

General Services Committee
June 12, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Philip Reed, Legislators Jennie Adsit, Robert Cantwell, Anthony Doldo, Jeremiah Maxon, Chairman of the Board Scott Gray

Others Present: Legislators William Johnson, Allen Drake, and John Peck, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Probation Director Martin Morrison, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Fire & Emergency Management Coordinator Joseph Plummer, Treasurer Accountant Anne Converse, Watertown Daily Times Report Abraham Kenmore, WWNY-TV Reporter Alex Valverde, Secretary Torri Richmire

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to speak. The minutes of the April meeting were approved without objection or correction.

Joel LaLone, Research Director, and Larry Danforth, Research Coordinator, Jefferson Community College, Center for Community Studies, presented the committee with results of the 2018 Community Survey. Mr. LaLone advised that this was the 19th Annual Center for Community Studies Survey conducted in Jefferson County. He stated that 575 adults participated in the survey via telephone, and face to face interviews conducted on Fort Drum. They decided a few years ago to get permission to do the survey on Fort Drum to make sure that the military were represented more appropriately.

Mr. LaLone and Mr. Danforth reported that the survey revealed an increase over last years "Excellent or Good" results regarding *Access to Higher Education, Public Outdoor Recreational Activities* and *Policing and Crime Control*. There was an increase over last years "Poor" results relating to *The Overall State of the Local Economy, Availability of Behavioral Health Services, Cost of Energy*, and *Real Estate Taxes*. Mr. LaLone advised that while *Availability of Good Jobs* is only 28% "Excellent or Good" this is the highest that it has ever been in the 18 years of conducting the survey. He stated that the younger group surveyed (18-29 year olds) were three times more likely to choose excellent or good.

Other topics of the survey noted that ranked highest were:

- The Largest Issue Facing Our Nation Right Now - *Drugs (15%), Government/Leadership (11%)* and *Economy/Jobs (10%)*.
- Households with Active Military Stationed at Fort Drum Were Asked What Single Aspect or Characteristic of the Local Area If it Were Improved Would Increase Their Likelihood to Remain Living in Jefferson County - *Nothing Could Make Me Stay (16%), More Recreation Opportunities (12%)* and *Better Job Opportunities (10%)*.
- Have You, or Any Immediate Family, or Any Close Friends Been Impacted by Poverty, Alcohol Abuse, Heroin or Opiate Abuse or Prescription Drug Abuse -

Alcohol Abuse (27%), Poverty (22%), Heroin/Opiate Abuse (22%) and Prescription Drug Abuse (21%).

Mr. LaLone stated that each year they encourage questions for the survey regarding a local agency or community group. This year they inquired on behalf of Hospice and Friends of Thompson Park. They learned that 69% had a *Favorable View of Hospice*, if diagnosed with a terminal illness 48% *Would Prefer Medical Care That Made Them Comfortable and Pain Free*, 80% of those surveyed *Would like to Spend Their Last Days at Home* and 42% *Have Done Nothing to Prepare for Their Medical Needs If They Are No Longer Able to Make Decisions for Themselves*.

On behalf of the Friends of Thompson Park, they asked what changes could be made at Thompson Park that could increase the amount that residents use the park. 65% polled said *Better Bathrooms*, 55% *Additional Marked Trails*, 52% *Better Lighting* and 46% *More Parking*.

Mr. Lalone encouraged Legislators to contact him or Mr. Danforth prior to April 1, 2019 with any questions that they would like to see on next year's survey.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing a Lease Agreement With St. Lawrence Seaway RSA Cellular Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for Use of Tower Space at the Public Safety Building Radio Transmission Tower and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell and seconded by Legislator Maxon. In response to a question from Legislator Maxon, Fire & Emergency Management Coordinator Joseph Plummer advised that Verizon will be putting approximately \$40,000 into the tower to make structural improvements for their use and the County's. He stated that over time with the \$40,000 they are putting in and with the markets the way they are, this is a very fair number and a benefit to Jefferson County. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Jefferson County to be Lead Agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the Purpose of the 2018 Jefferson County Snowmobile Trail GPS Update, Minor Reroutes and Additions Pursuant to NYS Snowmobile Grant-in-aid Program, and Making a Determination of Non-significance and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo and seconded by Legislator Adsit. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement in Relation to the State Alternatives to Incarceration (Pre-Trial Release) Program Funding 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 Amending the 2018 County Budget in Relation to the County Road Fund 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 2018 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the County Bridge Account and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Adsit and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Unused County Highway Land in the Town of Brownville to David M. Greenizen and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Modifying 2018 Stop DWI Plan and Amending the 2018 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Adsit and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements for an Additional Allocation for The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's Stop-DWI Crackdown Enforcement Grant and Amending the 2018 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

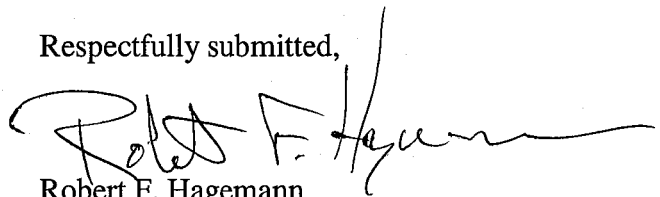
Mr. Hagemann announced that passenger ridership at the Watertown International Airport is up 11%, the second highest total for the month of May since inception. Chairman Reed advised that private aviation is also doing very well.

Chairman Reed also stated that he received a report from the Sheriff's Department regarding outboarding of inmates and they are below budget again this month compared to last year's figures.

In response to a question from Legislator Doldo regarding the Town of Brownville resolution authorizing a transfer of land to David Greenizen, Mr. Hagemann stated that this property abuts Mr. Greenizen's property and that we are turning it over to him at no cost, relieving the County of its responsibility for maintenance, which will result in a cost savings.

There being no further business, on a motion by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Doldo and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. Hagemann
Clerk of the Board