

General Services Committee
August 20, 2024
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair James Nabywaniec, Legislators Philip Reed, Daniel McBride, Robert Ferris, Steel Potter, and Board Chair William Johnson

Others Present: Legislators John Peck, Patrick Jareo, Interim County Administrator Dylan Soper, County Attorney David Paulsen, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Ashley Durham, Highway Superintendent Jim Lawrence, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Weights & Measures Director Brian Mooney, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

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

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation to the Watertown International Airport and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no debate the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing the Implementation and Funding of 100% of the Costs of a Transportation Project (Replacement of Weaver Road over Skinner Creek), of Which May Be Eligible for Federal-Aid and/or State-Aid or Reimbursement from Bridge NY Funds, Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2024 County Budget and Capital Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no debate the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing the Implementation and Funding of 100% of the Costs of a Transportation Project (Replacement of Oxbow-Rossie Road over Vrooman Creek), of Which May Be Eligible for Federal-Aid and/or State-Aid or Reimbursement from Bridge NY Funds, Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2024 County Budget and Capital Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Potter. In response to questions Administrator Soper advised that there are different phases to these projects and we are expecting to receive reimbursement for 95% of the expenses for this phase but DOT requires that the County cover 100% up front. Highway Superintendent Lawrence advised that the funding streams are confusing but the County is expecting to receive 95% of the costs through Federal and/or State funding of the project, and from start to finish the total time frame for all phases of these kinds of projects is about 5 years. There being no further debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation to the Purchase of an Excavator in the County Road Machinery Fund and entertained a motion for

consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no debate the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget to Replace Heavy Equipment for Recycling & Waste Management and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Potter. In response to questions Administrator Soper advised that the fund balance noted in the resolution is Recycling & Waste Management Fund Balance, not General Fund Fund Balance so it will not have to be paid back. There being no further debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Establishing Time and Place for a Public Hearing on the 2024 Inclusions of Viable Agricultural Land in NYS Certified Agricultural Districts and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no debate the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement in Relation to State Funding for Pretrial Services for Probation and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no debate the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing the Chairman of the Board to Execute Future Energy Agreements Related to Electricity and Natural Gas and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no debate the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery Funds and Allocating Same in Sheriff's Department Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no debate the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements for an Additional Allocation Relative to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's Stop-DWI High Visibility Enforcement Grant and Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator McBride. Legislator Jareo asked if High Visibility Enforcement was something new with this grant or if it is the same as what has been done in the past; noting his concern that it would be used for road blocks. Administrator Soper said he would check and get back to legislators in that regard. Chairman Nabywaniec believed it is the same Governor's Traffic Safety grant that has been done previously. There being no further debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing Extension of Agreement with NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets for the Provision of Petroleum Product Quality Program

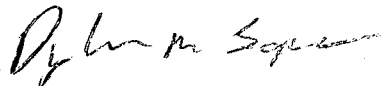
Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no debate the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Highway Superintendent Jim Lawrence provided an update with regard to damage on County roads from the recent rain storms, noting that while Lewis and St. Lawrence County received the brunt of the storms, Jefferson did not escape without some damage. He applauded Highway Department employees for their diligence in working all weekend to make all County roads passable, and Interim Administrator Soper for being available for constant updates. Throughout the event changes in road closures happened rapidly and Highway was able to address them as needed to have everything open by Sunday. He said the storm affected roads, culverts and bridges throughout the County but not along the shoreline, which is unusual. Mr. Lawrence said it looks like the cost is between \$1 and \$1.5 million in damages on County roads, and Highway is currently working with FEMA concerning avenues for any reimbursement available. Chairman Nabywaniec noted that the focus was to get the roads back open and long term solutions are the focus of the Stormwater Coalition through Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District. Highway Superintendent Lawrence answered questions of legislators related to infrastructure related to roads in the County.

Highway Superintendent Lawrence updated the Committee with regard to an ongoing bridge project in the Village of Evans Mills that is on a very heavily traveled road and is important for traffic going back and forth to Fort Drum.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Potter and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dylan M. Soper
Clerk of the Board