

## **REGULAR SESSION**

**TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020**

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and the Board observed a moment of silence in memory of District 12 Legislator Carolyn D. Fitzpatrick who passed away on April 12, 2020.

Chairman Gray noted that once again, the meeting is being conducted under the extraordinary circumstance of a public health emergency (COVID-19), and under Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1; without permitting public in-person access to the meeting, authorizing the meeting to be held partially or completely with members appearing by remote conference call or similar service, and the meeting is being live streamed via the web and recorded, including the participation of the members appearing by remote link. He further noted that the Governor's Executive Order supersedes the Board's Standing Rules with regard to the above stated matters.

### **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

All members present.

### **READING OF MINUTES OF LAST SESSION, IF REQUESTED**

The minutes of the April Board Session stand approved in the absence of objection or correction.

### **PETITIONS, NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

A letter was received from St. Lawrence County Manager Ruth Doyle expressing her condolences and those of Chair Lightfoot and the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators on the passing of Legislator Fitzpatrick.

Chairman Gray complimented Public Health Director Ginger Hall, her employees and everyone that stepped up to help the Department get us through the Covid-19 pandemic and flatten the curve to this point. He said Public Health has been the back bone of the County, they are doing an excellent job, and will be very instrumental in helping the County move to the next phase which is reopening.

Public Health Director Hall said it has been a very challenging and stressful time and her department would not have been able to get through it without help from other departments (Administration, Information Technology, Human Resources, Buildings & Grounds, and Employment & Training) who have provided support and employees to get them through this difficult time. Current totals are: Tests 1,687 (March 5<sup>th</sup> - first test); 62 positive tests, 3.6% of tested individuals; 6 in mandatory isolation (positive cases); 1 currently hospitalized, total of 8 have been hospitalized, 13% hospitalization rate; 55 have recovered, 89% rate; negative tests

1,625, 96.4% rate. She said testing has increased as elective surgeries have started at the hospitals. There were 9 households where there have been two or more cases in the household. Symptoms have varied from being very ill, to only losing the ability to taste or smell. There have been also people who were very ill, but tested negative. Public Health has been completing contact tracing for years for all of their communicable diseases and contact tracing includes investigating where the positive individual has been, their contacts outside and within their home. This provides them with the potential exposed individuals for mandatory quarantine. The County's first positive COVID-19 case was on March 17<sup>th</sup> and since the last Board presentation they have been doing social media outreaches through Facebook live presentations two to three times a week, as well as TV and radio interviews. They have also completed: contact tracing on every positive case; done a video chat with every positive case daily while they are on their mandatory isolation; contacted every mandatory quarantine individual daily until their 14 days have been completed; they are doing isolation or mandatory quarantine orders on every patient; every negative test has also been called; and they are maintaining a spreadsheet so they have tracking of all individuals that were positive, on mandatory quarantine as a contact, and all negatives. They have worked with community agencies and organizations to facilitate the social distancing practice, disinfecting procedures, and participate on at least 10 webinar/telephone conferences per week receiving updated guidance and further regulations. Public Health is currently working with the six other counties in the North Country Region for the reopening; they started a weekly directors call and there will be educational calls with health promotion to make sure they provide the same message across the Region. She said their concern is that once places start reopening people will think they no longer have to social distance or wear a mask, and those two things are key in managing the infection and hospitalization rate which are part of the reopening process. They are currently working with all nursing homes and assisted living facilities regarding COVID-19 testing of residents and employees which will begin next week. In response to questions from legislators Director Hall advised that the State is doing antibody sampling but counties do not have a robust program to do that, there is no guidance as to what a non-essential business needs to do if an employee tests positive, and employees of businesses that are opening will have to wear face masks.

## **REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND OTHERS**

The County Treasurer provided a report on Investments and Cash in Banks as of March 31, 2020.

The County Administrator provided a report on Budget Transfers for the month of April, 2020.

## **LOCAL LAWS, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS**

Chairman Gray entertained a motion and second to waive Standing Rules 35, 41 and 60 to permit the consideration of Resolution Nos. 114 - 124 as they have not been through their jurisdictional committee. Such motion was made by Legislator Montigelli seconded by Legislator Ferris and unanimously carried.

Chairman Gray entertained a motion and second for Resolution Nos. 114 - 124. Such motion was made by Legislator Reed and seconded by Legislator McBride. Chairman Gray said each resolution title will be read, the resolution discussed, and one Roll Call Vote at the end will cover all the resolutions, unless a Legislator requests that one be pulled out and voted on separately.

### **Resolution No. 114**

#### **Approving Mortgage Tax Report**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, This Board is in receipt of the semi-annual Mortgage Tax Report showing the amount to be credited to each tax district in the County of the money collected during the preceding six months ended March 31, 2020.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That, pursuant to Section 261 of the Tax Law, this Board issue Tax Warrants for the payment to the respective tax districts of the amounts so credited and authorize and direct the County Treasurer to make payment of said amounts to the respective districts in accordance with the report.

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

See Roll Call Vote following Resolution No. 124.

### **Resolution No. 115**

#### **Authorizing Agreements with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), McFarland Johnson, Inc. and Rifenburg Construction, in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Runway 7/25 and Intersection Rehabilitation Construction related SEQR Determination Thereto and Amending the 2020 County Budget and Capital Plan**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, By Resolution 158 of 2018, this Board of Legislators authorized agreements with the FAA, New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), and McFarland Johnson, Inc. for the design and bidding of Runway 7/25 and Intersection Design Project at the Watertown International Airport, and

Whereas, The Watertown International Airport anticipates a FAA grant this year for the Runway 7/25 and Intersection Rehabilitation for up to \$8,421,766, and

Whereas, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act by United States Government has authorized the funding at 100%, with no State or Local share, and

Whereas, McFarland Johnson, Inc., the County's airport consultant, has completed said design and coordinated the bidding process and recommends that the low bidder, Rifenburg Construction, be awarded the construction contract in the amount of \$7,485,115, and

Whereas, It is necessary to authorize agreements with Rifenburg Construction in the amount of up to \$7,485,115 for construction and with McFarland Johnson, Inc. for contract administration and project construction representative services in the amount of up to \$921,651, and

Whereas, The County is expected to incur up to \$15,000 in reimbursable administrative and preliminary expenses in relation to the project, and

Whereas, A Categorical Exclusion was prepared and approved by the FAA in accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act, and

Whereas, A subsequent review was completed pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(2) in relation to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), and

Whereas, The project is a replacement and rehabilitation of the Runway 7/25 and Intersection landing area surface and associated airfield signage and lighting, in kind, on the same site, is categorized as a Type II action under SEQR and determined to not have a significant adverse environmental impact.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into an agreement with FAA to accept said grant funds in the amount of \$8,421,766, and be it further Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into agreements with Rifenburg Construction for up to \$7,485,115 for the construction of the project and with McFarland Johnson in the amount of up to \$921,651 for construction administration and project representative services, and be it further

Resolved, That Jefferson County, upon award of the FAA grant, enter into agreements with FAA, Rifenburg Construction and McFarland Johnson for said project and that the Chairman of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreements on behalf of the County, including any change orders as recommended by the Airport Manager and County Administrator not to exceed the funding available, subject to review of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2020 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Revenue

20900600 94589	Federal Aid - Airport Cap Projects	\$ 8,421,766
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Expenditure

20561000 02091	Runway 7-25	\$ 8,421,766
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and be it further

Resolved, That the six year capital plan is amended accordingly.

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

See Roll Call Vote following Resolution No. 124.

**Resolution No. 116**

**Amending the 2020 County Budget to Re-Appropriate Funding from NYS  
Department of Transportation for New York Statewide Opportunities for Airport  
Revitalization (SOARS) Marketing Grant**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, By Resolution 149 of 2019, this Board authorized a grant agreement for Statewide Opportunities for Airport Revitalization (SOARS) from the New York State Department of Transportation, and

Whereas, Jefferson County, through the Watertown International Airport, has not fully expended the grant funds, and

Whereas, Said funds must be re-appropriated and placed in the appropriate 2020 expenditure lines.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2020 County Budget is amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Appropriated Fund Balance			
01000000 30599	Appropriated Fund Balance		\$ 37,133.44
Expenditure			
01561000 04415	Advertising		\$ 25,133.44
01561000 04416	Professional Fees		\$ 12,000.00

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

See Roll Call Vote following Resolution No. 124.

**Resolution No. 117**

**Authorizing Agreements with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and McFarland  
Johnson, Inc. in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Runway 28 Medium-  
Intensity Approach Lighting System with Runway Alignment Indicator Lights (MALSR),  
Related State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination**

## **There to and Amending the 2020 County Budget and Capital Plan**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, The Watertown International Airport anticipates a FAA grant this year for design of Runway 28 Medium-Intensity Approach Lighting System with Runway Alignment Indicator Lights (MALSR), as identified in the County's Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP), and

Whereas, The recent extension of Runway 10/28 has created a dilemma for the airport as Runway 7/25, with a shorter length, has a full Instrument Landing System with MALSR, and the longer now primary runway has no approach lighting systems. While the Airport has received a GPS approach to Runway 10/28, the addition of an approach lighting system such as a MALSR would provide a ¼ mile reduction in the approach minimums and is essential to providing a safe and reliable approach to Runway 28, especially during winter months or other low visibility conditions, and

Whereas, The FAA conducted a cost benefit analysis and the project was determined to be eligible in July 2019 and a grant for up to \$198,000 for said project is anticipated, and

Whereas, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act by United States Government has authorized the funding at 100%, with no State or Local share, and

Whereas, The County's selected airport consultant, McFarland Johnson, Inc. will conduct the Design and related administration services in the amount of up to \$190,000, and

Whereas, The County is expected to incur \$8,000 in reimbursable administrative and preliminary expenses in relation to the project, and

Whereas, A Finding of No Significant Impact and Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) was determined by the FAA on August 15, 2015 in accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and a subsequent review was completed pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 in relation to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), and

Whereas, The proposed improvements are classified as Type I action under SEQR and an Environmental Assessment Form has been completed in conjunction with Passero Associates, and

Whereas, Pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617, Jefferson County has determined the proposed improvements are classified as a Type I Action and the project is determined to not have a significant adverse environmental impact and an Amended Negative Declaration was issued on February 11, 2014.

Whereas, It is necessary to authorize agreements with the FAA to accept said grant funds in the amount of up to \$198,000 and with McFarland Johnson in the amount of up to \$190,000 for construction administration and project representative services.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County, upon award of the FAA grant, enter into agreements with FAA and McFarland Johnson for said project and that the Chairman of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreements on behalf of the County, including any change orders as recommended by the Airport Manager and County Administrator not to exceed the funding available, subject to review of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2020 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Revenue		
20900600 94589	Federal Aid – Airport Cap Projects	\$ 198,000

Expenditure		
20561000 02097	Airfield Lighting	\$ 198,000

and be it further

Resolved, That the six year capital plan is amended accordingly.

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

See Roll Call Vote following Resolution No. 124.

**Resolution No. 118**

**Authorizing Agreements with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and McFarland Johnson, Inc. in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Drainage Study, related SEQR Determination Thereto and Amending the 2020 County Budget and Capital Plan**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, The Watertown International Airport anticipates a FAA grant this year for a Drainage Study, as identified in the county’s Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP), and

Whereas, Areas of ponding and open water as a result of the high-water table attract wildlife, that recent FAA inspection noted can be significantly reduced or eliminated if proper drainage is designed and installed, and

Whereas, In winter, snow removal equipment has become mired on the runway and taxiway shoulders during snow removal operations when leaving the pavement unintentionally, and

Whereas, The drainage study will include recommendations to address these airfield safety and operational concerns and result in a comprehensive drainage plan addressing the needs of the

current environment and future development, and providing an innovative, cost effective strategy to address drainage impacts, and

Whereas, The FAA is anticipated to provide a grant for up to \$348,047 for said project, and

Whereas, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act by United States Government has authorized the funding at 100%, with no State or Local share, and

Whereas, The County's selected airport consultant, McFarland Johnson, Inc. will conduct the Drainage Study and related administration services in the amount of up to \$340,047, and

Whereas, Jefferson County is expected to incur up to \$8,000 in reimbursable administrative and preliminary expenses in relation to the project, and

Whereas, A Categorical Exclusion Determination was prepared and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration in accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act, and

Whereas, A subsequent review was completed pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(2) in relation to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), and

Whereas, The project consists of information collection, including data collection and research, subsurface and surface investigations, on the property, is categorized as a Type II Action under SEQR and determined to not have a significant adverse environmental impact.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into agreements with FAA to accept said grant funds in the amount of up to \$348,047 and with McFarland Johnson in the amount of up to \$340,047 for services, and be it further

Resolved, That Jefferson County, upon award of the FAA grant, enter into agreements with FAA and McFarland Johnson for said project and that the Chairman of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreements on behalf of the County, including any change orders as recommended by the Airport Manager and County Administrator not to exceed the funding available, subject to review of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2020 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Revenue		
20900600 94589	Federal Aid - Airport Cap Projects	\$ 348,047
Expenditure		
20561000 02083	Storm Water & Drainage	\$ 348,047

and be it further



Resolved, That the six year capital plan is amended accordingly.

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

See Roll Call Vote following Resolution No. 124.

**Resolution No. 119**

**Authorizing Agreements for an Additional Allocation for The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's Stop-DWI Crackdown Enforcement Grant and Amending the 2020 County Budget in Relation Thereto**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, The New York State Stop-DWI Foundation has successfully coordinated and obtained Stop-DWI Crackdown Enforcement Grants for 44 counties throughout the state, and

Whereas, Jefferson County has been notified of an additional allocation of \$5,000 to be shared with the Watertown City Police Department, the NYS Park Police, and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, and

Whereas, Agreements must be authorized with the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and the aforementioned agencies, and

Whereas, The 2020 County Budget must be amended to recognize said funding and allocate it to the appropriate accounts.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute agreements as necessary to obtain and distribute funding as described above, subject to the review of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2020 County Budget is amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Revenue		
01331500 94389	Federal Aid Criminal Justice	\$ 5,000
01311000 92614	Stop DWI Services - Sheriff	1,500
Expenditure		
01311000 01300	Overtime	\$ 1,500
01331500 04428	Public Safety Svcs. - Other Govt	3,500
01331500 04414	Supporting Services	1,500

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

Legislator Jareo requested that this resolution be voted on separate from the rest of the group so he could vote against it without voting against the rest of the resolutions.

Legislator McBride said part of the funding is for the NYS Park Police, and wondered if that money would be redistributed to the other agencies because the parks aren't open. Chairman Gray said the NYS Park Police are still operating. Legislator Jareo said that since the parks aren't open the Park Police are probably doing things he did not believe were constitutional, such as road blocks, etc. He and Chairman Gray confirmed that the Park Police have the same jurisdiction as the NYS Police.

See vote following Resolution No. 124.

Resolution passed.

### **Resolution No. 120**

#### **Accepting New COVID-19 Local Health Department Allocation Funding and Amending the 2020 County Budget in Relation Thereto**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, By Resolution 101 of 2020, this Board of Legislators accepted \$119,799 of Local Health Department COVID-19 funding to be used for crisis response, and

Whereas, Jefferson County Public Health Service will receive a second award of funding in the amount of \$49,485 for Allowable activities relating to COVID-19 crisis response and supplies.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that Jefferson County hereby accepts said funding for the period March 5, 2020 through March 15, 2021 and authorizes the Chairman of the Board of Legislators to sign any and all documents necessary to accept such funding, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2020 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

#### **Increase:**

##### Revenue

01405000 94489	Fed Aid Other Health	\$49,485
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##### Expenditure

01405100 01110	Prevent Temporary	\$ 20,000
01405100 01300	Prevent Overtime	9,000
01405800 04510	Preparedness Medical Supplies	20,485

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

See Roll Call Vote following Resolution No. 124.

**Resolution No. 121**

**Accepting Funding from CARES Provider Relief Fund and  
Amending the 2020 County Budget in Relation Thereto**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, The recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides relief funds to hospitals and other healthcare providers on the front lines of the coronavirus response, and

Whereas, This funding will be used to support healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19 and to ensure uninsured Americans can get testing and treatment for COVID-19, and

Whereas, The Public Health and Social Services Emergency Relief Fund has advised Jefferson County Public Health Service of the allocation of CARES ACT Provider Relief COVID – 19 funding in the amount of \$97,103.02 for allowable expenses and lost revenue relating to COVID-19 crisis response.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that Jefferson County hereby accepts said funding from the U.S. Health and Human Services Stimulus and authorizes the Chairman of the Board of Legislators to sign any and all documents necessary to accept such funding, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2020 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Revenue		
01405000 944899	Fed Aid Stimulus Health	\$97,103.02

**Decrease:**

Revenue		
01405000 91610	Home Nursing Charges	\$97,103.02

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

See Roll Call Vote following Resolution No. 124.

**Resolution No. 122**

## **Appointing Successor to District 12 Legislator**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, A vacancy exists due to the passing of District 12 Legislator Carolyn D. Fitzpatrick, and

Whereas, Pursuant to Local Law No. 1 of 1997, a vacancy on the Board of Legislators shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Legislators at a meeting called within a period of one week following the occurrence of such vacancy.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Board of Legislators hereby appoints Frances A. Calarco to serve for the balance of 2020.

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

See Roll Call Vote following Resolution No. 124.

## **Resolution No. 123**

### **Approval of a Line of Credit for the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, border crossings at the Thousand Islands Bridge Crossing (the “Bridge”) have been restricted to essential traffic only resulting in a temporary reduction of Bridge crossings and revenue derived therefrom, and

Whereas, In an abundance of caution, the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority (the “Authority”) proposes to secure a line of credit from a local financial institution in the principal amount of one million five hundred thousand dollars for cash flow purposes in supporting its general operations should the need arise, in an effort to maintain its reserves and investments to the maximum extent, and

Whereas, The Authority proposes to pledge its accounts receivable and equipment as security for the line of credit, and

Whereas, Pursuant to the New York State Public Authorities Law, Title 4, Section 578 (21), the Authority is granted the power to borrow money and issue its negotiable bonds and notes or other obligations for any of its corporate purposes and to provide for and secure the payment thereof, and

Whereas, Pursuant to the New York State Public Authorities Law, Title 4, Section 581 (7), the Authority is granted the power to and is authorized to issue negotiable notes and renewals thereof for any corporate purpose of the Authority in conformance with the applicable provisions of the

Uniform Commercial Code provided, however, that it shall not issue such notes in an aggregate amount of one hundred thousand dollars without the prior approval of the Board of Legislators duly adopted, and such note, including the renewals thereof, shall not exceed five years from the date of issue of the original note, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Legislators, and

Whereas, Pursuant to the New York State Public Authorities Law, Title 4, Section 583, the note or notes of the Authority pursuant to the line of credit shall not be and shall never be a debt or obligation of Jefferson County, NY, nor shall Jefferson County, NY be liable thereon, and

Whereas, The Board of Legislators, after due inquiry, believes that the Authority obtaining a line of credit as set forth above is prudent under the circumstances and is in the Authority's best interest for the purposes set forth herein.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the borrowing by the Authority pursuant to a line of credit in the principal amount of one million five hundred thousand dollars is hereby approved, and the Authority may give its note or notes in accordance therewith, and be it further

Resolved, That the pledging of the Authority's accounts receivable and equipment to secure the line of credit and the obligations thereunder is hereby approved, and the Authority may give a security interest to its lending institution in and to the same, and be it further

Resolved, That the re-payment term of the line of credit note or notes, and any renewals thereof, shall not exceed five years from the date of the original note without the further resolution of the Jefferson County Board of Legislators.

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

See Roll Call Vote following Resolution No. 124.

#### **Resolution No. 124**

#### **Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Jefferson Local of the Civil Service Employees Association Regarding Voluntary Furlough Program**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, The current COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented financial burden on New York State businesses and government entities, including Jefferson County, and

Whereas, The County and the Jefferson Local of the Civil Service Employees Association have reached an agreement constituting a voluntary furlough program for the period of May 18, 2020 thru July 31, 2020.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, That pursuant to Section 450 of the County Law, the Chairman of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to execute A Memorandum of Agreement on

behalf of Jefferson County.

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

Human Resources Director Nugent said that at the direction of County Administrator Hagemann, and like many other counties are doing (mandatory or voluntary), she, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin and Deputy County Attorney John Sabik were tasked to put together a Memorandum of Agreement to offer furlough to members of the CSEA Union, the largest and only Union being offered the furlough as the other unions represent essential personnel. She said an agreement was reached with the Union at 4:45 today and she apologized for not having it available for review by the Board. If authorized by the Board it will be signed tomorrow and offers a voluntary furlough; the employee fills out an election form which is approved by the Department Head for a minimum of 30 days starting May 18<sup>th</sup> and can run through July 31<sup>st</sup>. It would make the employee eligible for 50% of their average salary for unemployment plus the \$600 stimulus CARES Act funding, and the County will continue their health insurance as long as they pay the bi-weekly premium.

Mr. Hagemann related that presently there are 9 counties who have approved/implemented a similar program including Franklin and Clinton, another three counties are considering it tonight or tomorrow including Lewis, and it is being considered mostly because of the stimulus package.

In response to questions Mr. Hagemann stated that if approved tonight, starting tomorrow all eligible employees will be notified, and the County hoped to save \$1 million + dollars over the course of the program. Employees are guaranteed to come back as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, but he cautioned that due to the economics of what we are facing, position reductions may be a part of 2021 budget discussions, but that has nothing to do with this program. Ms. Nugent related the following program details:

- ▶ if approved for the program each employee will be notified of what it will cost for their bi-weekly health insurance premium (including dental insurance if appropriate) and they will be responsible for mailing that to the County in order to continue coverage;
- ▶ if they do not pay their premium the coverage will not be discontinued, but when the employee returns to work, the amount due will be deducted from their paycheck.;
- ▶ Employees who take part in the furlough program will not receive NYS Retirement System credit for the time they are on furlough, this will be explained to the employee, including the fact that it could affect their final average salary if they are within three years of retirement;
- ▶ Participant's seniority in the Union will not be affected by participating in the program as the collective bargaining agreement states that anything less than a three month leave of absence will not affect seniority;
- ▶ It will also not affect Civil Service seniority lay off protection;
- ▶ The departments who will not be participating include: Public Health, Sheriff's Department (other than the clerical staff), Insurance, Transfer Station and any other department viewed as an "essential service";

- ▶ The full furlough period is from May 18<sup>th</sup> through July 31, however the initial furlough period is 30 days, at which time the County can bring back any worker if they are needed, or extend them;
- ▶ Regarding difficulty in receiving unemployment benefits, if it is an uncontested normal employment situation (not part time, not contracting employee, self employed) she heard the benefits are received quickly;
- ▶ If the employee's unemployment claim is denied they can return to work, and there are other provisions in the MOA for them to return to work during the furlough.

Administrator Hagemann stated that initial revenue stream reductions by the State should be known this week, with three other cycles during the year and that may determine the level of service the County can/can not continue, but it will be a balancing act throughout the remainder of 2020 and into 2021. Chairman Gray said that much of the workload has been put on hold and that may continue in order to keep costs down. Mr. Hagemann added that in order to keep personnel down to under 50% in the office, as mandated by the State, a number of employees have been working from home so other work is being done on a regular basis.

Legislator Jareo expressed a concern about the perception of putting employees on furlough just as the State is trying to open back up, as it supports the perception that there are deeper causations and problems with society as a whole if the County is doing this. Chairman Gray said they are two separate things; furloughs are strictly a budgetary move and we will respond accordingly, and the virus numbers and that matrix are the basis for reopening. Legislator Jareo stated that if County government can operate without those people, then why did we have them to begin with. Chairman Gray said a certain portion of work is not being conducted; whatever can, is being done from home, and we will continue to elongate that process; as we open we will increase incrementally the amount being done and therefore the need for employees. Mr. Hagemann said furloughing employees is one of the many tools that is available to the County to try to minimize the effect of reduced revenues and it is not taken lightly. He said it was an extremely well vetted process to make sure it even made sense, and from a public policy standpoint it is an appropriate step but not an easy step to take, and it will not negatively affect the employees. Chairman Gray clarified that it is both State (unemployment) and Federal (stimulus) funding, and the magnitude of what we are looking at made it worth the exercise. Human Resources Director Nugent advised that the stimulus package runs out on July 31<sup>st</sup>, the furlough program is strictly a voluntary program, and has had an excellent response in other areas.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution Nos. 114 - 123 (except Resolution No. 119 and 124)

Ayes: Reed, Ferris, Jareo, Doldo, McBride, Montigelli, Maxon, Nabywaniec, Peck, Grant, Johnson, Cantwell, Drake, Gray

Resolutions passed.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution No. 119

Ayes: Doldo, Drake, Johnson, Grant, Nabywaniec, Cantwell, Reed, Montigelli, Gray

Nays: Jareo, Maxon, Peck, McBride, Ferris

Resolution passed.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution No. 124

Ayes: Peck, Cantwell, Maxon, Montigelli, Reed, Grant, McBride, Johnson, Nabywaniec,  
Drake, Gray

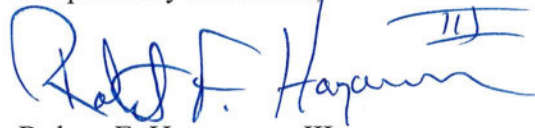
Nays: Jareo, Ferris, Doldo

Resolution passed.

Chairman Gray introduced newly appointed District 12 Legislator Frances Calarco, who was virtually present and welcomed her to the Board. Ms. Calarco said she never thought of serving in this capacity, but is looking forward to it. Board members congratulated her and welcomed her to the Board.

There being no further business of the Board, on a motion by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Maxon and unanimously carried, the meeting was 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 small "III" written above the end of the name.

Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board