 2021

Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Michael Montigelli, Legislators Robert Cantwell, William Johnson, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Frances Calarco, and Board Chair Scott Gray

Others Present: Legislators Daniel McBride, John Peck, Corey Grant and Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, County Treasurer Karen Christie, Treasurer Accountant Anne Converse, JCIDA/JCLDC CEO David Zembiec, Agriculture Coordinator Jay Matteson, Northern New York Community Foundation Executive Director Rande Richardson, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Alex Gault, 7News Reporter Emily Griffin, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the August meeting, as written.

Chairman Montigelli said there will be three presenters with regard to the County's proposed use of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Rande Richardson, Executive Director of the North New York Community Foundation said his organization was honored to be chosen to administer a portion of the ARPA funding to non-for profit organizations in Jefferson County. He went over the history of the Foundation as one of the first in the United States (1929), and said their Board consists of 16 members from across the County and North Country; they have Committees with different members than their Board so there is a diverse cross section of people from different back grounds, ages and expertise making decisions. Mr. Richardson said part of the Foundation's core values is a high degree of accountability, and they already have mechanisms in place for every aspect of the grant process because that is their business. He said their process has three levels: application/staff initial vetting, Foundation Committee review and Foundation Board review/award. He envisioned the application and staff initial vetting from November through January, said applications will be judged on stewardship, fairness and accountability, and they have a very user friendly application platform recognizing that not every organization has the same level of proficiency. He thanked the Board for this opportunity to help the community as it is a natural progression of their mission.

David Zembiec, CEO, JCIDA/JCLDC outlined the economic development initiatives portion of the ARPA funding. He said there are seven main projects that would be addressed with the funding:

- Sewer service to the Watertown International Airport and the adjacent Business Complex.

- Remediation of the PCBs in the former Woolworth Building
- JCLDC Grants
 - Local food resiliency program
 - Expansion of child care services
 - Rental property deferred maintenance program
 - Incumbent worker training
 - Small business productivity improvement

He outlined each initiative and provided the Committee with a hand out containing that information (copy provided for file reference).

Legislator Jareo objected to assistance being provided to establish new day care operations as it creates competition for existing day cares and interferes with the free market. Mr. Zembiec said according to statistics from the North Country Child Care Coordinating Council there is only 1 day care slot for every 6 children that need daycare services in the County, and employers have repeatedly identified lack of day care as a barrier to employment. He said day care grants were developed in cooperation with CAPC who has oversight responsibility of day cares in the community, and he would check with them to see if they can suggest any changes that could benefit existing day cares beyond what is already proposed.

In response to questions Ag Coordinator Jay Matteson outlined how the grants would benefit local food production to increase the number of USDA licensed facilities in the community which would create more need for a USDA presence in the North Country.

Chairman Montigelli and legislators thanked Rande Richardson, David Zembiec, and Jay Matteson for presentations.

County Administrator Hagemann advised that the Committee is not being asked to approve anything tonight, a resolution would be introduced next month that will be more specific as to the funding level of each agency. He said there will be a formal MOU with each agency regarding their allocation. It will be a fluid process, and updates will be provided to the Committee as programs and projects progress, and specific allocations may change as we get further into the process.

County Administrator Hagemann outlined the ARPA fund allocations for local reimbursement of Covid related expenses for up front costs, upgrades, and infrastructure. Reimbursements for Covid expenses will include: Public Health expenses that have not been otherwise covered with grants; expenses from the Jail (noting that no positive cases have been identified there); expenses of the Volunteer Transportation Center for transportation they provided to vaccination clinics; making up for the reduction in tourism funding for the TI Council in the Occupancy Tax fund. He advised that upgrades would be things such as a Cyber Security and IT audit, rebuild of the Engineering/Administration building at Highway, upgrades at Dispatch, and a kennel renovation at Dog Control. Further, the infrastructure funding will be put into County road projects in the Capital Plan that are a high priority (located in Legislative Districts 4 and 7; County Rts 46 and 47) which would allow other road projects to be moved up

up on the schedule. He said it would be done with our own crews, town crews or privatization in order to get the work done quickly and within the time lines allowed for the funding. He applauded the federal government for providing this funding that is meant to get communities back up and running.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Setting Time and Place for Public Hearing on Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Johnson seconded by Legislator Jareo and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution for Payment of Legislators' Expenses 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.

Chairman Montigelli 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 Johnson seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation to Board of Elections Cyber Security Remediation Grant Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Jareo seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Transferring County Safety Officer Position to the Human Resources Department and Amending the 2021 County Budget 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.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Approving Jefferson County Administrative Policy and Procedure for Safety and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Johnson and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Establishing Fee for County Treasurer to Collect Taxes on Behalf of Towns and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Opposing COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates Imposed by Federal, State or Local Government, and entertained a motion for consideration. A

motion was duly made by Legislator Jareo seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

On a motion by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Johnson and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following General Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

- ✓ Amending the 2021 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery and Allocating Same in Sheriff's Department Budget
- ✓ Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation to Recycling & Waste Management

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

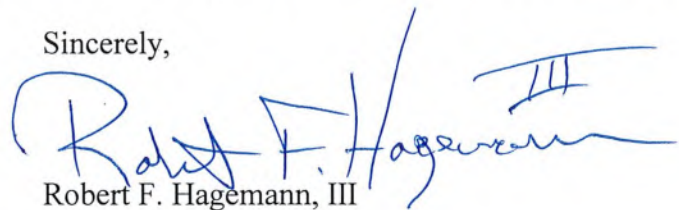
- ✓ Amending 2021 Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the NYS Office of Children & Family Services and the 2021 County Budget and Authorizing Amended Contractual Youth Program Agreements in Relation Thereto

In response to questions Administrator Hagemann advised that the Safety Policy passed this evening has nothing to do with workplace violence or firearms on County property. He said the Safety Program is countywide and encompasses all the towns and villages as well.

Administrator Hagemann advised that the County has previously contracted out for the responsibilities associated with the Safety Officer, however pursuant to resolutions passed this evening the County is again looking to hire a Safety Officer. That process has lead us to a very qualified candidate from the private sector and he recommended the approval of the Committee to hire this individual at a Grade 17, Step 5 level, to acknowledge the years of experience and credentials he brings to the position; noting that the position would not be eligible for a step increase in 2022. The Committee unanimously concurred with this recommendation.

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 7:25 p.m.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board