

General Services Committee

August 15, 2023

Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair James Nabywaniec, Legislators Philip Reed, Daniel McBride, John Peck, Jeremiah Maxon, Robert Ferris, Corey Grant, Chairman of the Board William Johnson

Others Present: Legislators Michael Montigelli, Patrick Jareo, Steel Potter, Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Assistant Airport Manager Shawn Herrmann, Secretary Torri Richmire

Chairman Nabywaniec called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Nabywaniec offered privilege of the floor, Jennifer Doldo, Breen Avenue, Watertown, NY, addressed the committee questioning why there has been no changes at the dog control facility since the inspection and release of the report. She expressed her concern about canines spending long hours in a kennel with no exercise, food or water.

Lori Rutherford, 13811 County Route 63, Adams, NY, suggested that the dog control facility should be open longer on the weekends, place cages outside for people to leave unwanted animals and that there should be training for those who would like to volunteer.

The minutes of the July Committee meeting were approved as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation to the Watertown International Airport and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Grant. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Rochester Institute of Technology in Relation to the Gun Involved Violence Elimination Grant Award and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed and seconded by Legislator Peck. In response to questions, Deputy Administrator Baldwin advised that this contract is to collect data regarding violence occurring in the jurisdiction that the grant is awarded in, as required by the grant award. Those statistics will allow officers to focus on high crime areas within the City of Watertown by increasing patrols, with a collaborative effort between City Police, the Sheriff's Department and Probation. The theory is that an increased police presence should act as a deterrent to violent crime in those areas. County Administrator Hagemann stated that larger counties in New York State have been doing this for many years and this year the state has moved it to the second level which includes smaller counties. He stated that there wasn't a choice of whether to participate or not, the county was mandated by New York State to implement the program. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as

presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing the County of Jefferson to Accept Real Property Obtained by the State of New York Relative to the Noble Street over West Creek Culvert Replacement Project and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck and seconded by Legislator McBride. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Approving Appointment to the Jefferson County Planning Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Grant. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Establishing Time and Place for a Public Hearing on the 2023 Inclusions of Viable Agricultural Land in NYS Certified Agricultural Districts and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Peck. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Establishing Time and Place for a Public Hearing on the Eight Year Review of the North Agricultural District No. 2 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator McBride. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2023 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery and Allocating Same in Sheriff's Department Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Legislator McBride, Chairman of the Dog Control Adhoc Committee, updated committee members regarding the report from Patricia Famiglietti, Companion Animal Care Standards Act Consultant, following her inspection of the Jefferson County Dog Control facility. He reported that in 2025 the NYS Agriculture and Market Laws will change regulations for dog control shelters, regarding sizes of kennels, hours required for canines to have human contact and staff to canine ratio. The facility will also be required to have ventilation and HVAC for the animals. He stated that the adhoc committee has met a few times to discuss what updates are needed within the Jefferson County facility. He stated that there currently are job postings for the positions of Dog Control Officer and Dog Control Supervisor. He advised that they are communicating with the local SPCA regarding options for boarding canines and to work with them as they have structures in place for allowing volunteers, which cannot be done easily at the County level. He stated that they will be sending out communications to the Towns and Villages who are currently not part of the dog control program to advise them of the new Ag and Market requirements to be implemented in 2025. Mr. Hagemann advised they will be touring other dog control facilities in the Western part of New York State that have outdoor areas for canines to receive exercise and to discuss how they handle

volunteers at their facility.

Legislator Jareo questioned if something can be done immediately regarding increased weekend watering and observation of canines at the facility. Mr Hagemann explained that the department is currently down two employees which is the challenge right now. Mr. Jareo requested that they get someone from another county department to go in on Sundays immediately.

Legislator Doldo reviewed a 2014 Shelter Guide regarding care of shelter canines alleging that the canines in our facility are being neglected depending on their condition when they arrive. He is requesting that someone be scheduled at the kennel twice on Sundays.

When questioned about volunteers assisting at the facility, Chairman Nabywaniec stated that this question has been addressed and at the county level there are some hurdles, reminding the committee that one of the County's long time Dog Control Officers was attacked, stating that it is a dangerous job and opening it up to volunteers has consequences. He stated that by visiting other facilities they are hoping to learn how they address these issues. He advised that the thoughts of the adhoc committee is to address the short staffing situation which will resolve some of the issues that are of concern.

Legislator Ferris made a motion that a resolution be brought forward for someone to come in on Sunday afternoon to check on and feed the canines, stating that if there are no volunteers then employees could be mandated to do the job. Legislator McBride seconded the request.

In response to a question from Legislator Maxon, Mr. Hagemann stated that there currently are two full time and two part time employees at Dog Control. Legislator Maxon requested that hours be made available for those employees to come in two hours on Sunday afternoon/evening to check on the animals.

County Attorney David Paulsen advised that generally resolutions to be decided by this board of legislators should be put into writing prior to them being considered. He also suggested that the Human Resources Department be involved in any changes that are to be made stating that if you are mandating any union member to do something outside the scope of their job there could be big problems. He suggested taking the concept and doing a little research prior to bringing it before the board.

Chairman Nabywaniec stated that staff have taken home malnourished canines to nurse them back to health and transferred some to SPCA. He said that everyone has been accommodating and trying to do the right thing and that he can contact Dog Control Supervisor Joe Plummer and ask him to request that staff take a couple more hours on the weekend to assist with the committee's request. He stated that it is on their punch list to set a meeting with SPCA to see where Jefferson County can share services with them to accommodate the new Ag and Market requirements to be implemented in 2025.

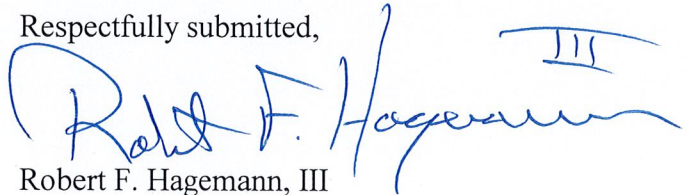
Legislator Peck stated that on the evening of August 4th he went on a ride along with a Sheriff's Deputy and found it very interesting although uneventful.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced the new Assistant Airport Manager Shawn Herrmann and welcomed him to Jefferson County. Chairman Nabywaniec announced that he was at the Airport on August 11th for the rabies bait drop stating that their planes drop bait in the eastern portion of the state and that they have made Watertown International Airport their meeting location for the past three years finding this central location very accommodating for the 15 crew members who are here for 4-5 days. He also advised that fuel sales at the airport this year, as of August 10th, was 108,950 gallons, up from last year, creating revenue for the county.

Chairman Nabywaniec reported that the General Services Committee meeting September 19th will be held in the conference room at the Watertown International Airport with reviews of improvements that have been made, the future of the terminal as well as a tour of the new Air Methods building.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Maxon and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 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 large initial "R" and a distinct "III" at the end.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board