

Health & Human Services Committee

May 31, 2022

Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Anthony Doldo, Legislators Philip Reed, Allen Drake, Jeremiah Maxon, Corey Grant, and Board Chair William Johnson

Others Present: Legislators Robert Cantwell, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, Patrick Jareo, and Robert Ferris, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Office for the Aging Director Kathleen Kazakoff, Community Services Director Tim Ruetten, Public Health Director Ginger Hall, DSS Commissioner Teresa Gaffney, Veterans Service Agency Director Dave Pavey, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Doldo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor.

Jenna Lee Ryan, 116 ½ Casey St. Watertown addressed the Committee relating a situation in the Child Protective Services (CPS) Unit of the Department of Social Services that her family is experiencing. Her brother is the possible biological father of a baby who was taken into foster care. Their family is willing to step up and take care of the infant but she said both CPS and the Family Court System seem to be dragging their feet in terms of getting a paternity test so the family can claim the infant. She said it seems like CPS (and the Court) are in favor of the foster family having the child rather than reunifying the child with biological family.

The Committee approved the minutes of the April meeting, as written.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement and Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation to Provision of Transportation Services to Elderly of Jefferson County. Mr. Hagemann stated that an updated version of the resolution was on legislators' desks for consideration. Chairman Doldo entertained a motion for consideration of the updated resolution. 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 Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid for Substance Abuse Services Programs and Authorizing Amended Agreements in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements for Provision of Mental Hygiene Services 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 Doldo introduced a resolution Appointing Member to the Community Services Board 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 Doldo introduced a resolution Accepting Funding and Authorizing Agreement in Connection With Rabies Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

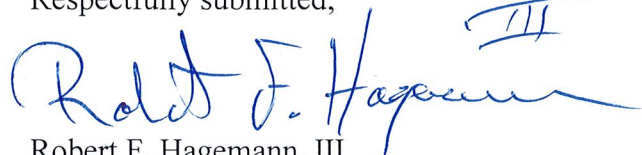
Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Accepting Funding and Authorizing an Agreement in Connection With Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Amended Agreement in Relation to Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Reopening Schools Grant Award and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Establishing Two Caseworker Positions Within Social Services and Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon and seconded by Legislator Grant. In response to questions Commissioner Gaffney advised that there will be two vacant positions as of August 7th and these new positions will be in addition to that; the people they just hired will be training until mid August and can then start taking reports. She said the quicker they can hire people, the quicker they can get trained. She also has a Senior Caseworker retiring and they will be promoting a Caseworker into that position so yet another Caseworker position will need to be filled. Commissioner Gaffney said the Caseworker test was given at the beginning of April and they have almost exhausted that list; the test is provided every 6 months by the State, but is scored locally so people can be hired right away. In some counties the test is given more frequently and she is hoping that can be done in Jefferson as it will allow for continuous recruitment. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Reed and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. Hagemann, III

Clerk of the Board