

REGULAR SESSION

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

All members present except Legislator Maxon and vacant District 13 Legislator seat.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Justin Taylor, 38305 Montrois Lane, Clayton, NY, 48 year member of Clayton Volunteer Fire Department and retired Town Supervisor of Clayton requested that the Board consider updating its local laws related to volunteer fire fighters and EMS workers' property tax exemptions, and for Occupancy Tax. He asked that the Board consider updating its current Real Property Tax Law (RPTS) exemption in place (10% up to \$3,000) for firefighters to the updated RPTL §466a (10%) that Governor Hochul signed in December, 2022 to help recruit and retain these valuable volunteers. He said the current Local Law in place for Occupancy Tax on hotels and motels was adopted in 1988. He asked the Board to consider adding a classification that includes airbnbs, short term rentals and transient RV parks. Many other municipalities in the North Country have already done so and it would help level the playing field with hotels and motels. He suggested the TI Council could provide dollar figures to the County for the Occupancy Tax funding it is missing out on by not taxing this classification.

READING OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, IF REQUESTED

The minutes of the February Session stand approved in the absence of objection or correction.

PETITIONS, NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Resolutions from the 2023 NYSAC Conference were received.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Finance & Rules Committee reported favorably on resolutions referred from other jurisdictional committees and on Legislators' expenses.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND OTHERS

The County Treasurer provided a report on Investments and Cash in Banks as of January 31, 2023.

The County Administrator provided a report on Budget Transfers for February, 2023.

The County Auditors's 2022 Annual Report was received.

LOCAL LAWS, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS

Resolution No. 63

Appointing Successor to District 13 Legislator

By Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

Whereas, A vacancy exists in the District 13 Legislator seat due to the resignation of Legislator Scott Gray because he was elected to the New York State Assembly, and

Whereas, Pursuant to Local Law No. 1 of 1997, a vacancy on the Board of Legislators shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Legislators.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Board of Legislators hereby appoints Steel E. Potter to serve for the balance of the 2022-2023 County Legislator term of office.

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

All members present voted aye.

County Attorney Paulsen conferred the Oath of Office on Legislator Potter and Legislator Potter took his seat.

Resolution No. 64

Payment of Legislators' Expenses

By Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

Whereas, This Committee to whom claims of the members of the Board were referred, has examined and audited such claims and finds the total to be \$6,632.87 we have allowed:

Legislator Expense:	\$6,632.87
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Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the County Treasurer be and is hereby directed to draw checks payable to the claimants as audited.

Seconded by Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 65

**Requesting Introduction of Legislation Extending the Authorization of a
One Percent Increase in the County Sales and Compensating Use Tax in Jefferson County**

By Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

Whereas, By Resolution Nos. 135, and 169 of 2004, this Board of Legislators requested the introduction of a bill in the State Legislature to amend the New York State Tax Law to allow the County of Jefferson to impose an additional sales tax of three quarters of one percent (3/4%) through November 30, 2005, and following introduction of legislation concurred in and authorized the home rule request of the Chairman of this Board for its enactment; said legislation was subsequently passed by the State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, and

Whereas, By Resolution Nos. 32 and 114 of 2005, Resolution Nos. 31 and 115 of 2007, Resolution Nos. 32 and 95 of 2009, Resolution Nos. 48 and 104 of 2011, Resolution Nos. 97 and 138 of 2013, Resolution Nos. 80 and 116 of 2015, and Resolution Nos. 75 and 136 of 2017 this Board of Legislators requested the introduction of a bill in the State Legislature to amend the New York State Tax Law to allow the County of Jefferson to impose an additional sales tax of three quarters of one percent (3/4%) through November 30, 2007, November 30, 2009, November 30, 2011, November 30, 2013, and November 30, 2015, and one percent (1%) through November 30, 2017, November 30, 2020, and November 30, 2023 respectively; and following introduction of legislation concurred in and authorized the home rule request of the Chairman of this Board for its enactment; and said legislation was subsequently passed by the State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, and

Whereas, The County now requires the continuation of one percent of said sales tax revenue in order to continue to stabilize the property tax levy and retain important local government services.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That this Board hereby requests that Senator Mark Walczyk and Assemblymen Ken Blankenbush, Scott Gray and William Barclay introduce appropriate legislation in the New York State Legislature which would authorize Jefferson County to continue to impose an additional one percent rate of sales and compensating use tax through November 30, 2026, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of this Board be and is hereby authorized and directed to communicate the foregoing request of this Board to the aforesaid State Legislators.

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 66

**Amending the 2022 County Budget in Relation to
County Attorney Account**

By Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

Whereas, The County Attorney has advised of a budget shortfall due to professional consulting services retained to conduct a performance evaluation of child welfare services provided by Jefferson County Department of Social Services.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase:

Expenditure

01142000 04416	Professional Fees	\$65,000
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Decrease:

Expenditure

01199000 04963	Contingent Account	\$65,000
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Seconded by Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 67

Re-Appointing Member to the Jefferson County Board of Ethics

By Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

Whereas, By Local Law No. 2 of 1990 as amended by Local Law No. 1 of 1995 this Board of Legislators established an Ethics Board pursuant to Article 18 of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, and

Whereas, Members of the Ethics Board are appointed by the Board of Legislators to serve in staggered three-year terms and are responsible for ensuring full compliance with the County Code of Ethics and disclosure requirements, and

Whereas, The Ethics Board requires three members, serving without compensation, and no more than one member shall be enrolled in the same political party as another sitting member, and

Whereas, One member's term has expired and she has agreed to serve another term.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Board of Legislators approves the following reappointment to the Jefferson County Ethics Board:

Name

Term to Expire

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 68

Calling Upon the New York State Public Service Commission to Grant the Application for Re-Energy Holdings, LLC for Designation of a Biomass Facility at Fort Drum Military Installation as a Renewable Energy Source

By Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

Whereas, In 2014 Re-Energy Holdings, LLC a Department of Defense Energy Contractor (hereinafter referred to as “Re-Energy”), signed a twenty-year contract to convert a coal facility into a more efficient biomass facility that would provide one-hundred percent (100%) of the electricity to Fort Drum as a part of the largest renewable energy project in the history of the United States Army, and

Whereas, The 60 Megawatt biomass facility on Fort Drum which provides 100% of its energy is now scheduled to be shut down after state legislation in 2022 that would recognize biomass as renewable energy, failed to pass, and

Whereas, The 32 employees who work at the biomass facility on Fort Drum have been informed that they will no longer be employed within the next two months, and

Whereas, Re-Energy buys fuel material and wood chips from lumber yards, sawmills, and tree service contractors, throughout the North Country, inclusive of Jefferson County, with additional jobs at risk of being lost, and

Whereas, Re-Energy has publically stated that it must terminate operations at Fort Drum on March 31 if the New York State Public Service Commission fails to act upon a petition filed to have the biomass operation classified as a renewable energy resource, and

Whereas, State Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush and former Senator Patty Ritchie previously introduced legislation to classify biomass as renewable and keep the plant open; however, the legislation stalled in the assigned legislative committees and died in the 2022 session.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Board of Legislators calls upon the New York State Public Service Commission to grant the application for Re-Energy Holdings, LLC for designation of a biomass facility at Fort Drum Military Installation as a renewable energy source, and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, US

Senator Chuck Schumer, US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, Congresswoman Claudia Tenney, Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Scott Gray, Assemblyman William Barclay, and St. Lawrence and Lewis counties.

Seconded by Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

Legislator Montigelli stated that apparently people in the City do not realize that trees are a renewable resource and that is the biomass referenced at Fort Drum. That same biomass if not taken out of the woods stays in the woods and turns into carbon anyway, so why not burn it and provide energy to Fort Drum.

Legislator Nabywaniec said the reason given by the State for this denial is that it used to be a coal plant, which is the State using downstate logic.

Legislator Peck said this project not only benefitted Fort Drum, it also created jobs in the forestry industry and was a really good use of materials that would have otherwise been naturally decomposed and of no use and benefit. He said it is very shortsighted to not see this as a renewable way of producing energy. He hoped there was still a chance that the facility will continue to generate power. If the State wants to pursue a policy of electrification, there needs to be a broad menu and means of production to be able to ensure you have enough electricity for all of their ideas.

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 69

Calling on the State of New York to Continue to Pass-Thru Federal Affordable Care Act Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage Funds

By Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

Whereas, The SFY 2024 State Budget proposal would end the Affordable Care Act (ACA) enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) federal pass-thru to counties and New York City, and

Whereas, The State is proposing to keep all of these federal savings going forward and use them to cover further expansions of Medicaid eligibility and benefits and to increase payments to health care providers, and

Whereas, The elimination of this ACA eFMAP federal pass-thru will require the 57 counties to spend at least \$280 million more in SFY 2024, and approximately \$1 billion when New York City is included, and

Whereas, The SFY 2024 costs to counties and New York City are scheduled to grow by 30 percent by SFY 2027, and

Whereas, It is the strong view of Jefferson County that Congress intended these federal savings to be shared with counties proportional to the amount they contributed toward the nonfederal Medicaid match, and

Whereas, Since 2003, the state has shared the funds proportionally based on our analysis of savings we have received during periods when an enhanced federal Medicaid match was enacted by Congress, and

Whereas, Enacted in 2011, the Medicaid statutory cap for all 62 counties is \$7.6 billion. The Medicaid statutory cap for the 57 counties outside of New York City is \$2.25 billion., and

Whereas, Starting in SFY 2014, New York began sharing these federal ACA savings directly with counties. The savings for a year were provided by lowering the weekly payments each county and NYC make to the state to support the State's Medicaid program. Through February 1, 2023, the state continues to share the federal savings from the ACA eFMAP with the 57 counties and NYC, and

Whereas, Counties strongly disagree with the need to cut county funding so deeply when the Governor's budget proposes to fully fund its own reserves two years ahead of schedule depositing \$5.4 billion into reserves before the end of SFY 2023, while also projecting a general fund surplus of \$35 billion by the end of SFY 2024.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Jefferson County Board of Legislators calls on the State to continue to share these federal funds with counties as has been the precedent for over 20 years, thus avoiding a \$2.5 million additional burden to the taxpayers of the County and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, US Senator Chuck Schumer, US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, Congresswoman Claudia Tenney, Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Scott Gray, and Assemblyman William Barclay.

Seconded by Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

Legislator Montigelli said this was a big topic of discussion at the recent NYSAC Conference many legislators attended, as it is a \$625 million money grab from counties by the State that will affect every county in the State.

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 70

Authorizing Professional Services Agreement with VHB for the County's Online Map Viewer

By Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

Whereas, Jefferson County has previously entered into and subsequently renewed a GIS mapping technical support and server hosting services agreement with VHB for the County's online Map Viewer, which displays parcel data and several other layers of geographic information, and

Whereas, With the expiration of the current agreement at the end of 2022, a new hosting agreement is necessary with VHB to maintain public internet access to the site, provide programming services to incorporate new data sets and data layer changes, and maintain all Map Viewer related hardware and software, and

Whereas, VHB will provide hosting services for \$6,000 for 2023, and

Whereas, The 2023 County Budget provides funding for the services.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into a professional services agreement with VHB for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chair of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute said agreement, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 71

Amending the 2022 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Lighting Improvement at the Public Safety Building

By Legislator: John D. Peck

Whereas, The Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds identified, applied for, and received rebates from National Grid under its Energy Efficiency Initiative for the replacement of parking lot lighting fixtures at the Public Safety Building, and

Whereas, The 2022 County Budget and Capital Plan must be amended to recognize the rebate revenue and place it in the Public Safety Building account, from which the lighting materials were originally paid for.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2022 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase:

Revenue
20900600 92770 Unclassified Revenue \$ 7,580

Expenditure
20315000 02038 Public Safety Building \$ 7,580

and be it further

Resolved, That the six year capital plan is amended accordingly.

Seconded by Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Drake, Jareo, McBride, Potter, Grant, Cantwell, Reed, Ferris, Doldo, Peck,
Nabywaniec, Calarco, Montigelli, Johnson

Absent: Maxon

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 72

**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**

By Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

Whereas, Jefferson County has been awarded a \$180,000 grant, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and administered by the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), to prepare a multi-hazard mitigation plan update, and

Whereas, Said plan would allow for Jefferson County and its municipalities to be eligible for certain post-disaster funding otherwise not available to them, and

Whereas, Said plan would be prepared by a consultant who would be required to meet FEMA regulations, and

Whereas, Said grant also requires a \$20,000 local match.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into an agreement with NYS DHSES for the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Grant, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of Jefferson County subject to approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is amended as follows:

Increase:

Expenditures:

01341000 04416	Professional Fees	\$200,000
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Revenues:

01341000 94305	Federal Aid Emergency Mgmt/Disaster	\$180,000
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Decrease:

01199000 04963	Contingent Account	\$ 20,000
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Seconded by Legislator: John D. Peck

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Cantwell, Grant, Nabywaniec, Potter, McBride, Calarco, Ferris, Drake, Doldo, Jareo, Reed, Peck, Montigelli, Johnson

Absent: Maxon

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 73

Establishing Time and Place for Public Hearing Related to the Status of the Implementation of the 2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Award

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, By Resolution 55 of 2019 this Board of Legislators accepted a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award of \$800,000 in program year 2018 from the NYS Office for Community Renewal for an owner-occupied housing rehabilitation assistance program for low to moderate income eligible residents, and

Whereas, By Resolution 21 of 2021, this Board called for a public hearing related to implementation of the County's 2018 award as required by the CDBG implementation process in order for grantees to obtain the views of the general public on the status and implementation of the award, and

Whereas, Said public hearing was held virtually on January 19, 2021, at which time the County was operating under an extraordinary Public Health emergency and NYS Executive Order 202.1 without permitting public in-person access to the meeting, and

Whereas, The recent Comprehensive Monitoring Report for Jefferson County's now completed CDBG project #581HR300-18 found that the January 19, 2021 notice of hearing which directed the public to contact County Planning for information, should have instead provided the internet address of the website streaming, and

Whereas, Said report finding requires Jefferson County to now hold a Public Hearing to obtain the views of the general public on the status and implementation of the 2018 award.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, Pursuant to Section 104(A)(2) of the Federal Housing and Community Development Act, as amended, a CDBG public hearing shall be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chambers of the Jefferson County Board of Legislators Historic Courthouse, 195 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY, and be it further

Resolved, That notice of such public hearing shall be given in accordance with law.

Seconded by Legislator: John D. Peck

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 74

Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation to State Funding for Pretrial Services

By Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

Whereas, By Resolution 48 of 2023, this Board of Legislators accepted a Pretrial Services grant award from New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$218,787, and

Whereas, Said resolution appropriated \$91,000 of said grant into the 2023 County Budget, and

Whereas, It is the desire of the Board to appropriate the remainder of the funding.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase:

Revenue		
01314000 93389	State Aid - Other Public Safety	\$127,787

Expenditure

01314000 01300	Overtime	\$ 5,000
01314000 02401	Automotive Equipment	65,000
01314000 04110	Office Expense	3,787
01314000 04111	Trackable Durable Items	4,000
01314000 04118	Computer Hardware	1,000
01314000 043101	Internal Fleet Expense	2,000
01314000 04311	Gasoline and Oil	10,000
01314000 04313	Travel	5,000
01314000 04413	Medical Fees	1,000
01314000 04416	Professional Fees	10,000
01314000 04420	Nonsecure Juvenile Facility	5,000
01314000 04514	Uniforms and Clothing	3,500
01314000 04585	Operating Supplies	10,000
01314000 04613	Training	2,500

Seconded by Legislator: Philip n. Reed, Sr.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Doldo, Jareo, Ferris, McBride, Montigelli, Calarco, Drake, Peck, Nabywaniec, Grant, Reed, Cantwell, Potter, Johnson

Absent: Maxon

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 75

Authorizing Agreement with Indian River School District for School Resource Officer

By Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

Whereas, By Resolution 57 of 2018, this Board of Legislators authorized an agreement with the Indian River School District for a School Resource Officer with no cost to the County and the School District indemnifying and holding harmless the County, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has negotiated and agreed to continue to provide this service to the Indian River School District, for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into an agreement with the Indian River School District for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 for the provision of a School Resource Officer, and be it further

Resolved, That the Indian River School District agrees to fund 100% of all of the program costs, including but not limited to salary, benefits, equipment, training, overtime and supplies, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board is hereby authorized to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Indian River School District as outlined above on behalf of the County of Jefferson with the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 76

Reappropriating Funds from Various Unspent Homeland Security Grants Relative to the Sheriff's Department and Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation Thereto

By Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

Whereas, By Resolutions 120 of 2019, 107 and 177 of 2021, and 197 of 2022, this Board of Legislators recognized FY18, FY19, FY20, and FY21 Operation Stonegarden Program grants respectively, and

Whereas, By Resolutions 201 of 2020 and 201 of 2021, this Board recognized FY20 and FY21 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETTP) grants respectively, and

Whereas, By Resolutions 79 and 147 of 2022, this Board re-appropriated remaining unspent funds from Operation Stonegarden and LETTP grants, and

Whereas, There remain unspent amounts in the FY18, FY19, FY20 and FY21 Operation Stonegarden, and FY20 and FY21 LETTP grants to be reappropriated and placed in the appropriate expenditure lines for 2023.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is amended as follows:

Increase:

Fund Balance		
01000000 30599	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$152,734.03
Expenditure		
01311400 01300	Overtime	\$ 68,212.26
01311400 02401	Automotive Equipment	16,000.00
01311400 04111	Trackable Durable Expendables	12,278.95
01311400 04114	Maintenance	275.00

01311400 04115	Telephone	4,625.00
01311400 04214	Utilities	275.00
01311400 043101	Internal Fleet Expense	12,603.58
01311400 04311	Gasoline & Oil	6,300.85
01311400 04428	Public Safety Personal Svcs - Other Govt	5,996.00
01311400 04585	Operating Supplies	8,708.47
01311400 08010	Retirement	8,979.88
01311400 08030	Social Security	6,298.02
01311400 08040	Workers Compensation	2,181.02

Seconded by Legislator: John D. Peck

All members present voted aye.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Ferris, McBride, Montigelli, Potter, Calarco, Drake, Jareo, Reed, Grant, Doldo, Cantwell, Peck, Nabywaniec, Johnson

Absent: Maxon

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 77

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

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, By Resolution 245 of 2022, This Board of Legislators accepted \$2,800 in NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Child Passenger Safety funding, and

Whereas, There remain unspent grant funds that must be reappropriated and placed in the appropriate expenditure lines for 2023.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is amended as follows:

Increase:

01000000 30599	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,800
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Expenditure:

01311000 04112	Memberships and Dues	\$ 200
01311000 04313	Travel	300

01311000 04585	Operating Supplies	750
01311000 04613	Training	1,550

Seconded by Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Doldo, Drake, Potter, Ferris, Nabywaniec, Reed, Jareo, Grant, McBride, Montigelli, Peck, Calarco, Cantwell, Johnson

Absent: Maxon

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 78

Amending Agreement for Provision of Senior Nutrition Program for Jefferson County Office for the Aging and Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation Thereto

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, By Resolution 302 of 2021, this Board of Legislators authorized an agreement with Trinity Services Group Inc. to provide Office for the Aging (OFA) nutritional services for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024, and

Whereas, The consideration to be paid per meal was set for 2022 with price changes through the duration related to the Consumer Price Index as outlined in the bid specifications, and

Whereas, The large continuing growth in the cost of food commodities and fuel has increased beyond that envisioned in the bid, resulting in Trinity's request for a larger price change for 2023, and

Whereas, Additional funding is available through New York State Office for the Aging American Rescue Plan funding and from the Consolidated Appropriations Act Supplemental Nutrition program to cover the increased cost.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County amend said agreement with Trinity Services Group, Inc. for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2023 at the increased funding rate of \$10.69 per meal, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute said contract amendment on behalf of the County subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase

Revenue

01677200 94773 Fed Aid Title III C \$76,000

Expenditure

01677200 04716 Contracted Meal Prep/Delivery \$76,000

Seconded by Legislator: John D. Peck

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: McBride, Doldo, Calarco, Reed, Potter, Grant, Peck, Ferris, Jareo, Nabywaniec, Montigelli, Cantwell, Drake, Johnson

Absent: Maxon

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 79

**Amending the 2023 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid
for Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions**

By Legislator: John D. Peck

Whereas, The New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports has approved additional State Aid for the Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions, Inc., in the amount of \$64,023 for the Supported Housing Program, and one time only funding in the amount of \$127,587 for Capital Project start-up costs, and

Whereas, The 2023 County Budget needs to be amended to reflect the additional funds.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase:

Revenue

01431000 93484 State Aid - Alcohol & Substance Abuse \$191,610

Expenditure:

01432000 04702 Credo Foundation \$191,610

Seconded by Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Drake, McBride, Ferris, Cantwell, Calarco, Montigelli, Peck, Doldo, Reed, Grant, Potter, Jareo, Nabywaniec, Johnson

Absent: Maxon

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 80

Amending the 2023 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid for Community Services Mental Health Programs

By Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

Whereas, The New York State Office of Mental Health has approved additional State Aid to increase the bed stipend for Supported Housing, and provide funding to River Hospital for the School Based Mental Health Clinic, and

Whereas, The 2023 County Budget needs to be amended to reflect the additional funds.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is amended as follows:

Increase:

Revenue

01431000 93490	State Aid - Mental Health	\$60,256
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Expenditure:

01432000 04709	River Hospital	\$ 8,656
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01432000 04714	NCTLS Reinvestment	51,600
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Seconded by Legislator: John D. Peck

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Drake, Calarco, Ferris, Reed, Grant, Montigelli, Jareo, Cantwell, Potter, McBride, Doldo, Nabywaniec, Peck, Johnson

Absent: Maxon

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 81

Amending 2023 County Budget Relative to Additional Revenue From NYS Office of Children and Family Services for Enhanced Adult Protective Services

By Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

Whereas, The NYS Office of Children and Family Services has awarded funding to Jefferson County through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services (APS) administered by the Administration for Community Living in the amount of \$33,906 for the period August 1, 2022 through September 30, 2024, and

Whereas, The Enhanced APS funding will be used to enhance, improve, and expand the ability of APS to respond to and investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults, and

Whereas, Funding will be used to assist APS clients with household needs, household goods and services, cleaning and sanitation services/supplies, and transportation assistance, and will additionally be used for training, additional staff hours and portable technology to improve and support staff work in the field.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2023 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase:

Revenue

01601000 94610	Federal Aid Social Services Admin	\$33,906
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Expenditure

01601000 01300	Overtime	\$ 1,500
01601000 04111	Trackable Durable Items	1,000
01601000 04118	Computer Hardware	1,000
01601000 04613	Training	2,500
01601000 04624	Client Incidentals	27,906

Seconded by Legislator: John D. Peck

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Jareo, Doldo, Reed, Grant, Nabywaniec, Calarco, Cantwell, Montigelli, Peck, Potter, McBride, Ferris, Drake, Johnson

Absent: Maxon

Resolution passed.

Chairman Johnson said because legislators seem to have a lot of questions about closing polling places in the County he asked Election Commissioners Jude Seymour (R) and Michelle LaFave (D) to be present tonight to explain the process they used and possibly answer questions of legislators.

Legislator Reed said he appreciated the work the Board of Elections does and they are very responsive to questions, but felt the Board of Legislators should have been involved earlier in this process and should have had a voice. He said the Fishers Landing polling site in his District is to be closed and he was a little taken aback by only a two week notice; at that point he heard from some Town officials who were also not happy. He said the County has the money to keep the site open and there weren't a lot of people who used it, but the Town of Orleans has geographical challenges with a bridge and an island.

Mr. Seymour explained the process that he and Ms Lafave went through to identify new town election districts in relation to the new County Legislative Districts that were adopted by the Board of Legislators. It began in consultations with Planning GIS Specialist Michele Bunny in December, 2022 and culminated with letters to poll site stakeholders on February 15th when they realized there would be opportunities to pause certain sites for efficiencies (Emma Flower Taylor Fire Station, Felts Mills Fire Hall, Fishers Landing Fire Hall, Midtown Towers, Natural Bridge Community Center). Letters to elected officials followed shortly after as the official designation of poll sites by the Board of Elections is to be made on March 15th. Their main objective in consolidating sites is getting information back sooner on Election night to tally results faster while facing other challenges, it truly isn't about saving money. He related that Election Law 4104 says that it is the Board of Elections call as to where to put poll sites in consultation with city, town, and village officials.

Ms. Lafave detailed the significant and ongoing challenges they have had staffing the poll sites, and getting enough trucks and drivers to deliver the machines right up to a couple days before the election. She acknowledged that some poll sites are staffed below what the law says because they simply don't have enough people. She reiterated that this is not permanent closure of any sites, it is a pause and they will reevaluate after this year.

Mr. Seymour said they are putting an emphasis on people being able to do 9 days of early voting (located in Watertown) and getting absentee ballots as ways to easily mitigate not being able to make it to poll sites on Election Day. He said they made a judgement call for the sites that were found to be underutilized following analysis, and he would like to hear from people directly if they are not happy with those decisions. He said they will annually analyze usage of the polling sites, especially keeping in mind that more people will be voting in 2024 as it is a presidential election. Board of Elections will be sending all voters affected by the changes a letter in the mail detailing the changes and what their options are if they can't make it to the polls. He said they are also required to put a notice up at the old poll site on yellow paper saying that the poll site is closed and directing them to where they can vote.

There was considerable discussion between the Commissioners and Legislators with regard to: the Board of Legislators playing a part in the decision making process for election district polling places so that legislators and those it affects can have a say in it before decisions are made, which is currently not required according to Election Law; earlier notification to Legislators of these changes; how some voters do not adapt well to change; opinions regarding the security of absentee voting; and notifying the media of the changes in polling places so they can get the information out to people who may not pay attention to the letter from the Board of

Elections. Legislators also expressed concerns that the now *paused* poll sites might come back on line next election cycle which will confuse voters further. Mr. Seymour said the polling place analysis can be done sooner in the future and was only delayed this year due to the need to create new election districts following Redistricting of the Board of Legislators.

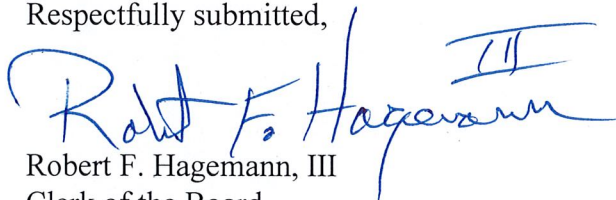
Chairman Johnson announced that there is a change in the jurisdictional committee assignments saying that Legislator Potter has been placed on the Health & Human Services Committee, and Legislator Reed has been moved from the Health & Human Services Committee to the Finance & Rules Committee.

Chairman Johnson related that he and five other legislators as well as County Administrator Hagemann attended the NYSAC Conference last week and found it beneficial. He said the Medicaid issue was discussed, a lot of training sessions on a variety of subjects were held and networking with other Counties to talk about similar issues is always invaluable. He encouraged legislators to attend NYSAC Conferences in the future noting that the next one is in September at the Turning Stone.

Legislator Cantwell recognized his constituent Mr. Taylor in the audience and thanked him for taking time to come to the meeting tonight and talk about the new property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and EMS workers. He said it is a simple thank you to them and outlined the criteria involved, and it is a retention and recruitment tool for this very valuable and ever dwindling volunteer source they are looking for. He said other counties are already doing this, he is in full support of it, and encouraged legislators to consider and support it.

There being no further business of the Board, on a motion by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 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 initial "R" and "H".

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board