

Health & Human Services Committee

November 3, 2021

Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair John Peck, Legislators Allen Drake, James Nabywaniec, Jeremiah Maxon, Robert Ferris, Corey Grant, Anthony Doldo, Board Chair Scott Gray

Others Present: Legislators Robert Cantwell, William Johnson, Philip Reed, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride and Frances Calarco, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Information Technology Director and Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Gregory Hudson, Community Services Director Tim Ruetten, Public Health Director Ginger Hall, Social Services Commissioner Teresa Gaffney, Veterans Service Agency Director David Pavey, Human Resources Director Valerie Nugent, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Alex Gault, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Peck called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the September meeting minutes, as written.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Accepting Supplemental Unmet Needs Funding through Office for the Aging and Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement for Provision of Related Services in Connection with the Program for Preschool Children with Disabilities and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget Relative to Community Services Department and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Doldo and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid for Community Services Mental Health Programs and Authorizing Amended Agreements in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget to Accept Additional Funding for Veterans Peer Support (P2P) Pilot Program and Amending Agreements in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Ferris. In response to questions Director Ruetten advised this pilot program started in 2013/2014 and it is still considered a pilot program because they continue to do research and collect data. The Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Member to Jefferson County Public Health Service Health Services Advisory Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Members to Jefferson County Public Health Services Professional Advisory Committee and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Members to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Doldo and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Accepting Additional Funding for NYSDOH Supplemental Funding for Covid 19 Vaccine Response Contract and Amending the 2021 County Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget Relative to Public Health Department - Emergency Medical Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Doldo and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

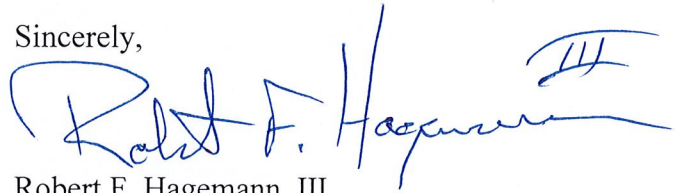
Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget Relative to Public Health Department Accounts and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Legislator Drake said he was not here for the October Board Session to vote on the resolution opposing New York State vaccination mandates, but would have voted against it. He understood that people were not necessarily anti or pro vaccination, but were upset at being mandated to get vaccines and he had no problem with that. But, he felt we need to get over this virus and if that means mandatory vaccine of people then let it be; the longer it lingers the more chance for another mutation or another pandemic.

With regard to comments made by Legislator Maxon at the October Board Session concerning paperwork sent to parents of children who tested positive for Covid-19, Legislator Drake questioned the tone of the comments as the County is not going into people's households to make sure children are wearing masks and being isolated. He said the paperwork provided guidelines and the common sense of parents in knowing that their children need emotional as well as physical support during that time should prevail. He expressed appreciation to and thanked Director Hall and Public Health employees for their professionalism and dedication, and respected the job they have done to make our community safe from Covid-19.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Doldo and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board