

Finance & Rules Committee
January 25, 2022
Minutes

Members Virtually Present:

Committee Chair Michael Montigelli, Legislators Robert Cantwell, Allen Drake, Daniel McBride, Robert Ferris, Frances Calarco, Scott Gray and Board Chair William Johnson

Others Virtually Present:

Legislators Phil Reed, John Peck, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Corey Grant and Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Gregory Hudson, Human Resources Director Valerie Nugent, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced the meeting is being conducted under the extraordinary circumstance of a public health emergency (Covid-19), under Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2022 and signed by Governor Hochul on January 14, 2022; without permitting public in-person access to the meeting, authorizing the meeting to be held partially or completely with members appearing by remote conference call or similar services, and the meeting is being live streamed via the web and recorded, including the participation of the members appearing by remote link.

Chairman Montigelli offered privilege of the floor however no one virtually present wished to address the Committee. The Committee approved the minutes of the December Committee meeting as written.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Buildings and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Elections and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget for Sales Tax Distribution and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Member to the Jefferson County Board of Ethics and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee

agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation to Board of Elections Technology Innovation and Election Resource Grant and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing Renewal of Facilities Lease Agreement with Watertown Savings Bank for Employment and Training Department, and Authorizing Sublease with NYS Department of Labor and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Drake and seconded by Legislator Cantwell.

The Committee discussed options with regard to purchasing vs. leasing the building, or another building in the area as a cost savings to the annual lease at \$20.00/sq ft. Mr. Hagemann advised that the County is looking at options for buying the building as the bank may be more willing to sell because they no longer need it, however in the past the owners appraisal vs. the County appraisal for the building have been drastically different. County Attorney Paulsen stated that preliminary discussions with Director Cheryl Mayforth and the Watertown Savings Bank regarding the County purchasing the building are moving forward. Legislator Ferris said he is abstaining from voting on this resolution due to a potential conflict of interest. He noted that appraisals are based on the rental price for the space, so it will still be high. The Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented with Legislator Ferris abstaining.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing the Chief Elected Official Local Agreement Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Determination in Relation to the Jefferson Community College Turf Field and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing Joint Services Agreement with the Town of Pamela for Optional County Assessment Services to the Town Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §1537 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Representative to Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Drake and

there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Member to Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Re-Appointment to Jury Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Drake seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Members to the Watertown-Jefferson County Area Transportation Council and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Appointing Members to the Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Re-Appointing and Appointing Members to Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Approving Re-Appointments to the Sports Fishery Advisory Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Drake seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Approving Re-Appointments to the Thousand Islands Regional Tourism Development Corporation and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced an additional resolution for consideration Authorizing Employment Agreement with the Faculty Association of Jefferson Community College and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Drake seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

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

- ✓ Authorizing Agreements with the Federal Aviation Administration, New York State Department of Transportation and McFarland Johnson, Inc. in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Land Acquisition Services (Runways 7, 10, 25 and 28) and State Environmental Quality Review Determination Thereto and Amending the 2022 County Budget and Capital Plan
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget to Reappropriate Funding from NYS Department of Transportation for New York Statewide Opportunities for Airport Revitalization (SOARS) Marketing Grant
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Runway 7-25 and Intersection Rehabilitation Construction Project
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget and Capital Plan to Recognize 2021 Revenue from the Passenger Facility Charges at the Watertown International Airport
- ✓ Reappropriating Funds from Various Unspent Grants Relative to the Fire and Emergency Management Department and Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ 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 189 over Grunley Creek), Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2022 County Budget and Capital Plan
- ✓ Authorizing Agreements in Connection with New York State Snowmobile Trails Grant-in-Aid Program and Amending 2022 County Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Authorizing Grant Agreement, State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Determination, and Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation to a 2021 Community Development Block Grant Award from the NYS Office of Community Renewal
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget to Reappropriate New York State Septic System Replacement Program Funds
- ✓ Reappropriating Funds from Various Unspent Homeland Security Grants Relative to the Sheriff's Department and Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation Thereto

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

- ✓ Accepting Donation on Behalf of the Office for the Aging and Amending the 2022 County Budget
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget to Reappropriate Funds for Veterans Peer Support (P2P) Program
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation to NYS Public Health Corps Fellowship Program
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation to NYSDOH Supplemental Funding for COVID-19 Vaccine Response Contract
- ✓ Accepting Funding in Connection with NYSDOH Local Health Department Performance Incentive Initiative and Amending the 2022 County Budget in

Relation Thereto

- ✓ Accepting Donation on Behalf of the Department of Social Services and Amending the 2022 County Budget
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget Relative to Additional Revenue from NYS Office of Children and Family Services for Safe Harbour: NY Funding
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget to Reappropriate Funding from the Redlich Horwitz Foundation for Family First Readiness
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget to Reappropriate Funding from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for Family First Transition Funding
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget to Reappropriate Funding from NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for Homeless Services Plan
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget to Reappropriate Funding from NYS Office of Children and Family Services for Enhanced Adult Protective Services
- ✓ Amending the 2022 County Budget Relative to Supplemental Child Care Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund Allocation from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services

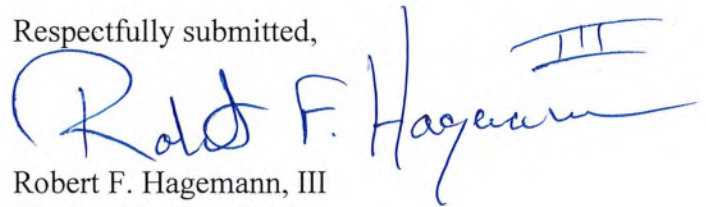
County Attorney Paulsen outlined the need for a resolution in settlement of opioid related claims with pharmaceutical company Allergan and its related corporate entities, and did not have enough detail to bring a resolution forward tonight, but he did expect to have details by the Board Session next week. He said it looks like the settlement will add another \$200 million to the pot of money discussed last Fall with the settlements that were done then, and will amend the sharing agreement with New York State that distributes the benefits among all the entities in New York State that sued. Jefferson County was receiving 5.4% of that money and with this settlement that will go up to 7.98%. There will still be two separate chunks of money (7.98% each); one is unrestricted funds for the County to spend however we choose and the other is restricted to reimburse opioid services locally. He said the settlement is time sensitive and they wanted an affirmative response before the end of the month, but he told them that was not possible. With the permission of the Committee, he will hopefully have the details to prepare a resolution for Board Session and with a waiver of the Standing Rules it can be considered on February 1. Committee members concurred with a resolution being brought forward at the Board Session.

In response to questions concerning the details of the court case in Nassau County concerning mask mandates, County Attorney Paulsen said the case was heard in State Supreme Court which is the lowest trial level in State court system. The decision essentially made the point that the mask mandate as it was reimposed by the State beginning in August, 2021 was not done by executive order (as was previously done by Governor Cuomo), it was done by administrative regulation issued by the Commissioner of Health. It was done like that because the State Legislature revoked the authority it had given to Gov. Cuomo that allowed him to make those decisions by executive order. The statute prior to the pandemic and after the revocation of the power given to the Governor, allows the Governor to only amend or suspend current laws. Gov. Hochul used the authority the Commissioner of Health allegedly has under Public Health Law to make rules and regulations affecting public health. The judge in Nassau County said he did not find that there is any authority in Public Health Law for the Commissioner of Health to make a law requiring people to wear masks. That decision has been appealed, that appeal will go

to the Appellate Division, 2nd Department; and that court issued a stay of the decision meaning that the mast mandate remains in affect. He said the mask mandate is scheduled to expire on February 1st by its terms as issued by the Commissioner of Health, and he did not know whether the Commissioner of Health could then extend that expiration date.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Drake and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 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 "R" and "H". The Roman numeral "III" is written above the end of the signature.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board