

Finance & Rules Committee
July 28, 2020
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Michael Montigelli, Legislators William Johnson, Allen Drake, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Frances Calarco, and Board Chair Scott Gray

Others Present: Legislator John Peck, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs and Information Technology Director Gregory Hudson, County Treasurer Karen Christie, Insurance Director Lisa Jock, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Alex Gault, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

Luke Malecki, Partner, Drescher & Malecki, LLP made a presentation to the Committee regarding their audit of Jefferson County's 2019 financial statements. He said they started the examination mid quarantine and with the help of the Departments (Treasurer, Public Health, Department of Social Services) in scanning materials, they only had one day of on-site work.

Mr. Malecki said they have an unqualified opinion and there are no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses noted in the financial statements. He said that the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund was not noted for the first time in many years as it has made all of its payments back to the General Fund. There were also no findings in the two required audits they perform; New York State Department of Transportation (CHIPS and Marchiselli Program funds) and Passenger Facility Charge procedures (Airport). He outlined five year graphics of trends for revenues vs. expenses for the General Fund noting that for 2019 expenses (+2.1%) kept pace with any gains in revenues (+2.4%); a five year graphic of trends for fund balance noting that fund balance continues to grow slowly, and the adjusted available balance for 2019 is a 17% ratio vs total expenses, which is within the County's fund balance policy and Government Finance Officers Assoc. recommendations. He said overall the audit was very positive and it was a pleasure to work with Jefferson County.

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

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending Resolution 113 of 1965 to Increase Taxes on Sales and Uses of Tangible Personal Property and Certain Services, on Occupancy of Hotel Rooms and on Amusement Charges Pursuant to Article 29 of the Tax Law of the State of New York and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Jareo seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending 2020 County Budget in Relation

to Insurance Department - Medicare Part B Reimbursement and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Johnson and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending 2020 County Budget in Relation to Unemployment Insurance and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Jareo seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with the NYS Board of Elections in Relation to Elections Cyber Security Remediation Grant Program and Amending the 2020 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Johnson seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Appointing Representative to Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli said that he was returning to the former practice of having a motion and second on each resolution referred from other jurisdictional committees so as not to stifle discussion on any of them.

On a motion by Legislators Drake and Jareo and seconds by Legislators Nabywaniec and Johnson, respectively, the Committee approved the following resolutions referred from the Health & Human Services Committee:

- ✓ Amending 2020 County Budget Relative to Additional Revenue From the Redlich Horwitz Foundation for Family First Readiness Funding
- ✓ Amending 2020 County Budget Relative to State Charge Social Service Administration Account

Legislator Jareo asked when furloughed workers would be returning to work. Administrator Hagemann advised a few had been brought back over time, but everyone else will be back on Monday, August 3, 2020.

Board Chairman Gray outlined the successful Bassmasters Elite Fishing Tournament that was held on July 24-26, 2020 in Clayton, and was televised on ESPN2. He said the event sponsors and participants were very professional and followed all the guidelines in place for professional sports as well as anything else the County asked them to do. Holding the Tournament in Clayton allowed the anglers to also fish in Lake Ontario and the Tournament was won on the Lake; it set a Tournament record for aggregate catch which was 4 oz below the State record. He said the Tournament is contractually obligated to Waddington for next year, but there

is a very real possibility they will be back in Clayton after that. The participants loved the proximity to the Lake, the area in general and were very complimentary of the hospitality. He said people seemed to put their fears aside in terms of the pandemic and enjoyed the Tournament being here. County Administrator Hagemann pointed out that we did not seek them out, they knocked on our door when St. Lawrence County could not accommodate requirements for their Covid-19 guidelines. Legislator Jareo added that it highlighted the excellent bass fishery in our area.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Jareo and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board