

General Services Committee
March 12, 2019
Minutes

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

Others Present: Legislators William Johnson, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Airport Manager Grant Sussey, Fire and Emergency Management Director Joseph Plummer, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Probation Director Martin Morrison, Secretary Torri Richmire

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

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement and Amending the 2019 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the FY18 New York State Interoperable Communications Targeted Grant (SICG) 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.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Establishing Time and Place for Public Hearing Related to the 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Process and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Jareo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement for Development and Submission of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application to the NYS Office for Community Renewal, and for Development and Administration of Grant Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell and seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Inter-Municipal Agreement with the City of Watertown Regarding FY 2018 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program and Amending the 2019 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo and seconded by Legislator Ferris. Legislator Maxon shared his concerns regarding the use of tasers by law enforcement and requested a copy of the Sheriff's Department policy. Chairman Reed stated that he did reach out to Undersheriff McDermott who advised that officers need to be trained and certified prior to carrying a taser. Chairman Reed stated that he would request the protocol for use by the Sheriff's Department and forward it to the Board. He advised that these funds will be used to replace tasers not for new inventory. There being

no further 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 2019 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Maxon. Legislator Jareo stated that he finds roadblocks unconstitutional and will vote no on this resolution. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented, except Legislator Jareo who was opposed.

Chairman Reed introduced two additional resolutions Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal Aid and State "Bridge NY" Program Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project (County Route 62 over Mill Creek), Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2019 County Budget and Capital Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo and seconded by Legislator Jareo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal Aid and State "Marchiselli" Program Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project (CR 62 over Mill Creek), Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2019 County Budget and Capital Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Jareo and seconded by Legislator Cantwell. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Legislator Doldo shared his concerns that he expressed during budget season regarding purchasing two new vehicles for the Probation Department. He stated that the Purchasing Department sent out a mini bid for vehicles and he is requesting, with Committee approval, Administrative staff prepare a resolution for presentation at Finance and Rules Committee meeting to purchase two vehicles for Probation at the cost of \$25,567 per car. He stated that there is an end date for vehicles to be built in 2019 and would like to get this in before they stop building them and we would have to wait for the 2020's to be built with possibly an additional cost. He stated that he would like to get them sooner than later for the safety of passengers and staff. Legislator Ferris stated that he would be in favor of the request for Administration to bring forth a resolution for the purchase of two vehicles.

Legislator Adsit arrived.

Chairman Reed stated that safety is paramount for employees. He advised that he made a number of phone calls to department heads this afternoon and while he appreciates Legislator Doldo's concerns for the increase in cost if we waited, his recommendation is to compromise and set a drop dead date for purchase of vehicles to give staff time to do what they need to, similar to what was done with the Sheriff's vehicles years ago.

Probation Director Martin Morrison stated that there were two incidents in October 2018 where two vehicles broke down, one while staff was transporting a passenger in Buffalo. He stated

that since then there has not been any major problems and when he spoke to Legislator Doldo he advised there was no rush for replacement as he knows that there is a mini bid in the works. He stated that he is in favor of setting up a program to replace vehicles according to miles or years and possibly look at a rollover plan. He stated that when the Sheriff's Department replaces their vehicles Probation reaches out to see what they have available and staff at the Highway garage services them prior to Probation taking ownership, and he is not opposed to that type of plan. Chairman of the Board Scott Gray stated that in the past vehicles were passed down within the Sheriff's Department according to rank and then bid out within the County as needed. Mr. Morrison stated that he approves of that arrangement, his vehicles have 135,000-150,000 miles on them and they added a third vehicle to reduce the amount of miles put on each vehicle in a year. He stated that they average approximately 9,000 miles per year per vehicle.

In response to a question from Legislator Jareo, Mr. Morrison stated that they do need three vehicles, advising that with the pretrial release program there is a greater need for the third vehicle leaving them with a backup. He stated that three vehicles are adequate for his department but two of them should be replaced.

In response to a question from Legislator Maxon, Mr. Morrison stated that it is not necessary to have a resolution go forth today, it can go through a more deliberate process. Legislator Maxon stated that a more deliberate process is fine with him as long as there is a plan to replace the current vehicles.

Legislator Doldo stated that he has learned that Administration is looking at leasing vehicles and his concern is waiting and having something happen if nothing is done soon. He is also concerned that they may end up purchasing vehicles down the road if leasing doesn't work out. He advised that he has met with Kristine Maloney, Probation, and has networked with Board Members in hopes of bringing a resolution forward in order to purchase 2019 vehicles before the manufacturer switches to 2020. He stated that he is not a fan of leasing and thinks that it would be better to move forward for safety reasons than to drag this out. Chairman Reed stated that in the past, leasing was a favorable method especially for lower mileage vehicles, which also renders the ability to rotate vehicles out.

Legislator Cantwell stated that he is in favor of moving this forward as soon as possible whether it be leasing or purchasing vehicles and wondered if a resolution could be brought before the Finance and Rules Committee at the end of the month. Chairman Reed stated that he is in favor of letting Administration finish their research of leasing the vehicles with a time limit (60-90 days) and then revisit with a plan.

Chairman of the Board Gray advised that he is in favor of allowing staff to finish the process and to come up with the best option with safety being a concern.

Legislator Jareo expressed his desire to have staff finish the process regarding leasing or purchasing of vehicles and possibly have the vehicles go to Probation first and then be passed on to the Sheriff's Department as suggested by Legislator Cantwell. He is hoping there will be answers for next month's meeting.

Legislator Doldo made a motion for the purchase of two new vehicles for the Probation Department with funding to come from the contingency account with a second by Legislator Ferris.

Legislator Maxon stated that he will not support this, he is in support of purchasing a new vehicle but does not feel that this is an emergency and that it should wait 30-60 days to complete the process and go before the General Services Committee.

Legislator Jareo stated that he can't believe that there would be a huge increase in price if they waited until the 2020 vehicles come out to justify rushing into the purchase of vehicles and not allowing it to go through the proper committee. For that reason, he is not in support of the requested resolution.

Chairman Reed stated that he is in agreement with Legislators Maxon and Jareo, he stated that if there was any indication that staff would be in danger there would be a completely different conversation. He is recommending that Administration work within an end date and get information to this committee to move forward.

Legislator Cantwell stated that while he is supportive of Legislator Doldo's efforts he will go with the process of having an end date.

County Administrator Hagemann stated that they can get something to the Committee in 60 days but advised that is not part of the resolution requested.

There being no further discussion, the Committee defeated the request with Legislators Cantwell, Jareo, Maxon and Reed opposed.

Chairman Reed referred to a Sheriff's Department Outboarding report that he emailed to Legislators showing a decrease in cost spending for 2018 due to utilizing the dormitory configuration.

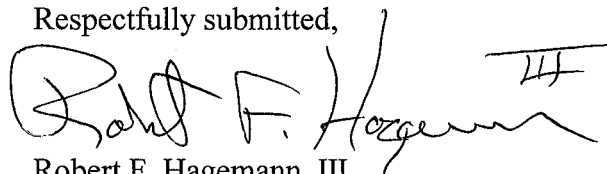
Airport Manager Grant Sussey reported that January 2019 passenger numbers were up 7% over last January. He also stated that Runway 7-25 Rehab and the ARFF Facility are in the design process as well as the access road with two of them ready for bid this Spring. He advised that there is pending paperwork and approvals with New York State for the baggage conveyor belt system thanks to Senator Patricia Ritchie. He stated that she has also assisted with funding for the air ambulance hanger, an award for purchase of a deicer truck and most recently an \$80,000 marketing grant. He stated that he is very grateful for all that she has done for Watertown International Airport.

In response to a question from Legislator Jareo regarding getting another airline carrier, Mr. Sussey stated that right now there is a shortage of pilots, limited resources available and a movement to go to larger aircrafts and get away from the 50 seat jet due to the shortage of pilots. He stated that they have meetings scheduled for June with air carriers and their network planners to have further conversations.

There being no further business, on a motion by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator

Doldo and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "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
County Administrator