

**General Services Committee**  
**February 14, 2023**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Committee Chair James Nabywaniec, Legislators Philip Reed, John Peck, Corey Grant, Chairman of the Board William Johnson

**Others Present:** Legislator Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Probation Director Kristine Maloney, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Information Technology Director Sean Vincent, Secretary Torri Richmire

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

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced Jefferson County Mobility Manager John Exford who updated the Committee on the status of the Public Transportation System in Jefferson County. He advised the committee that they have updated the four routes within the county and also stated that this will be a fixed route system with route deviation, meaning the bus can go up to 3/4 of a mile outside of its scheduled route. He stated that they are going to institute the First Mile Last Mile program at start up of the program, meaning that a person may get other transportation from their home to the nearest bus stop and then ride to their destination and when returning home it will be done in reverse allowing the entire county to be covered. Following are the four draft routes modified from the October 2022 presentation: (all four routes meet up with City buses)

1. Alexandria Bay/Clayton (Lafargeville) - includes subsidized housing complexes, grocery stores, River Hospital, Harbor Hotel, BOCES, Walmart, Salmon Run Mall, JCC and CREDO
2. South Jefferson (Adams, Adams Center, Sackets Harbor, Dexter) - includes subsidized housing complexes, grocery stores, Watertown International Airport, Aviagen Hatchery, JCC, BOCES and Walmart
3. Carthage (Black River, Fort Drum) - includes subsidized housing complexes, grocery stores, Carthage Area Hospital, Fort Drum Visitor Center, Seaway Plaza, BOCES, Walmart and will make a connection with Lewis County bus for transfers
4. Route 11 (Gouverneur, Philadelphia, Evans Mills, Fort Drum, Calcium) - includes subsidized housing complexes, Aldi's, Leray Health Center, Fort Drum Visitor Center, Eagle Ridge Apartments, BOCES, JCC, Walmart and will make a connection with St. Lawrence County bus for transfers

He advised that each stop will be marked with signs and eventually they will all have a covered shelter. He also stated that each bus will have a communication system to keep in contact with each other and neighboring county buses to make transfers as seamless as possible.

Mr. Exford reviewed the timeline for putting the transportation system in place stating that his hope is that Jefferson County can get a Request for Proposal for Mobility Management out this

month, explaining that this position is currently covered by the City of Watertown and the contract with them expires April 30, 2023, starting May 1<sup>st</sup> the contract and mobility management position will be with Jefferson County. He also stated that he will be working with the Jefferson County Purchasing Department to order buses in June 2023 but due to supply shortages the buses may take 12-18 months to receive, pushing the start date of the program to Summer/Fall of 2024 or January 2025 at the latest.

Volunteer Transportation Center Executive Director Sam Purington pointed out that First Mile Last Mile is not a taxi service, it allows transportation to the bus system and one can then ride the scheduled routes. He reviewed the budget for the program indicating funding from Statewide Mass Transportation Operation Assistance (STOA), Supportive Education Services Grant, 5311 Public Transportation Operating Grant and Advertising Bus Wraps with revenue of \$880,713 and expenses approximately \$875,313. He stated that when ordering the buses there is a 10% local match and they will request that funding from NYS Department of Transportation.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2022 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Lighting Improvement at the Public Safety Building and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck and seconded by Legislator Reed. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and Amending the 2023 County Budget Relative to Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant and seconded by Legislator Peck. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Establishing Time and Place for Public Hearing Related to the Status of the Implementation of the 2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Award and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed and seconded by Legislator Peck. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation to State Funding for Pretrial Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant and seconded by Legislator Reed. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with Indian River School District for School Resource Officer and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant and seconded by Legislator Reed. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Reappropriating Funds from Various Unspent Homeland Security Grants Relative to the Sheriff's Department and Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant and seconded by Legislator Peck. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed

to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Reappropriate NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Child Passenger Safety Grant Relative to the Sheriff's Department and Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed and seconded by Legislator Grant. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec gave a followup to the information Renee Garrett-Storrs shared with the Committee on behalf of Friends of Jefferson County Dog Control at the January Privilege of the Floor. He stated that he did an outreach to Ms. Audrey Lodato, Best Friends Animal Society's Regional Strategist, who agreed that the County Dog Shelter is being run well and that it is not a kill shelter as described by Ms. Garrett-Storrs. After reaching out to a number of people within the Friends of Dog Control group it seems that they are looking for the opportunity to volunteer at the Shelter. He requested the opinion of the Committee as to what their thoughts are on volunteers. In response to a question from Legislator Peck regarding the County's liability for volunteers, County Attorney Paulsen stated that there is a provision in the County's liability regulations for volunteers but at the taxpayers expense. He stated that we are self insured so if there were to be an accident or injury to the volunteer, it would essentially be covered by the taxpayer. He stated that it is a great idea but definitely has a risk to the county.

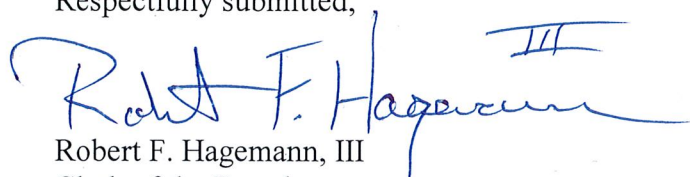
Chairman Nabywaniec advised that at the NYS Association of Counties (NYSAC) Conference at the end of the month, he and Mr. Hagemann will be meeting with NYS Agriculture and Markets who will be addressing changes in the near future regarding dog control. County Administrator Hagemann stated that there is a new act approved in Albany, the Companion Animal Care Standards Act, this Act will have new standards put in place on the programming end as well as the capital side of shelters with a three year delay in implementation. He advised that this Act will require some upgrades at the dog control shelter and that there is a section on volunteering that will be addressed at the NYSAC Conference.

Chairman Nabywaniec welcomed Steel Potter to the meeting who is a candidate to take the vacant District 13 seat of Legislator Scott Gray, who was elected to the NYS Assembly. He stated that a resolution will go before the Finance and Rules Committee next week regarding.

Mr. Hagemann advised that January 2023 numbers were up 34% at the Watertown International Airport with 3,100 passengers who boarded and deplaned.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Grant and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board