

**General Services Committee**  
**September 22, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Committee Chair Philip Reed, Legislators Robert Cantwell, Daniel McBride, Jeremiah Maxon, Robert Ferris, Corey Grant, Anthony Doldo, Chairman of the Board Scott Gray

**Others Present:** Legislators William Johnson, Michael Montigelli, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, Fire and Emergency Management Director Joseph Plummer, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Airport Manager Grant Sussey, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Alex Gault, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Reed offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to address the Committee. The Committee approved the minutes of the August meeting as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2020 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Facility Construction Project and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride 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 2020 County Budget in Relation to Fuel Farm Repairs at the Watertown International Airport and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Grant. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement in Relation to the FY20 Emergency Management Performance Grant 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 Authorizing Agreement and Amending the 2020 County Budget in Relation to the FY20 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Maxon. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Establishing Time and Place for a Public Hearing on the 2020 Inclusions of Viable Agricultural Land in NYS Certified Agricultural Districts and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator McBride. 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 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Process and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2020 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery and Allocating Same in Sheriff's Department Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement and Amending the 2020 County Budget in Relation to the State FY20 State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program Grant and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Cantwell. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

The Committee concurred with the recommendation made by Chairman Gray regarding an appointment to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDS). Mr. Hagemann stated that one of the appointees was not able to fulfill the position and since there has always been a representative from FDRHPO, it was recommended that Erika Flint be appointed.

Chairman Reed reported that there has been an increase in recycling and that solid waste has remained steady.

Airport Manager Grant Sussey briefed the committee on the many projects happening at the Watertown International Airport (WIA), they are:

- Over Labor Day weekend they had over 100 soldiers who deployed to Fort Polk for training - Wheeler Sack Airfield on Fort Drum is currently under runway construction so they utilized WIA to deploy soldiers. He stated that it was a great exercise for WIA staff to show their capabilities and what they can do to support Fort Drum.
- Runway Rehabilitation project is progressing, he stated that they recently completed a 96 hour closer while the intersection pavement was being done. He was happy to report that the contractor, engineering team and airport staff worked together to complete milling, subsurface repairs, edge lighting installation, signage installation, paving and final inspection all within the 96 hour timeframe allowing the airport to open on time.
- Work is still being done on Area B North and Area A South installing lighting, signage and pavement along the 5,000 feet runway.
- Construction on the Airport Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Facility is progressing with completion expected by the end of this year.
- The baggage claim project is advancing slower than anticipated with the final state paperwork just returned authorizing approval of the design.

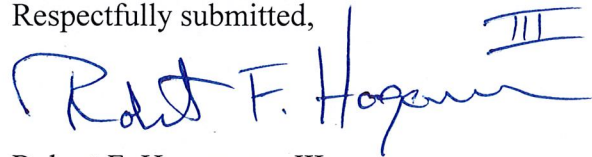
Mr. Sussey reported that passenger numbers are down considerably at Watertown International Airport as they are across the country. He stated that American Airlines is maintaining steady service to Watertown compared to other ports in New York, which is appreciated. He advised that travel restrictions put in place due to Covid-19 continue to hurt passenger numbers, reporting that in the month of August numbers were down 62%.

He stated that the airport has been participating in a Fort Drum Career Services Program which allows soldiers transitioning out of the Army to participate in internships giving them civilian work experience learning aviation skills as well as supplementing airport staff.

Fire and Emergency Management Director Joseph Plummer reported that the radio project is moving along at a steady pace and he is very lucky to have the radio experience of Fire and Emergency Management Deputy Director Niel Rivenburgh. He stated that his hope is to get highway/public works on the system by October and public safety in December but that will depend on training users on the system.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator McBride and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line through the middle of the name and a horizontal line above the "III".

Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board