

General Services Committee
March 19, 2024
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair James Nabywaniec, Legislators Philip Reed, Robert Ferris, Steel Potter, and Corey Grant

Others Present: Legislators Patrick Jareo and John Peck, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, County Attorney David Paulsen, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Sheriff Peter Barnett, 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 minutes of the February Committee meeting were approved without objection or correction.

Sheriff Pete Barnett updated the Committee with regard to his Department's preparations for the April 8th Eclipse saying they are all ready to go. It is all hands on deck with 30 deputies (including sergeants, SROs and Task Force detectives), and there will be an extra 75-100 NYS Police in Jefferson and Oswego Counties that day. He has broken the County into sectors for logistical stages of deployments, and the MRAP, Humvee, and SERT Van will be at County Highway so they are not stuck in the City of Watertown. Representatives of the Sheriff's Department, City and State Police will have a presence in Dispatch to help out in screening calls. There will be no movement of inmates from the Jail unless someone has to go to the Emergency Room. He stressed patience and safety as he expects it to be a backlog of traffic and is anticipating the greatest delays after the event. They are taking a reactive/situational approach depending on where their efforts are needed for accidents, bottlenecks, etc., to keep traffic moving. Additionally, one car and two deputies have been assigned to the City of Watertown, otherwise his focus is the County. The State Police have asked that the County's two UTVs be stationed somewhere near NYS Route 81 in case they are needed. The Sheriff does not anticipate any major crime event, but it will be the biggest traffic event that they will ever encounter.

Administrator Hagemann advised that while the biggest population center is the City of Watertown and there will be a big event up at Thompson Park, the Sheriff has to oversee twelve different locations throughout the County that we know of that are either sponsoring a particular event or providing a location as a gathering spot. All of those locations will require some sort of traffic control moving away from the event after it is over, so the perspective is larger. He said the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) will be open with key representatives from all state and local agencies there, and it will remain operational until it is no longer be needed.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Accepting Donations for the Dog Control Department and Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Bridge Projects and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending Resolution 195 of 2023 in Relation to Equipment Rental Rate Schedule and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Adopting Guidelines and Administrative Procedures in Relation to the County's Housing Improvement Program Funded by a 2023 NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Award and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Potter and 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 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application Process and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement for Raise the Age Relative to Probation Department and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Approving the 2024 Stop DWI Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's Stop-DWI High Visibility Enforcement Grant and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's Stop-DWI Funding Grant and entertained a motion for consideration. Administrator Hagemann stated that an adjusted resolution was on legislators desks for consideration because an additional bill was paid from the Grant. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the adjusted resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution to Reappropriate NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Child Passenger Safety Grant Relative to the Sheriff's Department and Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Legislator Reed advised that as of April 1st the County will no longer be forced to recycle mattresses. He appreciated everyone's efforts to cease this practice of wish recycling. We were only one of two landfills in the State who were recycling them anyway. He said we need to work together with our State agencies and State officials and put glass on the list next as we accept it for free, process it and send it to the Landfill, which is what is going on across the State.

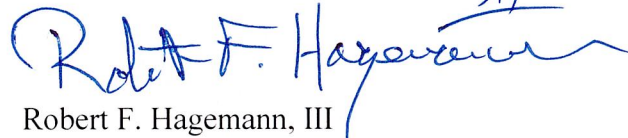
Legislator Reed advised that the new baler is in at Recycling and the County is recycling a lot of material, faster and safer. He thanked Highway employees for the quick installation, and looked forward to moving forward with that program.

Chairman Nabywaniec advised that there was a meeting at the Airport with he, Administrator Hageman, Chairman Johnson, Legislator Reed, Bernier Carr and McFarland Johnson concerning the terminal building project to make sure the timeline is moving along, and it was a productive and successful meeting.

Chairman Nabywaniec related that the Eclipse will also impact the Airport as 32 airports in the State are in the path. As of March 8th there were 18 reservations, it is up to 25 now and depending on the weather we may get more. He said there will be a mixed variety of aircraft and complemented Director of Aviation Sussey on his preparation for this event as he has made sure the people that are flying in will have amenities such as entertainment, food trucks, souvenirs, etc. Administrator Hagemann said we were able to gain from the experiences of airports out West who went through this for the 2017 eclipse. We fully anticipate over 50 airplanes on that day but the weather may play a factor, and the large hanger will be where everyone will gather. He added that it is a controlled event as it is for the flying community, not the general public.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Potter and unanimously carried the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 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, stylized "H" at the end.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board