

Health & Human Services Committee
January 25, 2022
Minutes

Members Virtually Present:

Committee Chair Anthony Doldo, Legislators Philip Reed, Allen Drake, John Peck, Jeremiah Maxon, Frances Calarco, Corey Grant, and Board Chair William Johnson

Others Virtually Present:

Legislators Daniel McBride, John Peck, and Patrick Jareo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Gregory Hudson, Office for the Aging Director Kathleen Kazakoff, Public Health Director Ginger Hall, DSS Commissioner Teresa Gaffney, Human Resources Director Valerie Nugent, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Members of the Public Virtually Present:

Erica Bartholomew Porter, West Carthage Mayor Scott Burto, Champion Town Councilman James Uhlinger

Chairman Doldo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced the meeting is being conducted under the extraordinary circumstance of a public health emergency (Covid-19), under Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2022 and signed by Governor Hochul on January 14, 2022; without permitting public in-person access to the meeting, authorizing the meeting to be held partially or completely with members appearing by remote conference call or similar services, and the meeting is being live streamed via the web and recorded, including the participation of the members appearing by remote link.

Chairman Doldo opened the meeting for comments from the public who were virtually present.

West Carthage Mayor Scott Burto related ongoing concerns he has with the homeless population that are being housed by the Department of Social Services at the Pleasant Night Inn in West Carthage. Along with past concerns he conveyed with these clients being disruptive at the Inn, he said the businesses in proximity to the Inn are now expressing safety concerns for their employees and customers. He acknowledged that a meeting took place last fall with all parties concerned but he had not heard or seen any changes from that point to now. He hoped that a resolution to this situation will be in the short term as he did not believe housing these people at the Inn was adequately serving their needs, or what is best for the community.

Town of Champion Councilman James Uhlinger, S. Lake Road, Town of Champion, reiterated the concerns expressed by Mayor Burto with regard to the homeless population at the Pleasant Night Inn as the Town does not have the resources available to help them. He appreciated any solutions the County has that are best for the clients and for residents in the area.

Erica Porter, S. Massey Street, County Route 63, Watertown, encouraged legislators to temporarily suspend any funding for the Children's Home of Jefferson County (CHJC) and any of its affiliates until a full scale investigation can be done into its practices and programs, especially with regard to foster care. She said instead of helping to strengthen family units, the CHJC undermines them. She said the employees there are dishonest, corrupt and there are many instances of misconduct. She read quotes from foster parents and others involved with CHJC programs detailing instances of misconduct, and outlined CHJC rules she felt were unfair and counterproductive to helping the children in their care. She encouraged legislators to do whatever is in their power to have a full scale investigation of CHJC done.

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

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Accepting Donation on Behalf of the Office for the Aging and Amending the 2022 County Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with VNA Homecare Options DBA Nascentia for the Provision of Home Delivered Meals by Office for the Aging and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

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

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

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 County Budget to Reappropriate Funds for Veterans Peer Support (P2P) Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation to NYS Public Health Corps Fellowship Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation to NYSDOH Supplemental Funding for Covid-19 Vaccine Response Contract and entertained a

motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Drake and seconded by Legislator Calarco. In response to questions Administrator Hagemann advised that these funds were for past clinics as well as any future clinics. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Accepting Funding in Connection with NYSDOH Local Health Department Performance Incentive Initiative and Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Re-Appointing member to Jefferson County Public Health Service Professional Advisory Committee and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Re-Appointing members to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Maxon and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Accepting Donation on Behalf of the Department of Social Services and Amending the 2022 County budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Maxon and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing 2022 Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the NYS Office of Children & Family Services and Authorizing Contractual Youth Program Agreements and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 County Budget Relative to Additional Revenue from NYS Office of Children and Family Services for Safe Harbour: NY Funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Maxon and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 County Budget to Reappropriate Funding from the 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 Maxon seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 County Budget to

Reappropriate Funding from the Redlich Horwitz Foundation for Family First Readiness and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 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 Maxon seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 County Budget to Reappropriate Funding from NYS Office of Children and Family Services for Enhanced Adult Protective Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 County Budget Relative to Supplemental Child Care Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund Allocation from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Members to the Community Action Planning Council and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

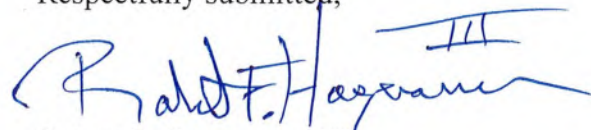
Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Member to Samaritan Senior Village Board of Directors and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Maxon and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

With regard to comments made at the beginning of the meeting from Mayor Burto and Councilman Uhlinger, Legislator Peck said he understands it is a bit of a culture shock for West Carthage to have to deal with homeless persons, however the owner of the business willfully chose to contract with the DSS for that purpose and is providing a service. He explained that the magnitude of the homeless situation is new to the County and arose because other places that used to house these people are no longer available (a fire at the Rainbow Motel, the closure of a building on Factory Street, the closure of a participating motel). He said once the eviction moratorium is lifted the situation may get worse before it gets better as homelessness may increase. He said the County and its partner agencies are working to be able to adequately respond to the need, West Carthage is not the only community that is being affected, and the County will continue to do what is best for the individuals dealing with the crisis, and hope that it doesn't become an excessive burden for any community.

Chairman Doldo advised that for many reasons the County is dealing with an unusual amount of homelessness, as outlined by Legislator Peck. He said people in the City of Watertown may be more used to dealing with the homeless noting that he has homeless people in his own neighborhood due to the situation. He said we are doing the best we can to place these people, get them services and provide some stability for them. He said we are working with our partners as fast and efficient as possible to come up with a plan of action, and we will get through it by working together.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislators Grant and Maxon and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 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 prominent "R" and "H".

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board