

## Finance & Rules Committee

March 30, 2021

### 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:** Legislators Daniel McBride, John Peck, Corey Grant and Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Conf. Asst. For Fiscal Affairs and Information Technology Director Gregory Hudson, Real Property Tax Services Director Roxanne Burns, Secretary Torri Richmire and Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. The Committee approved the minutes of the February meeting, as written. Chairman Montigelli offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to speak.

Real Property Tax Services Director Roxanne Burns related that any real property you own has an assessed value and if residents feel that their assessment is unfair or incorrect they have the ability to grieve it once per year before the municipality's Grievance Board. Grievance Boards are made up of 3-5 members and it has become increasingly difficult for some municipalities to find people in the municipality willing to serve on that Board, and in particular the Town of Rutland is having that difficulty this year. She said Real Property Tax Law §1537 allows for a countywide Grievance Board to be formed, upon recommendation of the Real Property Tax Services Director and approval of the Board of Legislators. If a municipality does not have a Grievance Board quorum by the fourth Tuesday in May (Grievance Day), RPTL§1537 stipulates the Grievance Board will be made up of the Chairman of the Board of Legislators, the County Administrator, the County Treasurer and the Director of Real Property Tax Services. That has not happened in the 35 years she has been with the County, but it is the law.

Ms. Burns said the only qualification necessary to sit on a countywide Board is that you must be a County resident. Her goal with this Board was to come up with people who had some basic knowledge of property values, could be impartial, and are from different areas of the County. She is recommending that a five person countywide Grievance Board be made up of Paul Warneck, (Town of Hounsfield), Chris Johnson (Town of Champion and works in Real Property), Melissa VanBrocklin (Town of Leray and works in Real Property), Mark O'Dell (Town of Rutland), and Barb Bolton (Town of Hounsfield). At this point only the Town of Rutland, who did a revaluation this year, is in need of the service; but it could be used by any municipality in the County that needed it. Mr. Hagemann advised that a resolution to form the countywide Board would be before the Finance & Rules Committee next month.

In answer to questions Ms. Burns said the Board can be volunteer or paid, but if they were paid that would be the responsibility of the town, not the County; 4 hours of training is

needed to serve on a grievance board; she agreed that grievance boards are a town responsibility but did not feel this was the County taking it away from them; she will monitor the interest of towns as even though the countywide provision has been in RPTL for years it has not been used by many counties in NYS; she did not see it being used by all 22 towns in the near future but there can be multiple countywide boards and she would consult with NYS Real Property about options if needed; no other town has expressed an interest for this service at this time; town Grievance Board terms are 4 years, RPTL does not stipulate term length for countywide boards and she has not been able to get clarification from NYS on terms yet, however she envisioned this to only be a one year commitment; countywide grievance board members can only fill in on a town grievance board if they live in that town.

Legislator Jareo said he was not opposed to this but cautioned that County Legislators might want to be prepared to receive complaints if this moves forward as it is a very high emotion situation when people get denied at these grievance boards, and legislators are shielded from it now because the towns handle it.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing the Sale of Certain Tax Foreclosure Property to the Town of Pamela and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Jareo seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli said that the resolutions needing approval that were referred from other Committees will be dealt with as a block unless a legislator would like one pulled out and voted on separately.

Legislator Jareo asked that General Services Committee sponsored resolution #7 on the agenda be pulled out and voted on separately as he wants to vote no on that one, but is in agreement with the other six.

On a motion by Legislator Naybwaniec seconded by Legislator Johnson and carried, the Committee agreed to approve the following General Services Committee sponsored resolution with Legislator Jareo opposed:

- ✓ Authorizing Agreements for an Additional Allocation for The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's Stop-DWI Crackdown Enforcement Grant and Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation Thereto

On a motion by Legislator Johnson seconded by Legislator Jareo and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following General Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

- ✓ Amending the 2021 County Budget to Re-appropriate Funding from NYS Department of Transportation for New York Statewide Opportunities for Airport Revitalization (SOARS) Marketing Grant
- ✓ Amending the 2021 County Budget and Capital Plan to Recognize 2020 Revenue from the Passenger Facility Charges at the Watertown International Airport
- ✓ 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 97 and Brown Road over Fish Creek), Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2021 County Budget and Capital Plan

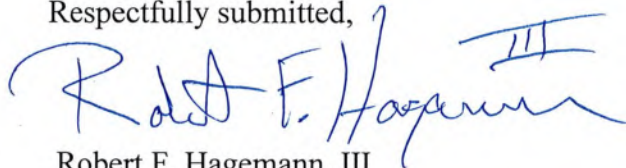
- ✓ Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation to the County Road Machinery Fund
- ✓ Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation to Recycling & Waste Management
- ✓ Authorizing Agreements in Connection with New York State Snowmobile Trails Grant-in-Aid Program and Amending 2021 County Budget in Relation Thereto

On a motion by Legislator Jareo seconded by Legislator Johnson and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following Health & Human Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

- ✓ Amending the 2020 County Budget Relative to Community Services Department
- ✓ Amending the 2021 County Budget Relative to Community Services Department
- ✓ Amending the 2021 County Budget to Accept Funding for Veterans Peer Support (P2P) Program
- ✓ Amending the 2021 County Budget Relative to Community Services Department

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Johnson seconded by Legislator Drake and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 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 large initial "R" and "H".

Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board