

General Services Committee
September 21, 2021
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 Frances Calarco, Allen Drake, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Airport Manager Grant Sussey, DANC Representatives Carl Ferrone, Laurie Marr and David Wolf, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Alex Gault, Secretary Torri Richmire

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

Laurie Marr, Director of Communications and Public Affairs and David Wolf, Telecommunications Division Director of the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) made a presentation to the Committee regarding the Broadband Aggregation and Adoption Toolset (BAAT) Program. Ms. Marr stated that DANC partnered with Jefferson County in Fall 2020 to conduct a web based survey of residents and businesses in Jefferson County to locate where within the county there is no or spotty access to internet service. Of 1,439 responses, 94.5% were residential with 21% reporting no access to broadband or access only via DSL or dial-up and 35% with no access or access via satellite or cellular hot spots. Feedback to the survey resulted in 295 comments with many stating they feel that they pay too much for service and that with a choice of providers they would get better service and more reasonable pricing. 73% who do not have access to internet because it is not available stated that this causes problems working from home and doing schoolwork. Of those with no access they advised that they would be willing to pay \$25-\$50 per month and would like a choice of providers.

Mr. Wolf stated that the contractor ECC Technologies completed a countywide inventory to gather information about where broadband infrastructure (fiber) exists through field surveys, online research and databases resulting in approximately 3,700 homes without access in Jefferson County. He stated that service providers in Jefferson County have received a number of NYS Broadband grants that have been or will be utilized for upgrades to residential areas.

Ms. Marr summarized that the more rural areas of the county such as Worth, Rodman, Lorraine and parts of Rutland, Champion and Alexandria have areas requiring infrastructure, some roads have CATV-based broadband but with breaks in the service area, while other customers have or will have a choice between CATV based service and Fiber To The Home due to grant awards. She stated there are stimulus and grant funds out there and any solution will require a partnership between Jefferson County and service providers working together soliciting grant programs to pay for infrastructure expansion. She advised that the next step would be for the Board of Legislators

to decide what are the priority areas and stated that DANC is ready to work with the County towards solutions.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in Relation to Aid to Prosecution Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement for Development and Submission of a Community Development Block Grant Housing Application to the NYS Office for Community Renewal, and for Development and Administration of Grant Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Jefferson County to be Lead Agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the Purpose of the 2021 Jefferson County Snowmobile Trail GPS Update and Minor Reroutes Pursuant to NYS Snowmobile Grant-In-Aid Program, and Making a Determination of Non-Significance and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell and seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Jefferson County to be Lead Agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the Purpose of Conducting an Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County Southeast Agricultural District No. 1, and Conducting a Coordinated Review with NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets Pursuant to State Environmental Conservation Law "State Environmental Quality Review" Act and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Grant. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Adopting Modifications Pursuant to the Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County Southeast Agricultural District, No. 1 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator McBride. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with the Community Action Planning Council to Promote Fair and Equal Housing 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 except Legislator Doldo who abstained stating that he is a member of the CAPC board.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 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 Ferris and seconded by Legislator Maxon. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with Global Tel*Link Corporation for Provision of Computer Tablets and Enhanced Services for the Jefferson County Jail and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell and seconded by Legislator Ferris. Legislator Maxon requested more information regarding the tablets stating that he would like to know if inmates will be better equipped than students in schools. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

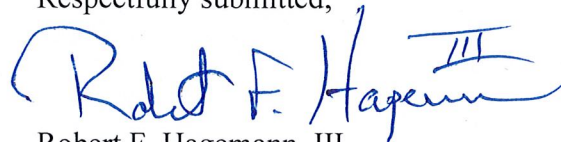
Chairman Reed introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget in Relation to Recycling & Waste Management and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride and seconded by Legislator Maxon. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Airport Manager Grant Sussey reported that on September 18th a full scale airport emergency exercise was conducted at the Watertown International Airport which was a great success with 119 participants. He stated that they utilized the new radio communication system resulting in much better coverage with little interference from the metal buildings. He also advised that he has applied for an Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization Competition, for projects that promote improvements at commercial passenger service airports. In that application he included the passenger terminal, dedicated space for military courtesy area, airport access parking lot improvement and utility improvements associated with the main entrance of the terminal.

He stated that fuel sales at the airport have exceeded last years totals with an estimated 152% increase by year end. He attributes the increase to the rabies bait drop using the watertown airport as their homebase earlier this year and private individuals flying in and out of the airport. He also reported that US Department of Transportation put out a Request for Proposal for Essential Air Service at the airport and American Airlines was the sole bidder. He stated that he supports that proposal and that they continue to be committed to serving Jefferson County residents. He reported that August passenger numbers are in and they are up 197% over August 2020.

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 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a prominent "III" at the end.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board