

General Services Committee

May 14, 2019

Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Philip Reed, Legislators Robert Cantwell, Patrick Jareo, Jeremiah Maxon, Robert Ferris, Anthony Doldo

Others Present: Legislators William Johnson, Daniel McBride, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Probation Director Martin Morrison, Fire & Emergency Management Director Joseph Plummer, Building Code Enforcement Director Jason Crump, Buildings Superintendent Spike Decker, Purchasing Director Mark Sachetti, Watertown Daily Times Report Abraham Kenmore, 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 April meeting were approved without objection or correction.

Chairman Reed announced that following the first resolution Mr. Plummer will be leaving the meeting to attend a class and that he has been interacting with the Governor's office regarding anticipated flooding issues along the river. He thanked him for his efforts working with all involved to keep Jefferson County residents safe.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement With Onondaga County for Participation in the Central New York Interoperable Communications Consortium (CNYICC) 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 Adopting Revised Guidelines and Administrative Procedures in Relation to the County's Housing Improvement Program funded by NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Awards 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 Agreement with Jefferson County Children's Home for the Provision of Non-Secure Detention Services 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.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2019 County Budget in Relation to the Probation Department Vehicle and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Jareo and seconded by Legislator Cantwell. In response to a question from

Legislator Doldo, Mr. Hagemann stated that bid specs were sent out for both new and used vehicles with six bids received, he reviewed the bids and stated that the recommendation of the Board is to purchase the used Impala with low mileage for \$19,074 with an additional fee of just under \$1,000 for the divider between the front and back seat. Legislator Doldo stated that his preference is to purchase the 2019 Dodge Charger all wheel drive vehicle with the police package at \$25,371.

In response to a question from Legislator Ferris, Mr. Sachetti stated that the same bid specs were requested for both all wheel and front wheel drive and new and used vehicles. He stated that the only difference was with pre-owned it had to have 20,000 miles or less. Legislator Ferris stated that his preference is to spend the extra money and purchase a new vehicle but would prefer an all wheel drive SUV instead of a car. He said that he could go with a front wheel drive car but in the winter they should have a decent four wheel drive vehicle to get around in if they are putting a lot of miles on it.

Chairman Reed stated that his understanding is that the vehicle will be driven 10,000-15,000 miles per year. He questioned if it was imperative to send staff and clients out in a snowstorm. Mr. Morrison confirmed the mileage to be used and stated that most of the time they have the option to change their transport to a different day due to weather or unforeseen circumstances.

Legislator Maxon stated that he has no problem with purchasing a used vehicle as long as we get a good deal and that it is a good place to save taxpayer money. He stated that in this case the difference between new and used is 15% and he doesn't know if that is good enough. In response to a question, Mr. Hagemann stated that they are not obligated to take the lowest bid but that is generally the recommendation. He stated that the type of activity being done at the Probation Department would suggest that whether it is the used one year old Chevy Impala or the cheapest of the brand new cars which is also a Chevy Impala they went with the low bid because they have confidence in the fact that this will work and is much better than the vehicle with 145,000+ miles that they are currently using. He stated that it is a policy decision as to which way the Board wants to go with it.

Legislator Maxon stated that he has confidence in the County Highway Department's ability to keep a 2018 vehicle with 19,000 miles running so he is in favor of purchasing the used vehicle. He questioned whether the plan is to rotate new or used vehicles in at budget time. Mr. Hagemann stated that the county repurposes vehicles regularly within departments and when the Highway Department advises that they need to trade in or get rid of a vehicle, that is what is done. He stated that there is no plan for the 2020 budget to purchase a used vehicle for the Probation Department.

In response to a question from Legislator McBride, Mr. Hagemann stated that in the past the Probation Department has received vehicles from the Sheriff's Department which worked nicely because it already had the divider in place. He stated that the problem becomes depending on how quickly the Sheriff's Department replaces the vehicles it may be turned over to another department with high miles on it. He said that they are trying to be more efficient, and whether new or used their intention for the Probation Department is to hold onto the car for as long as possible and then send it to auction for a return on investment. He stated that the vehicle ordered for Probation would never go to the Sheriff's Department because the Sheriff's vehicles require a police package.

Legislator Doldo reiterated that he is in favor of spending the extra money on a new vehicle with a full warranty and to know that no one has abused it previously rather than to take the chance and potentially have a problem with it. He stated that he would make a motion to amend the resolution to purchase the new 2019 Chevy Impala for a cost of \$22,451 if the Committee is in agreement. Legislator Ferris stated that he would second the motion.

Legislator Maxon stated that he would like to see moving forward a better grip on replacing vehicles on a regular basis. He advised that he can't justify spending an additional 15% on a new versus a used vehicle and he will vote against the amendment as the used car is a good opportunity.

Mr. Sachetti advised that all new vehicles ordered have a 90-120 day lead time once the order is placed meaning that a new Probation vehicle won't arrive until fall.

Chairman Reed stated that this has been a good discussion but he is in favor of following policy and purchasing the low bid.

Legislator Maxon stated that he thinks that they have used \$2,500 worth of staff time on this discussion and he has decided to support the amendment and vote for the purchase of a new vehicle to make it go away.

Legislator Cantwell stated that he would be in favor of purchasing two vehicles for the Probation Department at \$25,000 each to have them in the queue for when the Sheriff's Department has accidents with theirs and pull from the Probation Department to replace them. He believes that the process is backwards and that the new vehicles should be purchased for the Probation Department and rotate them into the Sheriff's Department as needed. That way the Sheriff's Department won't have to wait the 90-120 days for replacement.

Chairman Reed requested a vote on amending the resolution as discussed above, the Committee agreed to sponsor the amended resolution except Chairman Reed who is opposed.

Chairman Reed requested a vote on the amended resolution for purchase of a new 2019 Chevy Impala for \$22,451.03 with \$10,000 from Probation's Professional Fees line and \$12,451.03 from the County's Contingency Account. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as amended.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing FY 2018 Operation Stonegarden Grant Agreement 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 Cantwell. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented except Legislators Jareo and Maxon who are opposed.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Adopting New York State Unified Solar Permit in Relation to Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislators Jareo and seconded by Legislator Maxon. In response to a question from Legislator Maxon, Mr. Hagemann stated that this resolution would be applicable to

towns and villages that the county provides building code services for. Mr. Hagemann stated that this resolution and the next one represent two items on a punch list of 4 out of 10 that the county needs to take action on. One of those items is to put in a dual charging station for electric vehicles to be located in the county parking lot behind the 175 Arsenal Street office building for public use. He stated that would become the sixth or seventh location within the metropolitan area of the City of Watertown. It will be installed in June and with that installation the County will be eligible for up to \$250,000 and can tackle a number of other energy efficiency projects on the counties list. He stated that a number of energy efficient projects that the Buildings Department have completed or plan to complete countywide are LED lighting outdoors and indoors and sensors for lights to automatically turn on/shutoff when people enter and exit rooms.

In response to a question from Legislator Doldo regarding charging stations, Mr. Decker stated that there is an application that can be downloaded on one's phone to pay for the use of the charging stations. He stated that it hasn't been established at this time what the County will charge for use but his suggestion is to charge a little more than what the county is paying to at least break even. He stated that this will be a Level 2 charger which can take 2-4 hours to charge depending on how discharged your vehicle is. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

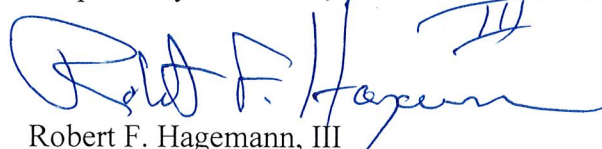
Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Adopting Energy Benchmarking Through Annual Reporting for Jefferson County Owned Buildings and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Mr. Hagemann reported that the Watertown International Airport passenger report for March 2019 showed an increase of 27% over March 2018. Chairman Reed advised that the July 16th General Services Committee meeting will be held in the airport conference room with a tour of the facility.

Chairman Reed thanked all those involved in Emergency Management for their efforts dealing with the high water issues. He stated that it is a complex problem with a lot of networking being done.

There being no further business, on a motion by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Doldo and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is stylized and includes a large flourish at the end.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
County Administrator